

TARVIN &
DUDDON



St. Peter's &
Andrew's



GRAPEVINE

August 2026 £1

The Vicar writes...

August is a month when gardens, allotments and fields often show the result of patient work. Seeds planted weeks or months ago begin to ripen into colour, fruit and harvest. It is a good season to remember one of Jesus' best-known stories: the Parable of the Sower. A Sower goes out to sow, scattering seed on the path, among rocks, among thorns and into good soil. Some seed is lost, some struggles, and some produces a harvest beyond expectation—thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold. At first glance, we might think the story is mainly about different kinds of soil. And it is certainly true that Jesus invites us to examine the condition of our hearts. Are we open to God's word? Are we shallow-rooted? Are we crowded by anxieties, possessions, or distractions? But there is another striking detail in the story: the generosity of the Sower. He does not place each seed cautiously in a carefully measured row. He scatters widely, extravagantly, almost recklessly. The seed goes everywhere. That is a beautiful picture of God's generosity. God does not share grace only with those who already look ready, respectable, or receptive. God's word is offered to the hard places, the rocky places, the tangled places and the fertile places alike. The invitation of the kingdom is not rationed. It is scattered freely. The good news is spoken again and again into ordinary lives, ordinary streets, ordinary conversations and ordinary acts of kindness. This has much to teach us about outreach. Outreach is not simply a programme run by a few keen people. It is the shared calling of the whole church to join in with what God is already doing. We do not create the seed. We do not control the harvest. We are invited to take part in the sowing—to speak, serve, welcome, listen, pray, give, invite and be present. Some of us may sow through children's work, lunch clubs, visiting, music, practical help, prayer, hospitality, pastoral care, or conversations at the school gate, in the shop, at work, or over a garden fence. Each act may seem small, but seeds are small too. The parable also helps us to be realistic and hopeful. Not every seed appears to flourish. Some invitations are ignored. Some conversations seem to go nowhere. Some efforts feel crowded out by busyness, pain, suspicion, or disappointment. That can be discouraging. Yet Jesus does not tell the story to make the sower despair. He tells it with the promise of a harvest. The same field that contains hard ground, stones and thorns also contains good soil.

The Sower keeps sowing because growth is possible, and because the harvest belongs to God. Working together matters because no one person can sow everywhere. One person may offer a first welcome; another may answer a question; another may pray quietly for years; another may provide practical support at just the right moment. Often we never know which small gesture God will use. Outreach is rarely the work of a solitary hero. It is more like a community field, tended by many hands, watered by prayer, warmed by love and entrusted to God's timing. As we move through August, perhaps we can ask a simple question: where is God inviting me to sow generously? It might be as simple as learning someone's name, inviting a neighbour to a church event, offering help without fuss, praying for our community, supporting a project, or making room for someone new. We sow not because we can guarantee results, but because God is generous, and because God has first sown his love in us. May our church be a people who scatter hope widely: not anxiously, not grudgingly, but with confidence in the God who gives the seed, prepares the soil and brings the harvest in his own good time.

RE-ENGAGE

A time for generosity

From the 9th to the 13th of September, we are putting together a series of events which will enable us all to engage or re-engage with the church community at St Andrews and St Peters. There will be some amazing opportunities to come together, ask questions, be together and I hope have fun. Events will be at both churches, and an invitation should drop through the door in August to every home in the parish. The main events will include a Question Time for any questions about the Christian faith to a panel of wonderful people. Culminating in a Harvest Celebration on the 13th of September. We will have an open church on the 12th of September and will be hosting a community scarecrow event. Please read through the leaflet when it arrives in your home and look to encourage friends and family to come along with you.

Adam

Diary for August

- 2nd 8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.30am Family Communion (SP)
10.45am Morning Prayer with Baptism (SA)
- 4th Bible Chat (PR)**
- 5th 10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)**
- 6th 5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)**
7pm Wedding Rehearsal (SA)
7.15pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 9th 8am Holy Communion (SA)**
10.45am Family Communion (SA)
4pm Family Communion (SP)
- 11th Bible Chat (PR)**
- 12th 10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA) 5th Birthday Celebrations**
1.30pm Wedding (SA)
- 13th 5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)**
7.15pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 16th 8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.30am Family Communion (SP)
10.45am Morning Prayer (SA)
- 18th Bible Chat (PR)**
- 19th 10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)**
- 20th 5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)**
7.15pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 23rd 8am Holy Communion (SA)**
10.45am Family Communion (SA)
- 25th Bible Chat (PR)**
- 26th 10-11.30am Coffee morning (SA)**

- 27th 5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
 7.15pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
 30th 8am Holy Communion (SA)
 9.30am Family Communion (SP)
 10.45am Family Communion (SA)

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



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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

✝

A Prayer for August 2026

♥

On 15th August we celebrate the
Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary,

Faithful God,

As we enter the month of August, we thank you for the richness of summer, for the beauty of your creation, and for the opportunities you give us each day to love and serve you. In times of abundance and in times of uncertainty, help us to trust in your unfailing goodness.

As we remember the Blessed Virgin Mary, grant us something of her humility, her courage, and her willing obedience to your call. May, like her, we be ready to say “yes” to your purposes, to treasure your word in our hearts, and to bear the light of Christ into the lives of those around us.

Bless our homes, our churches, and our communities. Strengthen those who are weary, comfort those who grieve, heal those who are sick, and encourage all who feel alone. Give wisdom to those who lead, compassion to those who care, and hope to all who seek your presence.

As the summer days begin to shorten, keep us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love, that we may continue to follow your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, with glad and generous hearts.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

♥

St Andrew's *Coffee Morning's*

5th

BIRTHDAY

.....♥.....
: Wed August 12th :
from 10am - 11:30am



: All welcome :

.....♥.....
: ♥ :
NO CHARGE,
DONATIONS ACCEPTED. : ♥ :

St Andrews Womens Group

The July meeting of the ST ANDREWS WOMEN'S GROUP was the last before our summer break and as usual this was an outing to a local venue.

This year we chose to go to THE WALK MILL at Waverton for a guided tour and afternoon tea.

The centuries old Mill had been left in a state of disrepair and was demolished in 1965 and rebuilt on the original footprint by the present owners. Many of the artefacts and components of the mill were found buried during the excavations and

used in the reconstruction and are still working today. Our very knowledgeable guide, a member of the family gave us an excellent tour, explaining and showing us how the mill worked. This is very much a working mill and arable farm producing very high-grade flour from their own grain.

Chickens, ducks, the woodland walks along the river Gowy and the beauty of the Cheshire countryside make this a superb location to relax and slow down for a while. Perfect for all the family, we thoroughly recommend it. We can say the same for the wonderful cakes, scones and bread all produced with Walk Mill flour, also available to buy.



This was a most enjoyable afternoon and our sincere thanks to our guide and all the staff for looking after us so well.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday September 2nd at 7pm in the Parish Room. We wish everyone a happy summer break.



TARVIN SCARECROWS & HARVEST FESTIVAL 9th to 20th September

As part of our Village and Parish Harvest Festival celebrations we are asking as many people as possible to make a Scarecrow. We would love to see the Village full of Scarecrows.

- Anyone can participate - families, households, neighbours, streets, village groups, societies, shops and businesses.....
.....on your own or in groups
- All scarecrows should be life size.
- Please give your scarecrow a label with their name.
- Display your scarecrow where they can be seen between the **9th and 20th September.**
- Please look after your Scarecrow during the period.
- Make your Scarecrow as imaginative and individual as you can.
- There will be a special **Harvest Festival Service** at St Andrews Church on Sunday 13th September at 10.45am and during the service all the scarecrows will receive a blessing.....so bring your scarecrow to church!

Full details from:

Paul Mercer 07904 812252 tarvingrapevine@gmail.com



Flower club

The Edna Rose room was decorated as never before when Cynthia Preston Jones demonstrated to the flower club. There was a display showing the life and work of the famous Coco Chanel along with a display of classy shoes, a guitar and a genuine Lancers jacket. The theme was "Dedicated follower of Fashion". We had music, singing and a great deal of reminiscing of our teenage years plus



lots of laughter.

The flowers that Cynthia used were lovely. For Chanel she chose white carnations arranged very simply.

The shoes were to remind us of when we bought and wore such items. They had 3 pretty coloured tied posies placed among them.

Design 3 was in a tall metal vase draped with tartan fabric and adorned with large safety pins. The flowers were in a large all-round display with orange lilies, proteas

and alstroemeria. Vivienne Westwood and the punk era. Flower power was depicted with a mass of mixed gerbera in a metal bowl. We recalled bouffant hairstyles. Hot pants, mini skirts and knee high boots, usually white, from the 60's and early 70's.

To finish our evening we enjoyed strawberries and clotted cream.

We do not meet in August so our next meeting will be on 9th September and will be advertised by posters and on TOL



Clerical headgear



Priests wear many different head coverings, but can you spot the odd one out here?



Pilgrimage—our local Sandstone Trail

Until fairly recently in historical terms, most ordinary Cheshire dwellings were timber framed, infilled with either wattle and daub or handmade bricks, and thatched with reeds or straw. Only the most important were made of expensive stone, such as a handful of larger houses, churches and castles.

Cheshire Churches

Early churches crop up all along the Sandstone Trail. They are important local features and part of the Cheshire sandstone ridge's local distinctiveness.

From north to south, interesting churches include: 12th-century, Norman St Laurence's Church, halfway up Frodsham Hill, founded on the site of an earlier Saxon chapel; Victorian St John the Evangelist at Alvanley; St Helen's at Tarporley, a 15th-century church on an earlier site; Holy Trinity Church at Bickerton, built in 1836 as a chapel of ease to St Oswald's at Malpas; Old St Chad's Chapel at Tushingham, isolated in the fields ever since it was bypassed by the new turnpike road in the 18th century; and lovely Georgian St Alkmund's Church, in Whitchurch.

Cheshire Castles

The most outstanding reminder of Cheshire's Norman past is undoubtedly Beeston Castle on its isolated crag at the heart of the sandstone ridge. It's a prominent Cheshire landmark.

Built in the 1220s by Chester's Earl Ranulph III, Beeston Castle incorporates Saracen features picked up during his time at the Crusades. Few people today realise that the outer bailey's curtain wall overlies the prehistoric ramparts of an Iron Age hillfort.

Within the inner bailey is the deepest historic well in England, said to conceal Richard II's 'lost treasure'. Both Roundheads and Cavaliers later besieged Beeston Castle during the English Civil War.

Beeston Castle has been a popular local venue for fetes and day trips for centuries. Today, it's owned by the Tollemache Estate but cared for by English Heritage. Facilities include the 'Castle of the Rock' exhibition, gift shop and toilets. There is also an innovative events programme including medieval re-enactments.

The panoramic view from the summit reputedly spans seven or eight old counties, and visitors may borrow binoculars from the ticket desk. The summit also makes an ideal spot for summer picnics.

Nearby is Victorian Peckforton Castle. An authentic replica of a 13th century fortress, it was built for John (later 1st Baron) Tolemache between 1842 and 1851 for the then vast sum of £67,847 9s 7½ d. Its celebrated architect, Anthony Salvin, had worked previously on Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.



The Grapevine Summer Challenge

Why not walk part, or all, of the Sandstone Trail this Summer, or better still, if you find yourself on a sandy beach have a go at building a sandcastle church.

As proof of your endeavours
send a photograph to

tarvingrapevine@gmail.com

Can you beat this one? >>>>



Barbara's bit

August! Summer holidays! Memories of childhood holidays of sandy ham sandwiches, sandcastles, rock pools and a proper bucket and spade! Not a plastic one! You could slice the sand and really carve sandcastles. One holiday near Tintagel in Cornwall, getting my own Excalibur sword (plastic) with a ruby hilt, I fought many a dragon with that sword!

Things to be thankful for.

Which brings me to my thanks. As many of you know I make birthday cards - well any sort of card for any occasion - and sell them to raise money for the Foodbank. I make the cards because I love crafting them, finding new designs and experimenting with various papers. It was the fun of doing this and other crafts that encouraged me to start a craft group which meets for 2 consecutive Tuesdays every month. We have 'broken up' for August now but the group though small - so room for anyone else interested - is very enthusiastic and has cheerfully tried all the new things I have presented them with! June is in charge of any knitting and crocheting and helping to set up, etc so many thanks to her for her support.



Getting back to the cards for sale, they are available any time the church is open, why not come to our Wednesday Coffee mornings, 10 to 11.30am, have a coffee and homemade cake and buy a card? They are £2 each and at least £1.50 goes to the Foodbank. I have just counted up how much money I have sent off and it comes to the grand total of £810! (more when Gift Aid is added). I think it may be more than that because in the beginning I didn't keep such accurate records as the amounts were small and I sent off a cheque.

So... a huge thank you to all who buy my cards, please keep buying them so I can keep making them to support the great work done by the West Cheshire Foodbank

A thought from Iona to finish:

Grant us Lord that balance of action and stillness, of work and play that fits the wholeness you intend for us. Help us to see that all is prayer, all things part of life with You.

By Chris Polhill from A Pilgrims Guide to Iona Abbey.

Have a lovely August!

Love and prayers,
Barbara

@ Grapevine

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The Deadline for the September copy is Friday 20th August

All Things Duddon

Duddon St. Peter's CE Primary School

As always, the last few weeks of the summer term absolutely fly by and are packed with all sorts of activities and events.

In the extreme heat that we have experienced we have had to ensure that children are safeguarded from too much strong sunshine and stay well hydrated. Sadly, this meant that we had to cancel out end of term Sports Day, as it would have been dangerous to continue with it. Other end of year events proceeded to take place, many of which are designed as final activities for Year Six children to take part in and celebrate their time with us.

They visited Alton Towers for the day, joined other Year Six pupils from church schools across the diocese at Chester Cathedral to celebrate their journey onwards to various high schools. Duddon also had a Year Six concert and their own Leavers' Service in St. Peter's Church with their families.

Our Summer Fair took place as usual and our parents were amazing, helping us to raise valuable funds to help finance those extra resources and activities which are very important to all the children.

We thank all our pupils, staff, parents and governors for their support this year and we look forward to the autumn term and welcoming our new pupils who will join us.

Goodbye to our current Year Six and we wish them well at their prospective high schools and on the next stage of their educational journey.

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.'



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

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=hd4NfXWuS7Gu4WdGrf54Jg>

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!

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St Andrew's Verger		
Bell Tower Captain		
PCC Treasurer		
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Safeguarding	Mary Morgan	740450
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Grapevine	Paul Mercer tarvingrapevine@gmail.com	309306
Gift Aid	David Caddell	740554
Z Team	Mark Wyatt	740909
(Tarvin Churchyard)	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 safe-guarding matter then you can find useful contact information at www.chester.anglican.org/social-responsibility/safeguarding

TREES AND MAINTENANCE



After the front trees had their extensive trimming last November (Pollarding), it is important that they are kept in trim to preserve an upward shape and not starting to block the main entrance path. During our scorching July, therefore, the team took advantage of working in the shade, and removing what is known as epicormic growth from the low level tree trunks. Epicormic growth consists of vigorous new shoots that sprout from dormant buds hidden beneath a

tree's bark. These can be triggered by environmental stresses like the heavy pruning that took place, and help a struggling tree rapidly expand its leaf area to capture sunlight. However, it is recognised that Lime trees (like ours) may naturally produce this growth without undergoing any stresses. The top photo shows Rick and Wyn (background) working to clear this growth, whilst on the right, the trees with the clear low level areas for good access into church.



Quite a few months ago, the Team bought a ride-on mower to enable the larger areas of the graveyard to be cut a lot faster, and with less energy exerted, than the push mowers. However, this machine has always proven a little problematic to get started. Thanks to some troubleshooting from the team, the problem was finally diagnosed as an issue with the starter solenoid. The picture on the left shows Mark fitting a new unit that he had located and bought. After a little setting up of everything, the engine started first time. Success!



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**

