

TARVIN &
DUDDON



St. Peter's &
Andrew's



GRAPEVINE February 2026 £1

The Vicar writes...

Love in Action: A Valentine's Day Reflection

Every February, shops fill with red hearts, chocolates, and roses, and the world turns its attention to celebrating love. Valentine's Day has become known as a time for romantic gestures, but its origins—and its deeper meaning—reach far beyond cards and candle-lit dinners. Long before Valentine's Day was associated with romance, it was linked to St. Valentine, a Christian who lived out love in courageous, self-giving ways. Though details of his life vary, the stories agree on one thing: Valentine was known for his faithfulness, compassion, and sacrifice—qualities that reflect the very heart of Christ's love for us.

A Different Kind of Love

In the church, we talk have spoken of *agape*—the unconditional, selfless love that God pours out on His people. It is patient and kind, not boastful or proud. This is the kind of love described in **1 Corinthians 13**, a passage written to guide the everyday life of the Christian community. Valentine's Day gives us a chance to re-discover that kind of love:

A love that listens before it speaks

A love that forgives even when it is difficult

A love that serves, even in small, unseen ways

A love that reaches out, especially to those who feel lonely or forgotten

Love for the Lonely

For some, Valentine's Day can be bittersweet. It may stir memories of loved ones lost, relationships strained, or hopes unfulfilled. As a church family, we are called to extend Christ's love to those for whom this season is difficult.

A simple phone call, a shared cup of tea, or a handwritten note can remind someone that they are remembered and valued. Sometimes the smallest gestures carry the greatest love.

God's Love: The Greatest Gift

At the heart of Valentine's Day lies an even greater truth: We are

loved—deeply, fully, and unconditionally—by God. Romans 8 reminds us that nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” This love does not fade like flowers or depend on how worthy we feel. It is constant, steadfast, and freely given.

A Prayer for Valentine's Season

Lord of Love,

As we celebrate this season, help us remember the example of Your Son,

who loved without condition and gave without counting the cost. Make us instruments of Your love in our families, our church, and our community.

Open our eyes to those who need encouragement, and open our hearts to love as You first loved us.

Amen.

Adam

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

Diary for February

1st 8am Holy Communion (SA)
9.30am Family Communion (SP)
11am Covenant Service (TMC)

2nd 12.15pm Lunch Club (PR)

3rd 10am Craft Group (SA)
1.30pm Bible Study (PR)

4th 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
10am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)
1.30pm Delamere School visit (SA)
7pm St Adnrews Women's Group (PR)

5th 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
11am Ecumenical Meeting (TMC)
5.45pm Choir Practice (SA)
7pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)

8th 8am Holy Communion (SA)
9.15am Messy Church (SA)
9.30am Morning Prayer (SP)
10.45am Family Communion (SA)

9th 12.15pm Lunch Club (PR)
2pm Funeral of Doreen Manning (VRC)

10th 1.30pm Bible Study (PR)

11th 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
9.30am Delamere School visit (SP)
10am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)

12th 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
11am Ecumenical Meeting (TMC)
5.45pm Choir Practice (SA)
7pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)

15th 8am Holy Communion (SA)
9.30am Family Communion (SP)
10.45am Morning Prayer (SA)

18th 10am Ashing Service - Café Style (SA)
10.15am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)

19th 5.45pm Choir Practice (SA)
7pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)

21st 10am Chester Bell Ringers Practice (SA)

22nd 8am Holy Communion (SA)
9.30am Morning Prayer (SP)
10.45am Family Communion (SA)

23rd 12.15pm Lunch Club (PR)

24th 1.30pm Bible Study (PR)

25th 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
10am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)

26th 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
5.45pm Choir Practice (SA)
7pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)

March

1st 8am Holy Communion (SA)
9.30am Family Communion (SA)
10.45am Morning Prayer (SA)

2nd 12.15pm Lunch Club (PR)

3rd 1.30pm Bible Study (PR)

4th 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
10am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)
7pm St Andrews Women's Group (PR)

5th 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
5.45pm Choir Practice (SA)
7pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)

Pilgrimages

My monthly missives have now reached the letter K, and there's two K's for the price of one !

When our two daughters became teenagers, like all parents, we became "uncool" (in the terminology of the day). We decided to have one last family holiday together (although we've had lots since) touring Europe by car and staying in economy hotels. The ultimate destination was to be Ottenhofen in Schwarwald; perhaps more commonly known as the Black Forest.

Brenda's usual meticulous planning charted out an elliptical route through northern Europe, taking in France, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Belgium and so off we set; travelling in the mornings and exploring the different areas in the afternoon.

Soon, we'd reached our destination and settled in at a typical Black Forest house, with its long hipped roof descending almost to the ground, enabling strong winds to pass without structural damage and heavy snowfalls to slide slowly to the ground. (Although how they ever got out through the doors after a snowstorm, I'll never know)

One day it rained and we'd sampled all the local attractions, so we wound our way down the valley to the Katholische Kirche (2 Ks as promised and in English the Catholic Church) as it was the only one open that day that was doing Kaffee und Kuchen Morgen.....a coffee and cake morning, paying in Deutsche Marks back then.

Started in 1823 and finished two years later it follows the traditional style of white exterior and interior walls with a red tiled roof and an imposing bell tower that can be seen for miles around. The altar is laid out quite simply as a grey marble table before a dark brown cross and two long blue thin wall paintings. Two strips of long triple windows on each side add colour and majesty to the tableau. I thought it was very evocative.

The rest of the building is rather plain, and by now, the rain had stopped, and more importantly, the supply of coffee and cakes had run out.

As indeed had our time in the village, and all too soon, we were packing our bags ready for the journey home.....but bolstered by warm memories of that beautiful and traditional village.

Donald Bailey



Coffee Morning dates for your diaries!

Every Wednesday 10am—11:30

UPCOMING EVENTS



British Heart Foundation

ST VALENTINES DAY

All donations will be given to BHF

11th February



Celebrating Pancake Day!

Freshly made crêpes

18th February



Alzheimer's Society

All donations to be sent to the Alzheimer's Society

25th March

Parish Diary Dates

18 th Feb	Ash Wednesday - 6pm Service in Church
March 1 st	4pm NEW SERVICE
March 7 th	International Women's day of Prayer
March 22 nd	QA Nursing Corp service 10.45am
March 15 th	Mothering Sunday
April 2 nd	Maundy Thursday 6pm TMC
April 3 rd	10am Good Friday Walk starting at the Scout Hut
April 5 th	Easter Sunday
April 19 th	12pm Annual Church Meetings
April 26 th	Feast of St George followed by Lunch in the George and Dragon (booked in advance) Service Joined by Uniformed Groups
May 10 th	Annual Rum and Gin festival 2-8pm in its 4 th Year (Uganda Appeal)
10 th -16 th May	Christian Aid Week Service
June 13 th	Village Fete Day
June 21 st	Fathers' Day and Trinity Sunday
June 28 th	Patronal Festival St Peter's
July 5 th	Annual Pet Service Day
July 11 th	10.30am - 2pm Church Open Day
July 12 th	10.45am Service Volunteer Celebration for all those behind the scenes who work to make the church run: cleaners, choir, bell ringers, sidespeople, flower arrangers, Z Team, PCC, Officers of the PCC, Readers, Curate, PTO clergy, Coffee Morning Team, Bible Readers, Interceeders, Vergers, and Musicians. Gift day of Time, Talents and Cash
September 13 th	Harvest at St Andrews and St Peters.
October 8-14 th	Baby Loss Awareness Week
November 8 th	Remembrance Sunday Service
November 11 th	Remembrance Day
November 22 nd	Safeguarding Sunday
November 28 th	St Andrews Afternoon Tea
November 29 th	AM Patronal Festival St Andrew's
December 11 th	Joint Community Carols - St Peters School and Church (SP)
December 13 th	10.45am Nativity Service Carolling around Tarvin
December 20 th	5.30pm Carol Service (SA)
December 24 th	4.30pm Christingle 11.30pm First Communion of Midnight.

Notices

ASH WEDNESDAY marks the start of Lent, a 40-day season of reflection and preparation for Easter. Christians receive a **cross of ashes** on their forehead as a reminder of our **mortality**—that we are dust—and our **need to turn back to God**. It begins a time of **repentance, prayer, and renewal** as we follow Jesus' example of 40 days in the wilderness.

Ash Wednesday Prayer

*Lord, as we begin this season of Lent,
we come before You in humility and repentance.
Remind us that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.
Create in us clean hearts, renew our spirits,
and guide us as we turn back to You.
May these days draw us closer to Your love,
and prepare us to walk with Christ toward the cross
and the hope of Easter.
Amen.*

BIBLE STUDY

An opportunity for everyone to find out a little more about how we use the words from the bible to inform the way we live our lives in faith. This is open to anyone who would like to come. This will start on the 3rd of February at 1.30pm in the Parish Room.

BIG QUESTIONS

Linked into the above, Rev Barbara, Rev Rick and Rev Adam are going to answering some of the **big questions** in online sessions. If you have any **big questions** you would like us to think about, and try and answer, then please email tarvinparish@gmail.com and in the heading put 'online questions'. No question is too big or too small.

MISSION 2026

We are hoping to have a 'mission', an opportunity to reach out to new and old friends in the village. This will be in the second week of September. There is a small team that will be thinking about the content of what we will plan to do. If you would like to join that group then please contact Adam.

SINGLES LUNCH - for those who eat on their own.

We have lunch, and a domino game and conversation. This will be 12.15pm - 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

This 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

This 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.



Uganda Links

Towards the end of last year a group of us travelled to visit our partners in Uganda.

There are now 10 schools in Ibanda linked to 10 local schools here in the UK.

There are also over 60 children there being sponsored by us across all the schools.

Here are a few photographs from our visit.

If you would like any more information about this partnership or if you would be willing to sponsor a child in one of the schools in Ibanda please contact me.

Adam



Outside Bufunda School after Wednesday Church Worship.



Bufunda School Assembly.



The kitchen at
Nkondo Primary
School .



PE Teacher at Bufunda teaching rounders to the children.



A delivery of new water tanks delivery at Bugarama School.



The Girls wash room at Bufunda School.



Freddie planting
a tree at
Nayabuhikye
School.



Helen chats to the sponsored children at Bufunda School.



Liz listens (with Emily) to an assembly at Katongore School, a new school to the partnership.



Emily is greeted at
Bisiche School as we
arrive.



The boys dorm room at Bisiche School, 8 boys are
sleeping here.

All Things Duddon

Duddon St. Peter's CE Primary School

After all the excitement of the end of term Christmas activities, the children returned to school in January amidst the snowfall to begin the spring term.

Just before school broke up for Christmas the younger children had a visit to Hayrack Farm, pictured here, where they enjoyed meeting and feeding the animals. They had a great time, despite the cold!



We continue to develop the children's experience of Forest skills, with all age ranges now able to benefit from outdoor activities in our woodland area on a regular basis. Outdoor learning

is proven to be a great stimulus, and our lovely environment is ideal to learn about the outdoors with activities linked to the curriculum.



In the autumn term the pond area was a focus for some renovation work, with one of the landing stages replaced so that children will be able to go out pond dipping in the spring. The pond itself was also cleared so that the wildlife will continue to flourish. Our science project with the Royal Society and University of Chester is also developing well.

Please visit our website at www.dstp.cheshire.sch.uk if you would like to read more about our school, where there is also a link to our Ofsted report, or contact the school if you would like to visit and see what it has to offer your child. We have places available across all age groups.

'Be the best you can be.'



Duddon War Memorial Hall

A Quiz will be held at the War Memorial Hall in Duddon at 8pm on 13th February, entry is £3, there will also be a bar and raffle. All proceeds will be used in the upkeep of the Hall.

Barbara's bit

February thoughts.

I have a book of poems with a poem for every day of the year, some just a few lines others you need to turn the page. Some more thought provoking than others, some by famous poets but all interesting in their use of language to conjure up different pictures and ideas in my imagination.

I found this one for 4th February which appealed to me as I have been doing a lot of sorting out, so much so that I am greeted by name in one charity shop!

My Locker by Darren Sardelli

My locker's filled with lots of things, like feathers from a falcon's wings,
a basketball, a model plane, a whistle from a railroad train,
a flower pot a crystal dish, a magazine with sharks and fish,
a roller skate, a pack of gum, and cymbals from a drummer's
drum.

It also has a boogie board, a watergun, a plastic sword,
a handle for an ice cream scoop, a thermos filled with chicken
soup,

a pogo stick, a purple kite, a lantern with an orange light,
a jar of nuts, a garden hose, and tissues for my stuffy nose.

Although there's space for screws and hooks, I have no place to
put my books!

Who's got a locker like this in school?

I think every home has a drawer like that, apologies if yours is
immaculate, mine's in the kitchen! The just I'll - pop - it - in -
there drawer because it may could be useful. There's probably
one in the garage too, though perhaps my whole garage qualifies.

It's on my list of things to sort! I have been doing a lot of sorting lately from Christmas decorations to clothes so much so that I am greeted by name in a local charity shop! I have also tidied my card papers into colours and I am trying to use them up instead of staring on new blocks and I have stopped saving every tiny scrap of paper - because it might be used - and recycling. I want to travel lightly through this year while I get used to being 'retired.'

Getting rid of stuff helps my headspace though there are still too many worries in there! These I have very determinedly need to give to God, though having said that, 'let go, let God' should be a gentle operation. I need to be gentle with myself!

I hope that you can travel gently through this year, trusting in God to hold and help you as I am trusting in Him to hold and help me.

Love and prayers,
Barbara

@ Grapevine

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Please send any news items, articles, events or diary entries to
tarvingrapevine@gmail.com

The Deadline for the March copy is Friday 20th February

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P.T.O.	Revd Barbara King 01244 300756		
Readers	Mary Burgess 740716	Colin Haworth	
	Jo Richards 741474	07584 419348	
Pastoral Worker	June Willis 07950 121078 01829 749382		
Parish Wardens	David Ferguson, 39 Deansway, Tarvin 741192 Paul Mercer, 4 Fairfax Ave, Tarvin 309306		
Director of Music	John Williams 07702 305709		
St Andrew's Verger	Sandra Turner 749310		
Bell Tower Captain	Fiona Panton 07855 295882		
PCC Treasurer			
Secretary	Jane Holmes 740564		
Safeguarding	Mary Morgan 740450		
Women's Group	Rev Barbara King 01244 300756		
Grapevine	Paul Mercer	tarvingrapevine@gmail.com	309306
Gift Aid	David Caddell 740554		
Z Team (Tarvin Churchyard)	Mark Wyatt 740909 Ron Fuller 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

TALES FROM THE GRAVEYARD FEBRUARY 2026

2026



As these are the first notes for the New Year, as well as starting work in the first cold and wet weeks of 2026, it is worth reflecting on the two celebrations in the past few weeks.

At the end of 2025, the team were able to close the year with an afternoon tea of warm mince pies and mulled wine

courtesy of Penny Rees and Heather Exell. The photo on the left shows the team at the end of December enjoying the feast after an afternoon's work in the graveyard. Thanks to Penny and Heather for this very welcome closure.

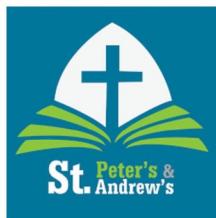


Whilst it looks as though the team spend all their time eating and drinking (after a few hours work!), they were also able to celebrate John Plant's 95th birthday on a cold and windy Wednesday in January. Coffee and cakes all round, courtesy of John! (Photo left)

Just to prove a little work is undertaken between celebrations, one issue that emerged last year was overgrown trees by

the back gate prevented the "Grab and Shift" wagon from getting in cleanly to empty the soil bund. The photo on the right (courtesy of Linda) shows John and Ron clearing part of the cut growth ready for disposal in the next few weeks.





Saint Andrew's friendly
Church Choir warmly
welcomes singers of all ages



Choir Practice : Thursdays 5:45pm—6:45pm

One service on Sundays at 10:45 am

Please contact:

Mr J. Williams 07702 305709

**Or call in at Church during
choir practice or on Sunday
morning for an informal chat**

