

TARVIN &  
DUDDON



St. Peter's &  
Andrew's



GRAPEVINE

March 2026 £1

## The Vicar writes...

### **Mothering Sunday: Celebrating Roots, Rituals, and the Heart of Home**

As March arrives with the first hints of spring, the UK prepares for one of its most cherished traditions: **Mothering Sunday**. Though often spoken of interchangeably with Mother's Day, this uniquely British celebration has a story all its own—one woven from centuries of faith, family, and the enduring pull of home.

#### **From Church Tradition to Family Celebration**

Mothering Sunday falls on the **fourth Sunday of Lent**, placing it squarely in mid-March. Its origins stretch back to the 16th century, when people returned to their "mother church"—the main church or cathedral of their region—during the Lenten season. In an age when many young people worked as domestic servants or apprentices far from home, this annual pilgrimage was also a precious chance to reunite with their families.

Over time, the religious custom blended with something more personal. Daughters and sons returning home would gather wildflowers along the way, presenting small posies to their mothers—an early sign of today's bouquets and thoughtful gestures.

#### **The Modern Meaning of Mothering Sunday**

While Mothering Sunday has evolved, its core remains unchanged: **gratitude**. It's a day to honour not only mothers, but stepmothers, grandmothers, mother figures, and all those who nurture with patience, warmth, and wisdom.

Today's celebrations range from breakfast-in-bed prepared by enthusiastic (if chaotic) little hands to shared meals, handwritten cards, and quiet conversations with the women who have shaped us. For many, it's also a moment to remember mothers no longer with us and to celebrate the love that endures.

#### **Traditional Flavours: Simnel Cake and Springtime Treats**

No March celebration would be complete without a nod to classic flavours. **Simnel cake**, a spiced fruit cake topped with marzipan, has long been associated with Mothering Sunday. Historically baked by servants to bring home to their families, its eleven marzipan balls—representing the apostles minus Judas—reflect its

Lenten roots.

In modern kitchens, the cake continues to symbolise reunion and celebration, served alongside cups of tea, fresh daffodils, and the promise of spring.

### **Why Mothering Sunday Still Matters**

In a busy world, Mothering Sunday encourages us to pause. To recognise the quiet, often unseen labour of care. To express appreciation not only with gifts, but with presence. And to reflect on the relationships that anchor us, teach us, and help us grow.

It's more than a date on the calendar—it's a gentle reminder of the connections that shape our lives.

**Adam**

## **Weekly Services**

### **Sunday Service timetable:**

#### **St Andrew's**

8am Holy Communion BCP (Every Week)

10.45am 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Week Family Worship

10.45am 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Week Family Communion

#### **St Peter's**

9.30am 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Week Family Communion

4.00pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Week Family Communion

### **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 March

- 1<sup>st</sup> 8am Holy Communion (SA)**  
**9.30am Family Communion (SP)**  
**10.45am Morning Prayer (SA)**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 12.15pm Singles Lunch (PR)**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 9am Treetots (SP)**  
**1.30pm Bible Study (PR)**  
**9pm Online lent course and compline (online)**
- 4<sup>th</sup> 9.15am Morning Prayer (SP)**  
**9.45am Lent course (SA)**  
**10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)**  
**7pm St Andrews Women's group (PR)**
- 5<sup>th</sup> 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)**  
**5.45am Choir Practice (SA)**  
**7pm Choir Practice (SA)**
- 8<sup>th</sup> 8am Holy Communion (SA)**  
**9.15am Messy Church (SA)**  
**10.45am Family Communion (SA)**  
**4pm Holy Communion (SP)**
- 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Ministry Team (PR)**  
**12.15pm Singles Lunch (PR)**
- 10<sup>th</sup> 9am Treetots (SP)**  
**10am Craft Group (SA)**  
**1.30pm Bible Study (PR)**  
**9pm Online lent course and compline (online)**
- 11<sup>th</sup> 9.15am Morning Prayer (SP)**  
**9.45am Lent course (SA)**  
**10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)**
- 12<sup>th</sup> 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)**  
**11am Ecumenical Meeting (George and Dragon)**

5.45am Choir Practice (SA)

7pm Choir Practice (SA)

**15<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday**

**8am Holy Communion (SA)**

**9.30am Family Communion (SP)**

**10.45am Family Communion (SA)**

16<sup>th</sup> 10am Carbon Neutral Meeting (SA)

11am Mission Planning (PR)

12.15pm Singles Lunch (PR)

17<sup>th</sup> 9am Treetots (SP)

10am Craft Group (SA)

1.30pm Bible Study (PR)

9pm Online lent course and compline (online)

18<sup>th</sup> 9.15am Morning Prayer (SP)

9.45am Lent course (SA)

10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)

19<sup>th</sup> 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)

5.45am Choir Practice (SA)

7pm Choir Practice (SA)

**22<sup>nd</sup> 8am Holy Communion (SA)**

**10.45am Family Communion (SA)**

23<sup>rd</sup> 12.15pm Singles Lunch (PR)

24<sup>th</sup> 9am Treetots (SP)

1.30pm Bible Study (PR)

9pm Online lent course and compline (online)

25<sup>th</sup> 9.15am Morning Prayer (SP)

9.45am Lent course (SA)

10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)

26<sup>th</sup> 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)

4.30pm Full Governors (Duddon School)

5.45am Choir Practice (SA)

7pm Choir Practice (SA)

- 28<sup>th</sup> Visiting Bell Ringers (SA)
- 29<sup>th</sup> **8am Holy Communion (SA)**  
**9.30am Family Communion (SP)**  
**10.45am Family Communion (SA)**  
**4pm 345 Worship @ St Andrews**
- 30<sup>th</sup> 12.15pm Singles Lunch (PR)  
 7.30pm PCC Meeting (PR)
- 31<sup>st</sup> 9am Treetots (SP)  
 1.30pm Bible Study (PR)  
 9pm Online lent course and compline (online)

April

- 1<sup>st</sup> 9.15am Morning Prayer (SP)  
 9.45am Lent course (SA)  
 10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)  
 7pm St Andrews Women's Group (PR)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 9.15am Duddon School Easter Service (SP)  
 5.45am Choir Practice (SA)  
 6.30pm Ecumenical Maundy Service (TMC)  
 7pm Choir Practice (SA)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 10am Good Friday Walk (Scout and Guide Hut)
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Easter Sunday**  
**8am Holy Communion (SA)**  
**9.30am Family Communion (SP)**  
**10.45am Family Communion (SA)**

# Notices

## **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. We will meet every Tuesday 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](mailto:tarvinparish@gmail.com) and in the heading put 'online questions'. No question is too big or too small.

## **COFFEE MORNING**

Every Wednesday in St Andrew's Church from 10am to 11.30am

## **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.

## **SINGLES LUNCH—for those who usually 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. You can join in with the activity provided or sit and knit and crochet 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.

# Tarvin Parish Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 12.00 in St Andrew's Church.

## AGENDA

*Welcome & prayers*

*Minutes of the AGM held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025*

### *Annual Vestry Meeting*

For the appointment of Church Wardens

### *Annual Parochial Church Meeting:*

1. To receive Annual Reports\*
2. To receive Annual Accounts\*
3. To receive the Electoral Roll Officer's report\*\*

Elections and Co-options:

PCC members - 5 vacancies

Deanery Synod representatives - 3 vacancies

Independent Examiner

\*\*\*\*\*

*\*Reports and Minutes* will be made available online prior to the meeting and also in printed form in both St Andrew's & St Peter's Churches.

*\*\*A Revision of the Electoral Roll* to take place between 9<sup>th</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> March.

### *Please consider:*

Nominations for Church Wardens to the Vicar, prior to the meeting.

Nominations for PCC or Deanery Synod can be made prior to or at the meeting.

## Joyce's 105th Birthday

### Lights, camera, action!

There was some extra excitement at St Andrews at the Wednesday coffee morning on the 4th February as there had already been plans to have an early celebration of Joyce's 105th birthday. But this was added to as the event was being attended by a reporter, Zoe and cameraman,



Mike from Granada Reports to record this special milestone. Family members were recorded before they talked to Joyce and she gave her consistent response when asked about her secret to reaching this remarkable age - 'just be yourself'.

This was a message she went on to reiterate at the service the day after her birthday. She expressed her grateful thanks for all the kind wishes she had received and said that the being among her friends at St Andrews was so important to her and encouraged others to live their lives according to this ethos, reminding people to make the most of their time here and learning from each other before 'being called to somewhere different'.



Such pearls of wisdom make us incredibly proud to be able to call her Mum.

Mary and Tony



## PRAYER FOR MARCH 2026

### LENT



Heavenly Father,

As we move through this season of Lent, we ask you to take us on a journey of reflection and renewal.

Help us to turn away from the distractions of life and to focus our hearts on you.

Strengthen us to let go of selfishness, pride, and envy, and to embrace a spirit of humility and love.

May this time of prayer, fasting, penitence and giving deepen our faith and strengthen our connection to you and to one another.

Guide us, Lord, through the desert, that we may arrive at Easter with joy, ready to celebrate the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

© THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

**DRAW NEAR**  
LIFE-GIVING HABITS FOR LENT

Draw closer to God this Lent with our new daily devotional – plus a special version for children to share the journey.

Find out more via [cofe.io/DrawNear](http://cofe.io/DrawNear)

Or see Sue about a digital version

## St Andrew's Women's group

Our first meeting of 2026 proved to be thought provoking as well as informative and entertaining.

HANNAH SWETTENHAM of the Chester branch of FRIENDS OF THE EARTH is a very enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker who told us of the aims and actions of FRIENDS OF THE EARTH in Chester.

Some of which was completely new to us.

Locally, their team of volunteers work with Christ Church and Newtown Residents Association to bring greener spaces to the area. Monthly gardening sessions are held with local residents to plant up and maintain gardens in areas previously neglected.

Another very successful project is their REPAIR CAFE, a pop-up event where the local community can get their broken household items repaired for free or for a small donation. Typical repairs are small electrical items, clothes, toys and bikes. All saved from the bin and thus helping to save the planet.

Their next event will be held on Saturday 21st June at Hoole Community Centre 10.30 - 12.30

More information can be found on the website

[chesterfoe.co.uk/chester-repair-cafe](https://chesterfoe.co.uk/chester-repair-cafe).

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th March when our speaker will be JO RICHARDS



## Flower club

It was good to meet our friends from flower club after a break since November.

The Edna Rose room at the community centre had 3 transitions during the evening. We started with our A.G.M. which was quickly dealt with. To follow the tables looked like a flower shop as 33 members made individual flower designs to decorate the tables for our final transformation into a bistro.

We then thoroughly enjoyed an excellent 2 course meal prepared by members of the committee. What an interesting and enjoyable way to start our season.

Our next meeting will be a demonstration by Dorothy Monks with her title "My Wonderful Life" which starts at 7-30 in the Edna Rose room on Wednesday 11th March, Visitors are welcome.



# Community Transport

## Community Project?

## Can you help?

I am very much aware that transportation for some in our parish is difficult, even to get in and out of cars. Taxis are not willing, mostly, to take someone from their home in the village to the doctors or grocery store.

I have an idea but need some help. I would like to have a volunteer group who would arrange a volunteer driver, and take bookings.

Here's the good bit!

I am also wanting to get sponsorship and grants in order to purchase an electric Tuk Tuk, UK road legal. This would enable the passengers to go right up to the door of many venues.

It could be used on a Sunday and Wednesday by ourselves and on other days for anyone in the village, subject to a driver.

This is very much in the early stages.

If you want to help with funding applications or organising lists of volunteers please speak to the Vicar.



# St. Andrew's Church, Tarvin

ALL  
WELCOME!



Coffee  
Morning



All  
Donations  
in aid of



Alzheimer's  
Society

WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH

10am—11:30am

# 345 Worship

@standrewschurchtarvin

Praise, Prayer and Pause.  
4pm 29th March 2026

## 345 Worship

Sunday  
29th March  
2026  
4pm



**St Andrew's  
Church  
Tarvin**

Come and join us for  
a service of 3p's,  
praise, prayer and  
pause.  
At 4pm.  
On the 5th Sunday of  
every month.

## 345 Worship

**Come as you are....  
All Welcome**

# **Evening Communion Service**

**Starting on  
8th March 4pm  
St Peter's Church  
Duddon.**

**The service will be on the 2nd  
Sunday of every month. Please  
contact Adam on 01829740354  
and leave a message if you  
would like transport to and  
from this service.**

# May 9<sup>th</sup> 2026 2pm-8pm

## Tarvin Rum and Gin Festival

Now in it's 4<sup>th</sup> Year!

@ Fernleigh, Holme Street, Tarvin

Google: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/hj8DKjvkHHcEusuF8>

W3W: <https://what3words.com/grasp.propose.certified>

Lots of different rums and gins to sample.  
Drop in anytime from 2pm-8pm or stay for the whole time.



**Money raised is going to the  
Ibanda Educational Partnership**



Tickets cost £15 per person.

Ticket sales includes a glass of your own and a welcome drink.

Drinks are sold by tokens purchased on the day.

3 tokens for £12 or 6 tokens for £20.

Food available from Cath and Kenny at an additional cost.

With DJ Matt Hughes and Weaver in the house too!



*Please bring a chair or picnic blanket with you.*

*Only drinks purchased on site can be consumed at this event.*

### Adults only

(children of those organising the event may be present)



**PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE  
for a look at the drinks menu.**

To purchase tickets please text Adam on  
07368335146 or  
email: [tarvinevents@gmail.com](mailto:tarvinevents@gmail.com)

# All Things Duddon

## Duddon St. Peter's CE Primary School

The aim of Duddon School is to create an environment where children quickly settle and achieve their best in all that they do. Children are given the opportunity to thrive and be happy. Our staff work hard to ensure that each child in the school is given the chance to realise their full potential. The school provides a happy and caring atmosphere to learn in, and we encourage mutual respect of each other and of their school.

*Pupils love coming to this small, village school. They describe it as kind and welcoming, a place where everyone knows everyone. Pupils feel that the school understands and celebrates them as individuals.*

*Parents and carers appreciate the strong relationships that have been built with school staff. They feel that the school brings out the best in their children.*

- Ofsted January 2025

Parents help in many ways and offers of such help are always welcome. We have an active Parent Teacher Association, which is of immense importance, not only in raising considerable funds for the provision of additional resources in the school, but also as a forum in which parents are able to meet and support each other, as well as being fun for the children.

Please visit our website at [www.dstp.cheshire.sch.uk](http://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 School Survey Questions for the Community.

- Do you feel the school contributes positively to the local area?  
(Yes/No/Unsure)
- How well does the school communicate with the wider community? (Scale 1-5)
- Are you aware of school events or activities open to the community? (Yes/No)
- Are there ways that the Federation can benefit the local community?
- Are there ways the school could better support local community needs?

Is there something you would be able to offer as a volunteer to the school community?

Please use this link to respond online (the questions are the same)

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdl1Lr5UUu2h1NRiGOXak8j-q5qXR7NvVdVNwqjYlaOj2l3lg/viewform?usp=header>

Or email responses to [tarvinparish@gmail.com](mailto:tarvinparish@gmail.com)



## Barbara's bit

March always makes me think of mad as a March hare! Hares take part in 'boxing' matches in the breeding season. It may seem as though the females are fending off the males but it is just as likely a way of selecting a strong partner. Either way the behaviour has bestowed on them the 'mad' label!

Lewis Carroll has a mad hare in Alice in Wonderland but the phrase has been in common use for hundreds of years in Britain. One of the earliest examples appears in Chaucer's 'A Friar's Tale' in 1385 and in 1558 the word harebrained entered the Oxford English Dictionary.

Well I hope March finds you sane and not jumping up and down through no wine or chocolate during Lent. Remember, and be kind to yourself, that these little disciplines can be our tangible sacrifices, a mere echo of the sacrifice of God, but a way of enabling us to step beyond ourselves, to draw closer to God and one another.

We come to God as we are:

We come with a history of rights and wrongs, we come with a past of shaky discipleship, we come with the chequered mixture called life.

We long to stay with what is familiar,

To cling to the comfortable, the predictable, to hold to the past, however painful; to find our security in a world of our own making.

But God calls us to move on;

To enter the place of reflection and change, to be confronted and challenged with reality, to encounter the life giving presence within.

by Judith Jessop from 'Eggs and Ashes'

The desert waits ( an invitation to Lent )

The desert waits, ready for those who come, who come obedient to the Spirit's leading; or who are driven because they will not come any other way.

The desert always waits, ready to let us know who we are - the place of self discovery.

And whilst we fear, and rightly, the loneliness, the emptiness, the harshness, we forget the angels whom we cannot see for our blindness, but who come when God decides that we need their help, when we are ready for what they can give us.

by Ruth Burgess from 'Eggs and Ashes'.

Wishing you a good Lent with many blessings.

Love and prayers,  
Barbara

## @ Grapevine

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Please send any news items, articles, events or diary entries to  
**[tarvingrapevine@gmail.com](mailto:tarvingrapevine@gmail.com)**

***The Deadline for the April copy is Friday 20th March***

*A big **THANK YOU** to all those of you that send in articles for inclusion in this magazine, your contributions add greatly to the content—long may you continue!*

***Pilgrimages**—stories and pictures of churches you have visited.*

***Wise Words**—interesting stories, text, poems that you have found*

***What's what and who's who**— stories and pictures about us and our village*

Vicar	Revd Adam Friend, 01829 740354 or 07368 335146 The Vicarage, Church Street, Tarvin, CH3 8EB Email address: tarvinparish@gmail.com Parish Website: <a href="http://www.tarvinparish.com">www.tarvinparish.com</a>	
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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 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](http://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](http://www.chester.anglican.org/social-responsibility/safeguarding)

## TALES FROM THE GRAVEYARD MARCH 2026

### CLEAN-UP TIME

The five yearly inspection of St. Andrew's building was typical of an old Grade 1 listed structure. However, one of points raised was the amount of vegetable growth around the base of the church, some of which was growing in the sandstone brickwork. The Z team rose to this task and, as can be seen from the photo on the right, the north face of the



building was given a major clean up and is now free of this unwanted growth and fallen leaves. Similar work has taken place around the other sides of the building, with drains unblocked and low level stones cleaned up. In doing this work, a couple of new gravestones and plaques were found. More of this next month.

However, surprisingly, mid February there was a spell of three dry days which enabled the team to start

the first mow of the year. On the left Wyn has got started in the long grass, and on the right, new member Stuart is working in the same way with the trusty Honda machine.

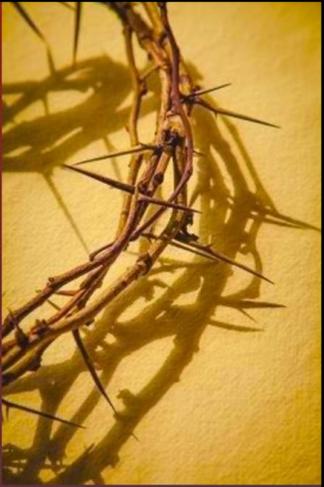
This month also saw the repair / laying down of five unsafe grave stones. This was undertaken by Blackwells Stone-craft who have the skills to do this work with the heavy stones in a safe manner.





St Philip's Church  
**Kelsall**

Good Friday  
3rd April, 2026  
4.00pm



# A Service of Meditation Stainer's Crucifixion

## Joint Churches Choir



Peter Hunter-Johnston  
Baritone

Chris Barnes  
Tenor

Organist  
John Bowen

Conductor  
Dr Martin Cook

