

TARVIN &
DUDDON



St. Peter's &
Andrew's



GRAPEVINE December 2025 £1

Christmas Services

St Andrews

14th

9.15am Messy Church with Christmas Activities

10.45am Nativity

21st

6.30pm Carol Service

24th

4.30pm Christingle

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

25th

8am Holy Communion

10am Family Communion

St Peters

12th 5pm Community Carols

25th 9am Family Communion



The Vicar writes...

I wonder what St Paul would write in a letter to the world? Would he be shaking his head in shock and concern about how we are treating each other. The persecutions caused by humanity to humanity. Would he condemn the lack of care for the recourses of the world? Is there reason for Paul to become Saul again and convict us of our crimes? When Paul wrote to Corinth he wrote with encouragement and not condemnation. He suggested ways in which they could change and become closer to God and continue the work of Jesus and become better Christians. He highlighted to them what they already had and how to use it to the best of their ability with the help and support of God and others in faith. So here is my take on a letter that Paul might write to the Benefice of Tarvin, the Churches of St Andrews and St Peters. "To my beloved, the people of Tarvin, Duddon and surrounding villages. Greetings from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a blessing to hear and see all the wonderful things you have done. From the coffee morning that inspired people to come together in fellowship and unity to the Z team who tirelessly work outside in all weather conditions. For those who clean and upkeep the buildings that you have, to worship and praise the Lord God. There are so many people involved in the church making it vibrant and welcoming I am unable to mention all of them, however, you are doing wonderful work in the name of Christ and using the gifts that God has given you, putting them to good use. If I could be so bold to ask you to continue the work that you doing and extend it further, as we begin this season of Advent, preparing for the birth of Jesus, the miracle of God coming to dwell in our world with us, to reach out more and more. You have been blessed with so many workers, and in the eyes of faith, age has no detriment to the ability of work that can be done. After all we all can centre ourselves in prayer, which is the most important task of all. Use the gifts that you have been given to profit the kingdom of God, where there is hatred show love, where you are persecuted for your faith or made fun of show compassion. The troubled world in which we live is one we are trying to mend, and the discompassionate world in which we live has forever been with us. We strive as best we can to teach others the way of faith, to share the compassion that we have, to turn even the most discompassionate nature of others into the love and fellowship of faith. I implore you to remember that meeting together in prayer and worship is most

important to find strength in the wisdom of God's word and to stand together, with support as you minister to this world. May God give you wisdom and understanding in the world that you are part of, strengthen you with the Holy Spirit so that you may never tire of the tasks that you have in your lives. Finally may Jesus be the light that shines in the darkness guiding you always."

Adam

Diary for December

- 1st 11am Toddlers (PR)
12.30pm Singles Lunch (PR)
- 2nd 9am Treetots (SP)
10am Craft Group (SA)
- 3rd 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
10am Coffee Morning (SA)
- 4th 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
5.45pm Choir Practice (SA)
6.45pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 7th **8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.30am Morning Prayer (SP)
10.45am Family Communion (SA)
4pm Remembering Service (TMC)
- 8th 11am Toddlers (PR)
12.30pm Singles Lunch (PR)
- 9th 9am Treetots (SP)
- 10th 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
10am Coffee Morning (SA)
- 11th 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
1pm Tarvin Pre-School Visit (SA)
5.45pm Choir Practice (SA)
6.45pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)

- 12th 5pm Community Carols (SP)**
- 13th 3pm Guides in Church (SA)**
8am Holy Communion (SA)
9.15am Messy Church (SA)
9.30am Family Communion (SP)
10.45am Nativity Service (SA)
- 15th Tarvin School Using Church 9am -3pm**
 11am Toddlers (PR)
 12.30pm Lunch Club (PR)
- 16th Tarvin School Using Church 9am -3pm**
 9am Treetots (SP)
- 17th 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)**
 10am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)
Tarvin School Using Church 12.30pm -3pm
- 18th Tarvin School Using Church 9am -3pm**
 6.30pm Tarvin School Christmas Carols (SA)
- 20th 3.45pm Village Carol Singing (Meet Croxton Green, Saxon Heath)**
- 21st 8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.30am Family Communion (SP)
10.45am Family Communion (SA)
6.30pm Carol Service (SA)
- 24th 4.30pm Christingle (SA)**
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (SA)
- 25th 8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9am Family Communion (SP)
10am Family Communion (SA)
- 28th 10.45am Family Worship (SA)**
9.30am Morning Prayer (SP)
10.45am Family Communion (SA)

St. Andrew's Church, Tarvin.



Christmas Coffee Morning

Everyone welcome!

*We offer tea/coffee Christmas
favourites including stollen and
mince pies... all with some
cheerful Christmas music!*

Wednesday 17th December.

10.00—11.30am

**DONATIONS
WELCOME IF YOU ARE
ABLE TO.**





Tarvin Posada

The Journey to Bethlehem

In Central America the **Posada** follows Mary, Joseph and their donkey on their journey to Bethlehem and Christmas.

The word Posada means 'Inn' and represents the stay each night in a house or Inn on the journey through Advent.

You can be part of their journey.....If you could offer a window, a front porch, or a suitable place for them to be found for one day and one night of their travels then contact:

Paul Mercer Tel: 07904 812252 Email: thorfastr@gmail.com

We are looking for 23 different places for them to stay!

Throughout December you will find our Mary, Joseph and their donkey somewhere in Tarvin on their journey to Bethlehem.

Will you spot them?

Will they be in a garden in your street, or in someone's front window, perhaps in a local shop, or even visiting the school?

You can follow their journey to Christmas as the move round the village from place to place each day.

The **Tarvin Posada** Facebook page will record their journey with photographs, stories and all the locations where they have stayed.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1584532478560551/>



Pilgrimages

A Christmas Wedding at St George's, Hanover Square

In late December in 2021, during partial restrictions following the lockdown periods, I was excited but anxious to be invited to a Christmas wedding at St George's in London. We travelled by train the night before. Although the streets sparkled with the festive decorations they were almost deserted. It felt very strange.

The following morning in the lovely winter sunshine we walked to St George's church. St George's is the parish church of Mayfair. It was built between 1721 - 1724 in the classical style. At that time there was a need for fifty churches to be built.

St George's was known as the wedding church. President Roosevelt, the poet Shelley, the novelist George Eliot, Amy Johnson and Guglielmo Marconi were all married there.

The church is beautiful inside. The organ was built in Tennessee, USA and is the only American built organ in London. One of the beautiful stained glass windows is made of Flemish glass, which was believed to have been looted by Napoleon

Above the altar is a painting of The Last Supper by William Kent in the 17th century style of the French painter Nicolas Poussin.

One of its best known parishioners is George Friderick Handel

who lived nearby.

He had his own pew and was a regular worshipper.

During the wedding service the church choir sang The Alleluia Chorus and the beautiful organ sounded splendid indeed. It certainly was a happy and memorable occasion.

Caroline Brierley



A THOUGHT AND A PRAYER FOR DECEMBER

If I decorate my house perfectly with tartan bows, twinkling lights and shiny baubles but do not show love to my family, *I'm just another decorator.*

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table but do not show love to my family, *I'm just another cook.*

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, *it profits me nothing.*

If I decorate the spruce with angels and snowflakes, attend a host of parties and and offer expensive gifts but do not focus on Christ, *I have missed the point.*

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust...

But giving the gift of love will endure. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Inspired by 1 CORINTHIANS 13



A Christmas Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the priceless gift of Jesus, the light of the world and the hope of all creation. Fill our hearts with joy that overflows into acts of generosity this Christmas.

Bless those who need provision, love and renewed hope.

Surround the lonely with Your peace, uplift the grieving with Your comfort and strengthen the weary.

Teach us to work together to share Your blessings boldly and reflect Your grace brightly. Remind us always of Your unending love and the joy of giving.

Amen.



TARVIN METHODIST CHURCH

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thursday, 11 December at 7.30 pm

You are all very welcome to come along to an evening of Christmas carols, songs, words and music by our friends from the Chester City Corps of the Salvation Army Band and Singers

Followed by tea / coffee and mince pies

Admission is free but donations towards the work of the Salvation Army would be much appreciated

Weekly Services

Sunday Service timetable:

St Andrew's

8am Holy Communion BCP (Every Week)

10.45am 1st and 3rd Week Family Worship

10.45am 2nd and 4th Week Family Communion

St Peter's

9.30am 1st and 3rd Week Family Communion

9.30am 2nd and 4th Week Family Worship

Weekly Activities:

Wednesdays

9.15am Morning Prayer (St Andrews)

10am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (St Andrews)

Thursdays

5.45pm Choir Practice (St Andrews)

7pm Bellringing

Church Fundraising



This year, William's Wood chose St Andrew's and St Peter's Churches as beneficiaries for their charitable output. What this means is that for every member of the congregation who avails themselves of William's Wood products or services, ranging from firewood, bean poles through to attendance at events or activities like apple pressing or family school holiday activities, a percentage will be given to the Churches on April 5th 2026 and we can claim gift aid too.

Firewood is sold, certified as Ready to Burn under Certificate WS4344, in single nets or multiples. The current log net price is £5.25 inc VAT at 5% and we are given 50p per net. **Collect your wood from William's Wood or for orders 8 nets or more, in multiples of 8, delivery to the villages of Tarvin and Duddon are inclusive.** 40 nets is a tight stacked cubic metre.

They don't deliver tipped bulk loads because nobody really looks forward to receiving and dealing with a pile of logs on the driveway, and the drivers will stack the nets wherever you want as long as it is easily accessible from the road with a sack truck.

Even if you don't burn firewood yourself but know someone who does, as long as they mention the Churches at purchase, the donation will be made.

Contact William's Wood on 01829 830325 or look at www.williamswood.co.uk to make an order.

Please join the members of the congregation who already purchase from William's Wood.



Flower group

Flower Club Christmas meeting.

A glass of Buck's fizz welcomed our members and visitors as they arrived. They were then able to browse the stalls and take part in guesswork to try to win 2 generous seasonal hampers.

Charismata was the title chosen by Debbie Davies for her demonstration. The word is Greek and gives us charisma. This was shown by Debbie as she came onto the stage looking elegant,

Her 1st design represented an open fire which we might sit by to write our Christmas cards. It was a parallel design with wispy autumnal foliage, tropical blooms and spider gerbera.

Debbie's next design was a welcome door wreath. Instead of the usual circular frame she had a part block of oasis and the leaves and flowers radiated. She used sprayed fatsia leaves with an aspidistra bow and red carnations, green chrysanthemums and wired pine cones. A star followed on a large stand with a wire grid backing. The flowers used in this all white arrangement were fantastic and included orchids, silver and white sprayed foliage and an unusual gerbera with a hint of green. For her 4th design Debbie had a large flexible ring with pale mauve drapes to represent the nativity. She used the new plant based foam to hold spruce and hebe along with purple and pink flowers which included small purple calla lilies, large pink gerbera and purple sprayed seed heads.

There had to be a Christmas tree and Debbie had a tall stand adorned with baubles onto which she arranged a triangular design in shades of red and green. There were roses, carnations, gladioli, leucospermum and anthuriums with a few baubles. It was stunning.

Finally we had an angel, Another all white creation designed to cascade. There were roses, lilies and lisianthus, Debbie played Christmas music whilst assembling her angel on a stand with lit up wings and a halo.

The finished stage was a wow. It was colourful, we could see all the designs and there was just the right amount of sparkle. A wonderful display.

After the raffle we had delicious seasonal, mainly homemade refreshments.

What a way to end our floral year. Thanks to all who came and to all who helped to give us such a successful evening.

Our next meeting is the A.G.M. in February.



Parish Diary Dates

A service of Remembering

Our Annual ecumenical service of remembering will be held on the 7th December at 4pm at Tarvin Methodist Church. Please join us if you are able to.

January

- 4th 8am Holy Communion (SA)**
- 9.30am Family Communion (SP)**
- 10.45am Morning Prayer (SA)**
- 5th 11am Toddlers (PR)**
- 12.30pm Singles Lunch (PR)**
- 6th 9am Treetots (SP)**
- 7th 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)**
- 10am Coffee Morning (SA)**
- 8th 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)**
- 5.45pm Choir Practice (SA)**
- 6.45pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)**
- 11th 8am Holy Communion (SA)**
- 9.15am Messy Church (SA)**

St Andrew's Womens group

For our November meeting we welcomed as our speaker Major (Rtd) Jill Mackeen TD QARANC.(V) (QUEEN ALEXANDER ROYAL ARMY NURSING CORPS) who served with the unit in Operation Telic, the British operation during the war in Iraq, as Deputy Matron.

As a member of the Territorial Army She was deployed to Iraq from her full time position in the NHS as a Theatre Sister. Working conditions in the heat and sandstorms of the desert could not have been easy in a tented hospital but Jill's account made us realise what a wonderful professional job was achieved with limited resources by this dedicated unit.

Thankyou Jill for your inspirational talk.

Jill is the chair of the Chester branch of the QARANC, Lynne Orfanelli is the secretary. This connection is the reason that their flag is kept in St Andrews Church and seen at the war memorial on remembrance Sunday. Our December meeting will be the Christmas lunch for those who have pre booked.



We return to our normal monthly programme in February 2026 so send best wishes to you all at Christmas and new year. We look forward to seeing you in February

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Sunday was on 23rd November

ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER

Where do you feel safe? or who makes you feel safe? What can we do to ensure that being involved in any Church activity helps you feel safe? The last twelve months has seen the Church of England needing to take action at the highest level for not responding to safeguarding concerns appropriately or in a timely manner.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is quoted as saying 'There comes a point when we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in'.

We need to constantly review our Safeguarding policies and practice to ensure we can ensure that people are not falling in, in the first place!

If you saw someone pushed to the ground and their possessions taken what would you do? Would you -

a) walk by muttering what an awful thing to happen but too busy to stay and help?

b) consider helping but then think someone else is bound to come to their assistance and what could you do to help anyway? OR

c) decide that you should be and can be the one to make a difference?

We shouldn't wait for someone else to take action and we can ALL contribute to ensuring that the Church feels a safe place to be when involved in any of the activities that take place in it's buildings or in it's name.

Everyone at the services today received an Action Pledge card. This is to encourage people to make a specific personal commitment through an action, whether that is through prayer, speaking up or finding out more about Safeguarding.

Mary Morgan
Parish Safeguarding Officer

HAIRCUT, SIR!

POLLARDING 2025

At the start of 2025, it was decided to bring contractors in to inspect the Lime trees bordering the front pathway to St. Andrew's. A Company called Tree Fellers duly informed us that some major work was required to give the trees a new lease of life. However, as these trees are in the Conservation area of Tarvin, permission had to be sought from Tarvin Parish Council as well as the CWAC Conservation Officer. Once all this



was cleared, a date was set in November for the pollarding to begin. Top left shows the contractors setting up their hydraulic platform, and to the right, with it in place to enable the working group to safely access the branches.



As can be seen from the photo on the left, the trees required quite a severe "haircut" as many of the branches were found to be rotten internally once cutting commenced. A decision

was made to leave a small arch in front of the main door to enable the Christmas lights to cross the pathway during December. However, the light supporting wires, were destroyed during the work. These will have to be replaced prior to their installation in December. The contractor assured us that trees are now good for another 100 years!



TALES FROM THE GRAVEYARD DECEMBER 2025

Z TEAM AGM



The Z Team met mid November for their Annual General Meeting in the Parish Rooms. Eleven members were present, plus Adam to give his thanks to the team for their efforts over the past year. In the above photo, left to right, are John, Richard, Wyn, Bill, Rick, Ron, Linda, Martin, David, Peter, Adam and Mark.

Among the items discussed were equipment purchased in 2025, and some tools that has been donated, namely a battery powered hacksaw and an extensive set of sockets, etc.

Mark discussed the costs of running the team in terms of fuel used, replacement/ maintenance items for the mowers, etc., and this came to just over £1000 this year.

Future projects, apart from general maintenance, include an extension to the ashes burial area, a new footpath alongside this area, and clearing up grave areas where gardens have been planted to facilitate improved mowing activities.

A total of ten ashes burials have taken place this year so far. Assuming this is an average year, there are only 18/24 months remaining before the existing ashes burial allocation is full, hence the need for an extended area.

All Things Duddon

Duddon St. Peter's CE Primary School

What an amazing week in Uganda we had, sharing practice and working together with the children and staff at the MLD Kindergarten, Ibanda. Following a safari weekend at Lake Mburra National Park where the giraffes were definitely my highlight, we spent an intense and rewarding week in our partner schools. During the week the staff and I observed each other's teaching and worked together to share songs, stories and rhymes with the children. It is such a privilege to be able to share practice, and I found myself adapting my teaching style during the week to suit the classroom spaces and lesson times the school has.

One of the highlights of the week was sharing the variety of toys and games I had taken out with me, donations from the children and parents at Duddon St Peter's, with both the staff and children. The children loved the blocks, dolls and cars, although quite a few sharing issues had to be resolved! I worked with the staff to teach them some of the games I play with the resources to develop maths and literacy concepts - that was fun!

The children will certainly enjoy the trampoline our donations paid for. The week was an emotional rollercoaster, and a few things will remain with me for a long time. The children are resilient. They have very little, are incredibly independent due to their circumstances and are so happy and welcoming. They are children just like our children - they laugh at the same things, argue about the same things and learn in the same way. Teachers are the same no matter where they work! We are teaching the same things in a slightly different way, and the opportunity to share and realise this is so valuable. I loved working with the staff and children to share our experiences which, although we live in completely different parts of the world, are not always so very different - however those differences should be shared with our children and



parents here to build a greater understanding and appreciation of the world we share.

Claire Knight



Duddon War Memorial Hall

A Christmas Quiz will be held in the War Memorial Hall, Willington Road, Duddon on Friday 12th December, beginning at 8pm entrance will be £5 and there will be a bar and raffle. Everyone welcome.

Barbara's bit

The problem with Christmas.

I think probably the first problem is that it starts in the shops in August, wavers a bit around November 5th and Hallowe'en and then increases in intensity until Christmas day - when we can continue shopping on line! Then there's problems with family, can we all get together? Is stubborn cousin Steve going to upset it all again? Is Great Auntie Mabel going to get squiffy on the sherry? And do we have to have your brother *and his children ... and his wife,*? They stay over far too long... and never help with the washing up.

And presents... do we have a Secret Santa again? Even though some cheated last time, I'm sure Bob only spent a couple of quid and we'd all agreed to a tenner.

And all the food! It has got to be special, it's Christmas! We must get in enough for everyone ... and anyone who happens to pop in. The special chocolate biscuits, tins of chocolates, Christmas cake, stollen, nibbles and crisps, mixed nuts, brandy, wine, cream liqueur, brandy butter, cheese ... I'm sure I've forgotten something.

We must have an Advent Calendar; there's a lovely Pepa Pig one, and one filled with little bottles of gin, oh and another with 25 days of beauty, make-up and body stuff, ooh have you seen the one with 24 ducks or the epic Lego Calendar? (Where's Jesus?)

Then, things change, just when you felt everything was sorted, an extra guest decides to come, the spare bedding is up in the attic and doesn't match and cousin and nephew will have to share a room, and the ordered turkey is too small, the wrapping paper has run out, the mince pies have burnt, the cranberry stuffing ... you know you bought two packets, but where are they?

Oh, help!

Actually there is only one problem with Christmas, and that is finding Jesus. Is he hidden under the wrapping paper, stuck behind the tree or shut outside? Because Jesus is what Christmas is really about and he isn't the problem, we are! It is so easy to lose him in all the paraphernalia, not see him as we are blinded by the lights, not hear him call in the carols. But we must put him first!

Jesus, born a baby in stable, came to tell us all about the love of God for us. He gave his life on the cross for us, for our salvation, which means the deliverance from sin and all its consequences. He rose from the dead, yes, came alive again, to show us death has no power over us, it is not the end, we go to be with him. He came to show us how to show love to everyone, he came for the poor and vulnerable, the sick and the outcast who have no voice, so we could be their voice.

Alleluia! I hope you find him or let him find you, because he is what Christmas is about; the time to celebrate in every wonderful way the birth of a very special, wonderful, unique baby, called Jesus. I pray that you have a very Happy and blessed **Jesus Christmas**... and make sure you welcome with you into the New Year and beyond! He is not just for Christmas.

Love and prayers, Barbara.

@ Grapevine

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Gift Aid	David Caddell	740554
Z Team (Tarvin Churchyard)	Mark Wyatt Ron Fuller	740909 740559

Tarvin Parish, St Andrew's and St Peter's takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding. If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at www.chester.anglican.org/social-responsibility/safeguarding

Notices

TODDLER GROUP meet on Mondays (term time only). 11am - 12pm in the parish room next to St Andrews Church. This is open to anyone caring for children.

SINGLES LUNCH - for those who eat on their own. We have lunch, and a domino game and conversation. This will be 12.30pm - 2pm on Monday's in the parish room. If anyone would like to know more, or express an interest in coming, please contact Adam on 01829740354, if you would like to come and need a lift, please contact Adam on the same number.

CRAFT GROUP meets every other Tuesday (except in August), from 10am till 12 midday in St,Andrew's. So far we have played with clay , made a quite tricky card and tried some Christmas ink stamping. You can join in with the activity provided or sit and knit and crochet with June or bring your own ideas along, or just come along for a chat, though it does get very quiet at times when people are concentrating! If you are able to give a small donation towards the cost of the materials, great, but it is not essential! Just come! Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

COFFEE MORNINGS at St Andrews Church every Wednesday morning 10.00 to 11.30

LEGO CHURCH meets every Monday in School Term time at St Peters Church, Duddon after school at 3.30 and is open to all Primary age children.





Once again this Christmas we will be supporting our local foodbank Boxes will be available from St Andrews Church and should be returned there by 16th December.

The chart below helps with suggestions of what to include, but please feel free to include anything at all.

Why not work with a neighbour or friend to create a full Reverse Advent Calendar Box.

For more details or for help with collecting your box call

Paul Mercer 07904 812252



Why not start in early November to collect in time for Christmas! To enable packing and distribution before Christmas, please drop off any Christmas related items at our warehouse (weekdays 9-2) or any donation point by Tuesday 16th Dec

1 Tinned soup	2 Shampoo	3 Variety tins or boxes	4 Tinned tomatoes	5 Rice	6 Deodorant
7 Box of biscuits or chocolates	8 Nuts and confectionery	9 Tinned fish	10 Coffee	11 Jam	12 Breakfast cereal
13 Tea bags	14 Chocolate bars	15 Long-life fruit juice	16 Instant mash potatoes	17 Tinned vegetables	18 Cooking sauces
19 Tinned potatoes	20 Tinned meat	21 Toilet rolls	22 Rice pudding	23 UHT long-life milk	24 Tinned fruit

westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk



Registered Charity in England & Wales 1150934.