

## TARPORLEY PARISH

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



Tarporley Parish

# 50p

# The Link

## *Tarporley Parish magazine*

### February 2025



**A photo from the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service for St John's in Cotebrook (courtesy of Paul's Portraits)**

*(l-r) Revd Alex Sanders, Revd Trevor Davies, Bishop Mark of Chester, Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire Lady Alexis Redmond, and Revd Jim)*

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

**Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/ParishOfTarporley](https://facebook.com/ParishOfTarporley)**

## **SERVICES FOR THE MONTH February 2025**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST**  
St Thomas 9.00am Holy Communion  
St Helen 10.00am Holy Communion  
St John 11.15am Holy Communion

**9<sup>th</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**  
Done Room 9.30am Café Church  
St Thomas 4.00pm Holy Communion

**16<sup>th</sup> THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**  
St Thomas 9.00am Holy Communion  
St Helen 10.00am Holy Communion  
St Helen 4.00pm Evensong

**23<sup>rd</sup> SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**  
St Thomas 9.00am Songs of Praise  
St Helen 10.30am Holy Communion  
Done Room 4.00pm Messy Church

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**  
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:  
a short service of Holy Communion.

**If you have time, please stay for refreshments after  
the service. Every Sunday at St Helen's, 1st and 4th at  
St Thomas', 1st Sunday at St John's**

## The Rector Writes:-

One of the many phrases loved by my schoolteachers that has lodged in my brain is: *Fail to prepare? Prepare to fail!* We probably all know that in our chaotic and hectic life, the time for thinking and preparing constantly gets squashed, replaced instead with the necessity to 'wing it'. But if we want to do something well, we can't rely on winging it all the time: we need proper time to prepare, and this is the same in our spiritual journey as in normal life. How much time do we give in preparation to meet with God? Just as doing warm-ups before exercise are vitally important in getting our bodies ready, how much do we prepare our souls in readiness to encounter God??



One of the ways to do this is to get away from it all, to carve out time away from normal commitments, and set aside time to listen and pray. In Christian parlance, this is called a Retreat, or a Quiet Day. It is a deliberate act and time protected for making a deeper connection with God. They can be a joy (and hard work!), and will often include worship, silence and reflection.

Having just finished Christmas, we will soon turn our attentions to Lent and Easter, and in order to face those times properly, I'm offering an opportunity for you to retreat with a Pre-Lent Quiet day, in the beautiful surroundings of Eaton, on the Friday before Lent starts, with the hope that this will help to prepare us for all that Lent has in store. It's the warm-up before the big marathon of Lent: are you ready to limber up??

*Jim*

## Done Room Renovations – Are we nearly there yet??

It's been a long road, but the renovations to the Done Room are nearly finished! Since the builders' vans arrived at the beginning of July, there has been a steady stream of work done on the Done Room: starting with a revamp of the kitchen, and a remodelling of the fire escape to allow access straight from the main hall, and then the addition of a new secure front door.

Meanwhile throughout the summer and autumn the team were very busy taking off roof slates, adding insulation, treating the roof timbers and reinstating the roof slates: each slate was meticulously numbered and returned to exactly the right point, which was quite a time consuming and skilled job! The gable end facing the graveyard was also renovated and repainted, and we are now just waiting for the completion of the front facing gable end and addition of a new drain to complete the project.

Thank you to all those who have continued to donate generously to the project – the grants we received through the hard work of Stephen Wright proved invaluable, but we still need a final push of donations to cover the costs. If you can donate, please scan the QR code below.

Once the final work has been completed, we will have an official grand re-opening, so keep your eyes open for news!

And thanks especially to Phillip Posnett and the Done Room team for overseeing the project and bringing this much needed work finally to fruition!

Done Room  
Renovation's  
JustGiving Page



## St John's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Despite the threats of very wintry weather, we were able to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the consecration of St John and the Holy Cross Church in Cotebrook at the start of January. Bishop Mark, bishop of Chester, preached and presided at a packed service, encouraging us all to be faithful for another 150 years! Following the service, we retired to the village hall for a drinks reception and a fabulous lunch provided by Rose Farm, then enjoyed a fascinating presentation on the history of the church by Maurice Hunt, ably assisted by his wife Jackie.

It was a privilege to welcome members of the parish to St John's especially those from St Helen's and St Thomas' who may never have set foot in the building, as well as some familiar faces: we were thrilled to have past clergy Revd Chris Samuels and Revd Alex Sanders join current clergy in Revd Trevor Davies and Rural Dean Revd Tim Hayward. It was great to also welcome representatives of the PCC, Matthew Grant from Utkinton and Cotebrook Parish Council, Nick Parker and Lesley Boyle as representatives of Cotebrook Village Hall, our Ward Councillor, Charles Hardy, and The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lady Alexis Redmond, and Sir Phil.

All in all it was a great way to celebrate – grateful thanks to Walter Gibson and Peter Copland, and all the team at St John's who worked so hard to make it a real success!





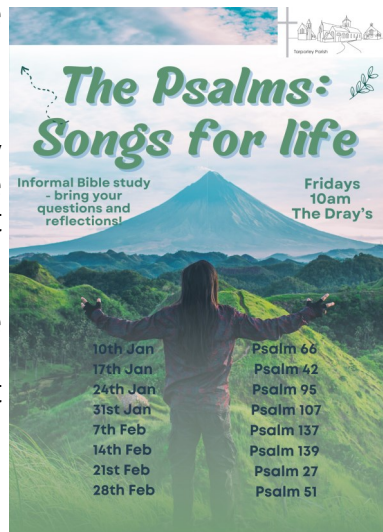


## Friday Bible study

Following the success of the Friday morning sessions at The Dray's on the Heroes of the Old Testament, and our Advent Book Group during the autumn and winter, we have continued to meet to look at The Psalms. The Psalms are the songbook of the Jewish people, and regularly used in Christian worship, as they bring a personalised experience of what it is like to follow God in times of joy, sadness, trouble, doubt, lament and every emotion in between.

Each week we'll look at a different Psalm, think about what it might have meant when it was first written, and how it speaks to us as followers of Jesus today. Everyone is welcome to join in: just bring along a Bible (or Bible app) and an open mind to The Dray's in Eaton from 10am every Friday.

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, for our final session, we will also offer an extended time to think and reflect, as we offer a Pre-Lent Quiet Day, using Psalm 51. We will start at St Thomas at 9am for Morning Prayer, travel to The Drays for 10am for our usual coffee and Bible study, then have some more space to reflect, walk, pray, discuss, enjoy some silence, have lunch and finally gather together as we prepare for Lent. If you've never set aside time for quiet and prayer, why not give this a go?? If you would like to attend, please contact Revd Jim, so we can liaise with The Dray's about catering.





# PRE-LENT QUIET DAY

FRIDAY 28TH FEB  
ST THOMAS' EATON AND THE DRAY'S  
9AM-3PM

**A TIME TO THINK, PRAY, DISCUSS AND BE  
QUIET, REFLECTING ON PSALM 51**

To sign up and reserve a place,  
contact Revd Jim -  
[revjim1017@gmail.com](mailto:revjim1017@gmail.com)

## Electoral Roll revision

The Electoral Roll of a parish is a list of names and addresses of every person who can vote in the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Every 6 years, every Church of England parish has to completely revise its Electoral Roll and start again, and 2025 is one of those years! Everyone currently on the Electoral Roll will be sent a letter and a new form to complete and send back, in order to be added to the new Electoral Roll. To be on the Electoral Roll of a parish, you should be baptised and at least 16 years old. You should either live in the parish or have worshipped at the church regularly for at least six months. Joining the Electoral Roll is a way of confirming that you are a member of our church community. Ideally as a member of our church and on the Electoral Roll you will:

- Worship regularly to learn, pray and praise
- Offer your time and talents to serve, share and give
- Give regularly to the running of the church and give thanks to God for our blessings
- attend our Annual General Meeting (this year on **11th May at 11am** at St Helen's) and vote for church representatives for the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

If you've never been on the roll before, please think about joining this year. To be entered on the roll for 2025, please could you return your completed form to the Electoral Roll Officer at 32 Torr Rise, Tarporley, CW6 0UE by **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

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**We celebrate with those who have been baptised:**



Elise Robinson

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

Mildred Jeffrey

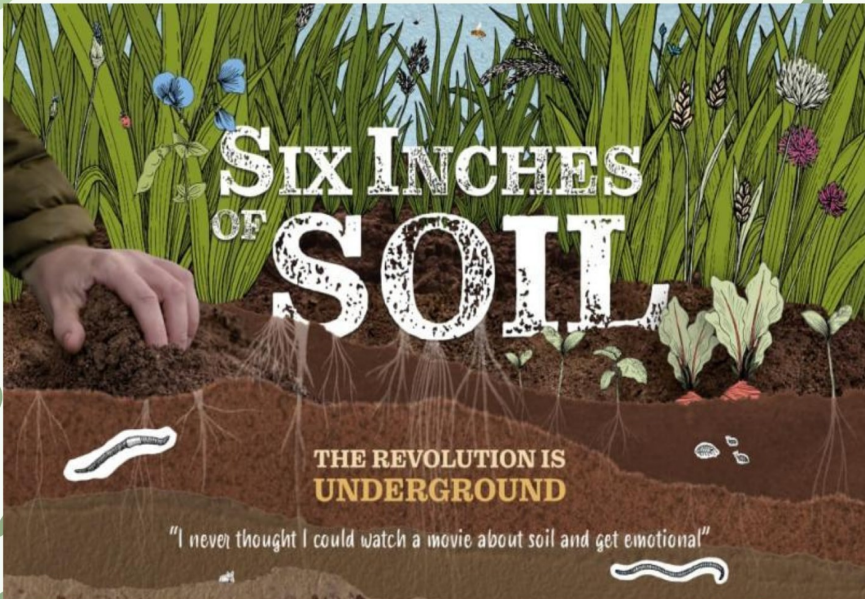
Alan Mottram



**Parish of Tarporley  
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*Friday 28th Feb 6.30pm*

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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](mailto:membership@tastarporley.uk) beforehand.



**Volunteer to help older  
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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*

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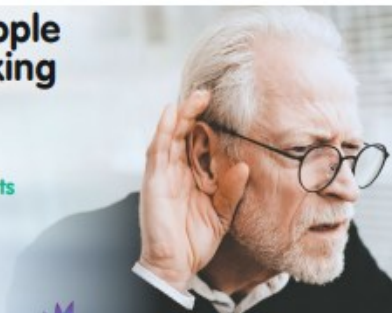
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