

TARVIN &
DUDDON



St. Peter's &
Andrew's



GRAPEVINE

July 2026 £1

The Vicar writes...

Mary Magdalene: A Witness for July

July brings long days, warmth, holidays, gardens in bloom, and, in the life of the Church, a quiet but powerful invitation to remember Mary Magdalene. Her feast day is kept on 22 July, and her story speaks with surprising freshness to our own time. She is not simply a figure from the past, standing at the edge of the Gospel story. She is a disciple, a witness, and a messenger of hope. Mary Magdalene came from Magdala, a town by the Sea of Galilee. The Gospels tell us that Jesus healed her, and that she became one of the women who travelled with him and supported his ministry. In a world where women were often unnamed or pushed to the margins, Mary is named again and again. She is present in the hardest places: at the cross, when many others had fled; at the burial, when grief must have felt final; and at the tomb on Easter morning, when everything changed. For many centuries, Mary Magdalene was often misunderstood. She was sometimes wrongly remembered mainly as a sinful woman, although the Bible does not identify her in that way. The Gospel picture is richer and stronger. Mary is a woman transformed by Christ, faithful in love, courageous in sorrow, and entrusted with good news. In John's Gospel, she is the first to meet the risen Jesus. When he calls her by name, she recognises him. Then he sends her to tell the others, and she becomes known in Christian tradition as the "apostle to the apostles". That moment in the garden is deeply moving. Mary comes looking for a body and discovers a living Lord. She arrives carrying tears and leaves carrying a message. She does not have all the answers. She does not understand everything at once. But she listens, responds, and goes. Her faith is not tidy or distant; it is honest, loving, and active. Mary Magdalene helps us today because many of us know what it is to stand in places of uncertainty. We know grief, disappointment, anxiety, and unanswered questions. We know what it feels like to search for God and not immediately recognise his presence. Mary reminds us that Christ meets people in real life, not only when they are strong, composed, and certain. He meets us in the garden of our confusion. He calls us by name. Her example also teaches faithfulness. Mary stayed close to Jesus when it was costly. She did not disappear when the crowd turned hostile or when hope seemed buried. In an age when commitment can feel difficult and when bad news travels quickly, her steady love

.challenges us. We are invited to stay close to Christ, close to prayer, close to one another, and close to those who suffer. Mary also shows us that good news is meant to be shared. She was not sent because she had status, training, or influence. She was sent because she had encountered the risen Lord. This is encouraging for ordinary Christians. We may not feel eloquent or important, but our lives can still say, "I have seen the Lord." A word of kindness, an act of forgiveness, a visit to someone lonely, a willingness to speak hope where there is despair — these can all become small resurrection messages. As we move through July, Mary Magdalene invites us to look again for signs of life. The risen Christ may be nearer than we think: in Scripture, in worship, in silence, in friendship, in service, and even in tears. Her story tells us that no sorrow is beyond God's reach, no person is too ordinary to be called, and no faithful witness is wasted.

A Prayer

Risen Lord Jesus, thank you for Mary Magdalene, faithful disciple and first witness of your resurrection. Meet us in our confusion, call us by name, and open our eyes to your presence. Give us courage to stay near you in difficult times, compassion for those who suffer, and joy in sharing your good news. May our lives, like Mary's, point others towards

Adam

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 3rd and 5th Week Family Communion

4.00pm 2nd 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 July

- 1st 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)
7pm St Andrews Womens Group (PR)
- 2nd 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
7.15pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 5th **8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.30am Pet Service with Communion (SP)
10.45am Pet Service (SA)
- 6th 12.15pm Singles Lunch (PR)
3.30pm Lego Club (SP)
7pm Mission Planning Meeting (PR) ALL WELCOME
- 7th 9am Treetots (SP)
1.30pm Bible Chat (PR)
- 8th 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)
- 9th 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
7.15pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 12th **8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.15am Messy Church (SA)
10.45am Family Communion (SA)
4pm Family Communion (SP)
- 13th 12.15pm Singles Lunch (PR)
3.30pm Lego Club (SP)
7pm Standing Committee (PR)
- 14th 9am Treetots (SP)
10am Craft Group (SA)
1.30pm Bible Chat (PR)

- 15th 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)
- 16th 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
7.15pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 19th **8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.30am Family Communion (SP)
10.45am Morning Prayer (SA)
- 21st 9am Treetots (SP)
10am Craft Group (SA)
- 22nd 10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)
- 23rd 5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
7.15pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 26th **8am Holy Communion (SA)**
10.45am Family Communion (SA)
- 29th 10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)
- 30th 5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
7.15pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)

August

- 2nd **8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.30am Family Communion (SP)
10.45am Morning Prayer with Baptism (SA)
- 5th 10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)
- 6th 5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
7.15pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)

Scripture based Prayers for July 2026



Heavenly Father,

Thank You for bringing me into a new month. Your mercy is new every morning, and Your faithfulness never fails. As Your Word says:

*"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." —
Psalm 118:24*

Lord, guide my steps throughout July 2026. Help me trust You with all my heart and not lean on my own understanding.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." — Proverbs 3:5-6

Give me strength when I feel weak, peace when I feel anxious, and wisdom in every decision I make.

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." —
Philippians 4:13*

Protect my family and loved ones. Surround our home with Your presence and keep us in safety and unity.

"The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." — Psalm 121:8

Father, help me walk in love, patience, kindness, and forgiveness. Let my life reflect Your light each day.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." — Matthew 5:16

I place this month into Your hands, believing that You are working all things for good.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him." — Romans 8:28

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

What's on

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 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 twice a month on Tuesdays (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.

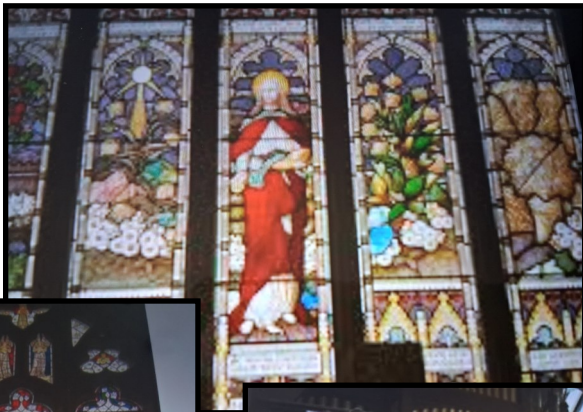
Brenda & Don's Pilgrimages

From the grandeur of Notre-Dame Cathedral in last month's Grapevine, our alphabetical trip down memory lane reaches the letter "O". A much humbler establishment awaits us this month, but one with very evocative memories.

I think I've mentioned in an earlier article that Brenda and I once walked Hadrian's Wall, in glorious sunshine, from Wallsend on the River Tyne in the east to Bowness on Solway in the west. Built in AD 122 on Emperor Hadrian's instruction (he never actually laid a brick; 15,000 legionnaires from 3 Roman legions - including 1 from Chester - did all the hard work over 6 years); nevertheless it helped control border movement, increased customs revenue, and assisted in defending against marauding Celtic tribes.

By lunchtime on the 2nd day we'd reached Hexham, a pleasant market town some 28 miles from our starting point. Here we found St. Oswald's in Lee, commonly called Heavenfield Church, built from bricks taken from the Wall.....as so many buildings were around there once the Romans had gone. Built on the site of the Battle of Heavenfield in 635 AD, it's a simple one storey building that exudes remarkable sensations in almost every visitor it receives. We certainly felt a sense of tranquility, a reflective atmosphere and a sense of centuries of prayer. It is in the middle of nowhere with spectacular views across the Scottish border and North Tyne Valley.

Inside it's lit with gas lamps and candles (there's no electricity) and the harmonium organ is foot operated. There's a Roman altar, reused as the base of a medieval cross with a large wooden cross standing outside by the front door. The interior is limewashed stone with beautiful windows, medieval Mason's marks and a funerary hatchment of the local Clarke family. We ate our cheese sandwiches, lit 2 candles, and closed the bright red door, turning west towards the Solway Firth..... still several days away.



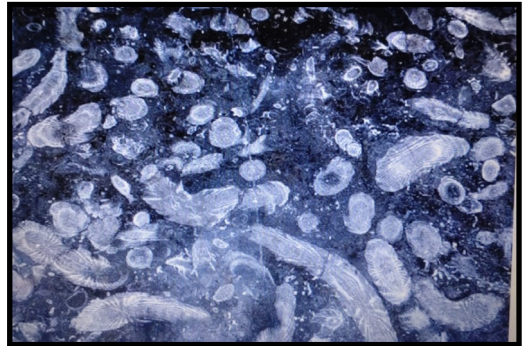
Donald
Bailey.



Frosterley Marble

A few years ago I met up with an archaeologist friend with whom I had worked on several projects in the North Pennines many years earlier. He told me about a project being run by Durham Cathedral called 'Belief in the North East' on which he was consulting about Frosterley Marble.

Distinctively black-and-white in colour, Frosterley Marble is quarried close to the village of Frosterley in Weardale, and is actually a limestone rather than marble. Its appearance is due to the presence of white fossils of a particular kind of coral, set within a dark grey or black matrix. The corals



lived in warm, shallow tropical seas about 325 million years ago, when the place that is now Frosterley (believe it or not!) lay close to the equator. The marble was first used back in the twelfth century by the Bishops of Durham at Auckland Castle, and subsequently (and most famously) for the numerous pillars in the magnificent Chapel of the Nine Altars in Durham Cathedral. In medieval times it was also used for architectural features at Tynemouth Priory and Rievaulx Abbey, and at numerous other churches, notably for fonts and grave slabs.

The purpose of this project was to undertake a structured survey of Frosterley Marble found in churches and other religious contexts throughout the North East and potentially further afield. Following the arrival of the railways, in the mid nineteenth century, its use became much more widespread in churches and secular buildings throughout England, even finding its way to India and Australia!

My archaeologist friend had created a list of all known places containing Frosterley Marble and had recruited a team of volunteers to visit and record details of all the locations. He showed me the list, which I noticed included a church on the Algarve in Portugal. He told me he had no idea how he was going to record details of that particular location.....until I told him I was holidaying at a



Villa only a few miles away later that Summer!.....and so I was recruited to record the Frosterley Marble at the Church of Santa Maria do Castelo in Tavira, Portugal. I was lucky because on the day I visited the church I met an archaeological conservator who was working on the building. I discovered that the main church nave was destroyed in an earthquake in 1755. Rebuilding of the church began in 1790, and took over 10 + years. The Frosterley Marble is still there, forming the stone slab that forms the pulpit floor which was created in this rebuild.



It is just possible the Frosterley Marble stone pulpit floor dates from an earlier 13th Century original build and was reused again in the 1790 rebuilding. Nobody knows.....but much of the stonework in the church has been used and reused over the centuries. It is impossible to discover how the stone got to Portugal, all records have been lost, but it made a very interesting excursion during our holiday.



There are no examples of Frosterley Marble found in Cheshire and only one in the North West, a font platform in St Agnes & St Pancras Church in Toxteth Park, Liverpool. (If you happen to find some Frosterley Marble in a church that you visit, please let me know)

The beautiful front of the Church of Santa Maria do Castelo is on the cover of this magazine
Paul Mercer

Parish podcasts—3 priests

Some weeks ago we started a little podcast from the parish. Called **3 priests** it is, surprise, surprise, a short dialogue between.....3 priests!

Barbara our retired curate and Rick retired vicar of Bunbury and Runcorn (Both still with licenses in the diocese of Chester) and me, Adam . We answer topical and biblical faith questions, we'll ponder them and express our thoughts, we have then popped these onto the platform 'Spotify'the link is below.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/033zy6NdJkQ6ZNYDF9BGRh?si=hd4NfXWu57Gu4WdGrf54Jg>

There are now eighteen 15 minute podcasts for you to discover.

If you have any Big Questions that you would like us to think about, and try to answer, then please email them to

tarvinparish@gmail.com. No question is too big or too small!

Have a say

The strength of our parish Grapevine Magazine is in the interesting articles that are sent in by those of you that live in the parish and beyond.....all I do as Editor is juggle the space to make it all fit.

I would like to thank everyone who contributes.....and make a request.....please consider sending articles, news items, interesting anecdotes, recipies, gardening tips....anything of interest from within the Parish and beyond. Your contributions make the magazine what it is.

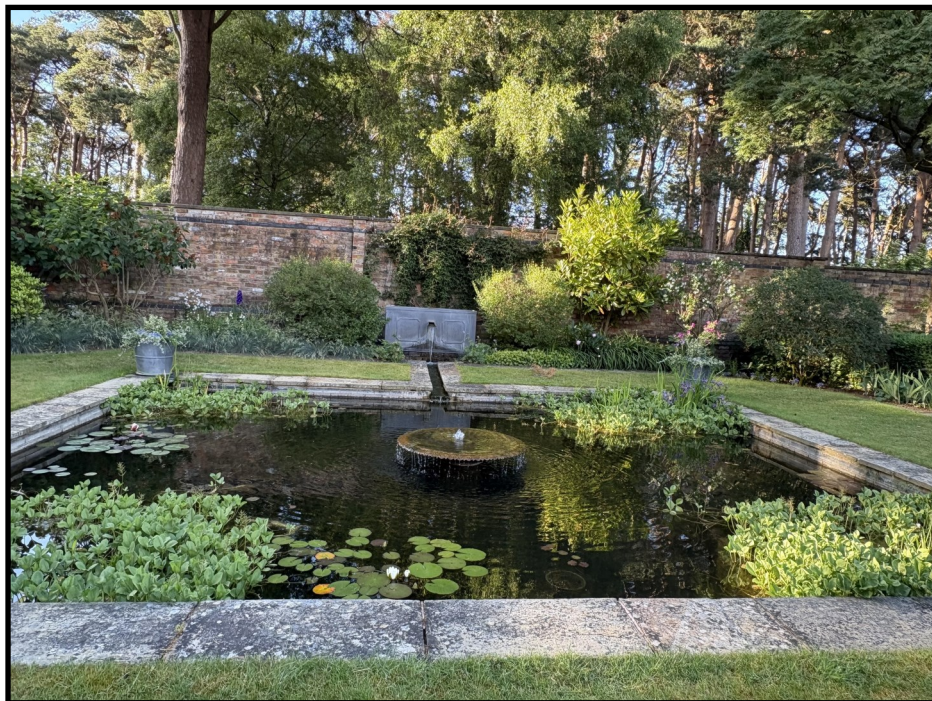
You can write items out longhand or use this new-fangled email thingy

Paul Mercer, 4 Fairfax Avenue, Tarvin

tarvingrapevine@gmail.com

Flower club

Ashton Hayes and Tarvin Flower Club recently visited the garden at Sandymere, the home of the Timpson family, on a lovely sunny evening. We enjoyed a guided tour from the Head Gardener followed by tea and cake. The garden was beautiful, enjoyed by all.



All Things Duddon

Duddon St. Peter's CE Primary School

The children enjoyed a fantastic Eco Day with the help of Chester University staff and students. The University is our STEM partner, and they have been amazing in supporting and organising scientific and investigative activities around our wonderful school environment. Our grant from the Royal Society has really helped to fund extra resources for days like this and to enable the children to have the right equipment to conduct their experiments.

We are lucky to have a pond, which supports a great variety of life, including newts, an orchard, a woodland area and a garden.

The children worked in mixed age groups, examining different types of worms that they found and pond dipping to identify insects and water life. They also made 'bug homes' from biodegradable pots, searching out their own individual natural materials to encourage wildlife to shelter and make their homes in.

We are very grateful to Chester University for all their expertise and enthusiasm to generate the excitement that our children experienced. The children had an amazing day (as did the staff!)

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.**





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@ Grapevine

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tarvingrapevine@gmail.com

The Deadline for the August copy is Friday 24th July

Barbara's bit

For about a year now, 5 of us have been praying for our Mission. It is getting nearer, plans are being finalised, it has a name, Re-engage! I have said it's our Mission, which it is but more importantly, the one in charge, is Jesus, it is his mission conducted through us. He has told us how to pray. Sometimes we haven't been sure what we were praying for; we wanted specific needs - surely our prayers would be better then? We prayed through generalities; we travelled in our prayers through as many houses as we could in Tarvin and Duddon. I got a bit lost in Duddon on the country roads. We prayed for people to help and people to come and for Jesus' hand to be on all of them. We have prayed persistently and faithfully, sometimes out loud but mostly in quiet meditation. It is a joy and a privilege to do so, even if sometimes I confess that the meetings come round too quickly, but afterwards I think we all realise we have grown a little! Each session of 30 minutes begins with a text from a book, Iona books particularly, there was a little service sheet at first and ends with a short reading and then we say the Grace.

In the beginning, the hymn Colours of Day was used:
Colours of day dawn into the mind,
The sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street
And let's give the message to the people we meet.
So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door let Jesus return.
Take seeds of his spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tel the people of Jesus, let his love show.

In our most recent session, I felt we needed a bit of a spiritual boost so I looked at what Jesus said about prayer. He gives us a framework for prayer in the Lord's Prayer. I wonder how many of us have used it as such? I took one line at a time and with a help of another good book "No Empty Phrases" (an anthology based on the Lord's Prayer by Donald Hilton published by the National Christian Education Council, 1999) chose a text to go with each and then, left time for silence so we could apply what we had heard to our prayers for the Mission.

Here is a version from Japan by Masao Takenaka of how we should
 'pray this way'
 Eternal God, we say good morning to you.
 Hallowed be your name.
 Early in the morning before we begin our work, we praise your glo-
 ry.
 Renew our bodies as fresh morning flowers.
 Open our inner eyes, as the sun casts new light upon the darkness
 which prevailed over night.
 Deliver us from all captivity.
 Give us wings of freedom as a mighty stream running continuously
 as day follows day.
 We thank you for the gift of this morning and a new day to work
 with you.

Love and prayers,
 Barbara



CHARITY NO:1143753

GoOnline - Tarvin

Join us at two new venues in Tarvin
 Which APPs can support your reading online!

eBooks, eAudiobooks, eNewspapers,

HELP!

We can also sign you up to the NHS App!

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Use NHS 111 online, Find NHS services

View your GP health record / reminders / messages



patches
health



Alongside this, we offer tuition for further development

Blue Badge Application/ Renew Passport/ Support
 with Online Shopping / Emails / Paying Bills

Venue 1 George & Dragon 2nd Wednesday of the month 10am - 11.30am

Venue 2 St Andrew's Church Last Wednesday of the month 10am - 11.30am

email: goonline@opalservices.org.uk

Contact Fiona - 07923 425 239



SUPPORTING OLDER PEOPLE ACROSS RURAL WEST CHESHIRE

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P.T.O.	Revd Barbara King 01244 300756	
Readers	Mary Burgess 740716 Jo Richards 741474	Colin Haworth 07584 419348
Pastoral Worker	June Willis 07950 121078	
Parish Wardens	David Ferguson, 39 Deansway, Tarvin 741192 Paul Mercer, 4 Fairfax Ave, Tarvin 309306	
Director of Music St Andrew's Verger Bell Tower Captain	John Williams Sandra Turner Fiona Panton	07702 305709 749310 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 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

TALES FROM THE GRAVEYARD JULY 2026

LATERAL THINKING



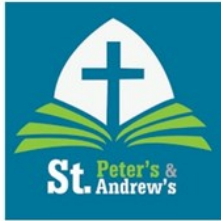
One area that has been a source of irritation is the small gap between gravestones in some areas of the graveyard. See photo left. These areas have weeds growing in them, and are very hard to clear with the strimming machines with resultant damage to the strimming heads and wires. Thanks to some lateral thinking and work from Martin (Photo right) many of these difficult sections have been excavated and replanted with a variety of ground cover options. The initial ideas included planting some ground cover plants, and the photo below left shows the early growth of phlox plants. These have now been



witnessed with honey bees harvesting the nectar from them. However, as this is only a slow growth option, Martin has now obtained a clover (plus others) seed mix which has shown a faster growth rate and is strong enough to stop the weeds from returning.

The photo on the right shows an area between two gravestones that is now growing, and will not need to be strimmed in the future. This will save several hours of work, not to mention minimising damage to machines. Thanks for a new way of thinking towards a more efficient way of caring for the graveyard.





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**

