

TARVIN &
DUDDON



St. Peter's &
Andrew's



GRAPEVINE October 2026 £1

The Vicar writes...

.....When Words Are Not Enough

Remembering babies and supporting grieving families during Baby Loss Awareness Week

Each year, from 9 to 15 October, Baby Loss Awareness Week invites us to remember babies who have died during pregnancy, at birth or in infancy, and to stand alongside the families whose lives have been changed by their loss. It is a necessary week, because baby loss is still too often met with silence—not because the baby was not loved, but because those around the family may be afraid of saying the wrong thing.

There is no easy way through the death of a baby. Parents may be grieving not only the child they held, or longed to hold, but also a whole imagined future: first steps, birthdays, school days and family celebrations. Grief may include shock, anger, guilt, numbness, loneliness and deep physical exhaustion. It does not follow a timetable. An anniversary, a hospital appointment, a pregnancy announcement or a casual question can reopen pain long after others assume that life has “returned to normal”.

Christian faith should never be used to hurry this grief. Phrases such as “everything happens for a reason” or “you can try again” may be intended kindly, yet they can make a bereaved parent feel that this particular baby—and this particular sorrow—has been overlooked. The Bible gives us something more honest: permission to lament. Its prayers include tears, questions and even protest. Faith is not pretending that death does not hurt; it is bringing the hurt, as it is, into the presence of God.

“The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.” — Psalm 34:18 (NRSV)

This verse does not say that the broken-hearted will quickly feel better, or that every question will be answered. It says that God is *near*. Near in the hospital room, at the graveside, in the sleepless night, and in the months or years when grief appears without warning. God’s nearness may sometimes be sensed as comfort; at other times it may be carried by other people—someone who

listens without trying to fix things, remembers a baby's name, brings a meal, sends a message on a difficult date, or simply sits in silence.

Our churches can be places where this hidden grief is spoken of gently and without judgement. We can remember that partners, grandparents, siblings and wider family members may also be mourning. We can avoid assumptions about how someone "should" grieve, and ask instead: "Would you like to tell me about your baby?" or "What would be most helpful today?" If a family wants their baby's name spoken, we can speak it. If they need privacy, we can respect it. Love listens.

The week ends on 15 October with the Wave of Light, when candles are lit at 7pm in memory of babies who have died. Whether we light a candle publicly or quietly at home, we affirm that every life matters, however brief, and that every grief deserves compassion.

A prayer: God of compassion, draw near to all whose hearts are broken by the loss of a baby. Hold them in their sorrow, give patience to those who walk beside them, and help our church to be a place of truthful words, tender silence and enduring love. Amen.

Adam

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

4.00pm 5th Week Praise Worship

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 October

- 1st 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 4th **8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.30am Family Communion (SP)
10.45am Family Communion (SA)
7pm New and Old Dads Group (GD)
8pm Men's Pint and natter (GD)
- 5th 12.15pm Singles Lunch (PR)
3.30pm God Club (SP)
- 6th 9am Treetots (SP)
1.30pm Bible Chat (PR)
7.30pm Grief Group (PR)
- 7th 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
10am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)
7pm St Andrews Women's Group (PR)
- 8th 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 9th 2pm School Harvest Service (SP)
- 11th **8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.15am Messy Church (SA)
10.45am Family Communion (SA)
12.30pm Baptism (SA)
8pm Men's Pint and natter (GD)
- 12th 12.15pm Singles Lunch (PR)
3.30pm God Club (SP)
7.30pm SEN Parents Support Group (PR)

- 13th 9am Treetots (SP)
 10am Craft Group (SA)
 1.30pm Bible Chat (PR)
 7.30pm Grief Group (PR)
- 14th 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
 10am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)
- 15th 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
 5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
 7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 18th **8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.30am Family Communion (SP)
10.45am Morning Prayer (SA)
 8pm Men's Pint and natter (GD)
- 19th 12.15pm Singles Lunch (PR)
 3.30pm God Club (SP)
- 20th 9am Treetots (SP)
 10am Craft Group (SA)
 1.30pm Bible Chat (PR)
 7.30pm Grief Group (PR)
- 21st 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
 10am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)
- 22nd 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
 5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
 7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 25th **CLOCKS GO BACK**
8am Holy Communion (SA)
9.30am Family Communion (SP)
10.45am Morning Prayer (SA)
 8pm Men's Pint and natter (GD)
- 27th 1.30pm Bible Chat (PR)
 7.30pm Grief Group (PR)

- 28th 10am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)
29th 5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)

NOVEMBER

- 1st **8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.30am Family Communion (SP)
10.45am Family Communion SA)
8pm Men's Pint and natter (GD)
- 2nd 10.30am Ministry Team Meeting (PR)
12.15pm Singles Lunch (PR)
3.30pm God Club (SP)
- 3rd 9am Treetots (SP)
10am Craft Group (SA)
1.30pm Bible Chat (PR)
7.30pm Grief Group (PR)
- 4th 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)
10am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)
- 5th 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)
5.30pm Choir Practice (SA)
7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
Remembrance Sunday
- 8th **8am Holy Communion (SA)**
9.30am Remembrance Service (SP)
10.45am Remembrance Service SA)
8pm Men's Pint and natter (GD)

New things starting

Mens Pint Night and Natter

Weekly at the George and Dragon. Sundays @ 8pm (just for an hour and just for one). An opportunity to come together and chat, church and not church members always welcome. (Starts the 20th September 2026)

Dementia Carers peer support group

For Carers only on the 2nd Sunday of the month 7pm - 8pm In the Parish Room, a time to come together and support each other at a difficult time. (Starts the 11th October 2026)

Special Educational Needs Parents.

Life can be hard when you child has additional needs. Come and chat to others in the same position. We will be meeting in the Parish Room on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7.30pm. (Starts the 12th of October)

New (and old) dads group.

Becoming a dad isn't easy and parenting older children too. Sometimes dads need to talk in a safe space about parenting. If this is you then come and join us in the George and Dragon on the 1st Sunday of the month at 7pm for an hour before the **Mens Pint Night and Natter group**. (Starts the 5th October)

Grief Group.

When someone close to us dies it is a trauma We don't always feel the true extent of grief within the early stages of loss. If you are grieving someone and want to hang out with others in a similar situation then come and have a brew and a chat. This will be on Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the parish room. This isn't a teaching course or with agenda. We will chat in large and small groups and give each other support at a difficult time. This is for anyone who has been bereaved either recently or years and years in the past. (Starts the 22nd September)

Church Groups

St Andrew's Womens Group

They meet every 1st Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Parish Room, with refreshments and a guest speaker.

Singles Lunch

Mondays during School Term time at 12.15pm. If you eat on your own and want to come and eat with others, then come and join us in the Parish Room.

Bell Ringing.

Every Thursday at 7pm in Tarvin Church. New ringers are always welcome. Anyone ringing must be over 10 years old.

Messy Church

On the 2nd Sunday of the Month at St. Andrew's Church at 9.15am. We begin with breakfast and then have a story, song and games. We also have craft activities too. This is aimed at children under 10 years old.

Z Team

Meeting every Wednesday from 1pm in the churchyard. They spend each week keeping the churchyard in shape. All volunteers are welcome, just pop along.

Bible Chat

Meeting on Tuesdays at 1.30pm in the Parish Room. It is a space to chat and ask questions as well as receive a little bit of teaching of how we can use the bible in our lives.

Choir

Choir practice is on Thursdays at 5.30pm and all are welcome to come along. No musical understanding is needed. A good heart and courage.

Coffee Morning

Every Wednesday at 10am to 11.30am. In St Andrew's Church. A time for anyone to come and chat, have a cake or crumpet!

Craft Group

On the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 10am in St Andrew's Church. A gentle group of chat and craft.

God Club (formerly Lego Club)

Meeting on Mondays in the Autumn term until half term and then the whole of Summer term. 3.30pm to 4.15pm at St Peter's Church, Duddon

Jesus and Me

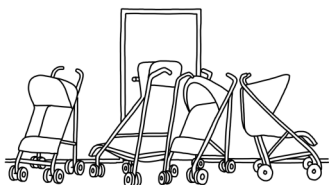
A two session course in November. Over the two sessions we will talk about who Jesus is, what Jesus means to us and how we live our lives in a Christian way should we believe Jesus to bring us salvation and redemption.

Dates for this Nov 2nd 7pm to 9pm 'Who is Jesus'

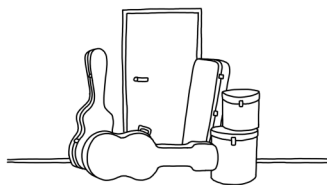
Nov 9th 7pm to 9pm 'Living as a Christian'

THE MEETING ROOM

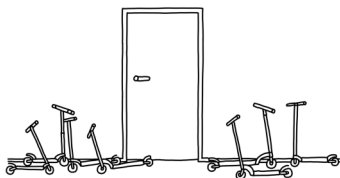
WHO IS IN THERE?



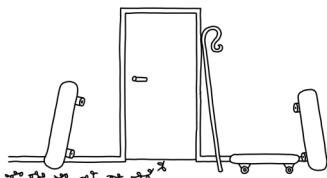
THE TODDLER GROUP



THE MUSIC TEAM



THE AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB



THE BISHOP, MEDIATING BETWEEN THE
FLOWER ARRANGERS AND THE YOUTH GROUP

CartoonChurch.com

Song Thrush

A speckled breasted bird born to excite,
Sprinkles notes across gardens that awe and delight.
His perch is selected for safety, not show,
Songs sifting and drifting through threes below.

Moments of joy will capture your ear,
Full throated melody rolling notes you'll hear.,
His sharp whistles and chirrupings roll back the air,
Vibrant phrases repeated of dexterity and flair.

His song slices through the sounds of cars,
Not for him a voice that jars.
It rises over all human noise,
Play screams of girls, the shouts of boys..

A humble branch befits as cathedral pew,
Transformed to stage with bird's eye view.
When heard give him your full attendance,
To hear a song of pure ascendance.

The Village Poet





St Andrew's Church

— TARVIN —

♥
All
welcome!

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 14th October

10.00 – 11.30
in St Andrew's Church

All donations will support
**The Clatterbridge
Cancer Charity**
our local cancer centre.

It is the charity's 30th birthday and
Tanya, their fundraising officer,
will be returning to support us again.



The
**Clatterbridge
Cancer Charity**
TODAY TOMORROW TOGETHER



Supporting
cancer care
locally ♥

Come and enjoy some cafetière coffee,
tea and home made cakes, scones,
teacakes and crumpets.



COMMUNITY · FRIENDSHIP · SUPPORT ♥



TARVIN SCARECROWS

A big THANK YOU to all those people and households that created a scarecrow to display in the Village to help us celebrate Harvest.

Here is just a selection that were spotted





Pilgrimage

Wells Cathedral

In early August it was the third year on the run we visited the City of Wells.

The first year we walked around the exterior of the cathedral and were amazed by the splendiddness and magnificence of the architecture. We enjoyed watching the swans on the moat and I think it was that year we saw one ring the bell by the gate house.

The second year we were too late for a guided tour, but this year we finally went inside and it was well worth the wait.

A very knowledgeable guide called Robin showed a group of us around and pointed out many things of interest we would have missed otherwise.

With it being the school holidays and for visiting children there were a number of huge colourful dragons!! Some were making a noise which was a bit distracting for our guide. The idea for these came from a book on mythical creatures which had been found in the cathedral library.

I enjoyed the story of a kind bishop called Thomas Beckington. He was the Bishop of Bath and Wells and the King's secretary in Medieval England under Henry VI. He rebuilt the episcopal palace and greatly improved the city. He was the founder of Eton College and Lincoln College, Oxford.

He build the famous gates around the cathedral
Penniless Porch
Brown's Gate
The Bishop's eye
The Chain Gate



From St Andrew's Well in the palace gardens he supplied free drinking water through an underground conduit to the Market-Place and the surplus water ran freely down the High Street as it still does today. The guide pointed out that Wells escaped the

Black Death because of the flow of water from the Palace Wells. To this day the citizens of Wells commemorate his gift to the city.

His tomb inside the cathedral is unusual. It is what is known as a "transi" memento mori or "corpse" tomb where there is an effigy of the living person above and an effigy of their skeletal corpse below. I found it quite fascinating.



I also enjoyed viewing Wells Cathedral Clock. A famous 14th to 16th Century astronomical clock. The surviving mechanism dates between 1386 -1392. It was interesting watching a figure Blandiver hit a bell with a hammer and a set of jousting knights chase each other. Well worth watching.

The attached photo of the dragon was taken in The Chapter House which was built between 1286 -1310.

It is advisable to buy a joint ticket for the cathedral and Bishop's Palace so that you can visit that also and the ponds/wells.

I think you would enjoy a trip there

Caroline Brierley

Flower club

The September evening meeting started on a sad note with the notice of Dorothy Weston's death in the summer. No one in the club had knowledge of this until after her funeral. This was sad as she was a founder member of the club and gave her full support to it over many years and we were not represented at the funeral.

We had a very different demonstration this month by Jaqui Owen. She is a very talented florist, teacher, demonstrator and wedding flower specialist but she is concerned about sustainability and practices this in her work.

Her title was "Little by Little a Bird Builds it's Nest"

She did 6 designs which were all bird related and in all of them used flowers from a Cheshire grower with foliage from an Oscroft garden. She used no floral foam. Instead, she made her own frames and stands to hold the flowers in place. Many of these she included in the raffle so winners not only received a lovely design they can now copy that design in the future. Often, because of using garden flowers she was using the same type of flowers for most designs but she varied her colour schemes to great effect as can be seen in the photographs.

Our next meeting is on 14th October and visitors are always welcome





A Prayer for OCTOBER

Loving God,
Creator of all that lives,

As we celebrate the beauty of autumn
and remember St Francis of Assisi,
we give thanks for the wonderful world
you have made and for all the creatures
with whom we share it.

Teach us to see animals
as part of your precious creation,
worthy of kindness, compassion and care.

We pray for animals who are neglected,
frightened or suffering; for those who work
to protect and rescue them; and for all
who campaign for their welfare.

Help us to be faithful stewards of your world,
caring for the creatures of the land, the sea and the air,
and protecting the places in which they live.

May the example of St Francis encourage us
to live more gently upon the earth,
to speak for those who have no voice,
and to recognise your love reflected
in the richness and diversity of creation.

Bless our homes, our community
and the animals who share our lives
and bring us companionship and joy.

And, in the words associated with St Francis,
make us instruments of your peace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Barbara's bit

In these days of political correctness everything is under scrutiny - even the Lord's Prayer! Is nothing sacred?
Try hard and see if you can manage this version:

Our universal chairperson in outer space,
Your identity enjoys the highest rating on a prioritised selectivity scale.
May your sphere of influence take on reality parameters, may your mindset be implemented on this planet as in outer space.
Allot to us at this point of time and on a per diem basis a sufficient and balanced dietary food intake and rationalise a disclaimer against the negative feedback of others.
And de programme our negative potentialities but de sensitise the impact of the counter productive force.
For yours is the dominant sphere of influence, the ultimate capability and the highest qualities rating, at this point of time and extending beyond a limited time frame.
End of message
(per diem in this case means daily ... I had to look it up!)

It's good isn't it?
Well perhaps not! I think I prefer the original, it is easier to say!
Please use the original.

Although popularly called 'the Lord' s Prayer' it is said that a more accurate title would be 'the Disciple's Prayer.' The disciples had noticed that Jesus prayed a good deal, often late at night or early in the morning. They sensed that God's power at work through Jesus was linked to his habit of prayer, so they asked him to teach them how to pray and he gave them this remarkably simple and profound prayer.
It is not a magic formula but can be a basis for our own prayers. God has never been fussed about the language we use but rather our attitude to him, the desire to get to know him.

As someone once said, 'A prayer in its simplest definition is a wish turned God ward'

A story to finish:

Late one evening a poor farmer on his way back from market found himself without his prayer book. The wheel of his cart had come right off in the middle of the woods and it distressed him that this day should pass without his having said his prayers. So this is the prayer he made: 'I have done something very foolish, Lord. I came away from home this morning without my prayer book and my memory is such that I cannot recite a single prayer without it. So this is what I am going to do: I shall recite the alphabet 5 times very slowly and you, to whom all prayers are known, can put the letters together to form the prayers I can't remember.'

And the Lord said to his angels, 'Of all the prayers I have heard today, this one was undoubtedly the best because it came from a heart that was simple and sincere.'

Love and prayers,
Barbara



@ Grapevine

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tarvingrapevine@gmail.com

The Deadline for the November copy is Monday 19th October

All things Duddon

Duddon St Peter's CE Primary School

After the long hot summer holidays the children and staff returned to school refreshed and ready for the new term and all the challenges that it will offer. Mrs Claire Green will be the Acting Executive Head teacher for the autumn term and is looking forward to getting to know all the children better.

It is always exciting at the beginning of a new school year to return to school and move on into new year groups and classes and



get to know new teachers. We are sure that the children will give their best efforts to all their learning and really let their 'light shine'. Our Christian value which will be at the heart of work this half term is 'Thankfulness' and through it children are being encouraged to be the best version of themselves.

The term will have the usual recurring seasonal activities, from the Harvest Service in St. Peter's Church to the Christmas performances in December but staff have already planned



many other interesting and stimulating activities for the children to learn from. This includes a visit from Storyhouse, who are performing an age-appropriate version of Romeo and Juliet as a dramatic production in school.

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.**



‘Let Your Light Shine’



Duddon Village Hall

The first Quiz of the Autumn will be held in the Village Hall in Duddon on Friday, 9th October at 8pm, entry will be £3 and there will be a bar and raffle. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

There will be a Coffee Morning at the Village Hall in Duddon on Friday, 30th October between 10.30am and 12.30pm. **COME AND HAVE A CHAT, A CUP OF COFFEE OR TEA (which ever takes your fancy) AND A SLICE OF CAKE.**

Vicar	Revd Adam Friend, 01829 740354 or 07368 335146 The Vicarage, Church Street, Tarvin, CH3 8EB Email address: tarvinparish@gmail.com Parish Website: www.tarvinparish.com	
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
PCC	Treasurer	
	Secretary	
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 safe-guarding matter then you can find useful contact information at www.chester.anglican.org/social-responsibility/safeguarding

TALES FROM THE GRAVEYARD OCTOBER 2026

AUGUST DRY PERIOD



During the dry period experienced in August, quite a large area on the "new" field was seen as being considerably drier than the surrounding area. (See

above photo.) It is known that this field used to have air raid shelters on it during the war, with the exact position of these not known. Several probes were knocked into the ground to see if any concrete was beneath this area, but the ground was too hard to get much further than 8" down, so it is still not known if there is a base there. No doubt we will find out when the gravedigger enters the area and goes deeper.

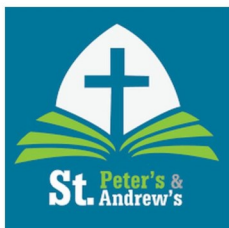


Two members of the Z Team, Linda and Stuart Devereux, (photo left and below) ran the Great North Run Half Marathon on September 13th. They were running for the charity "Matt Hampson Foundation" which supports sports people with life changing injuries. This charity was also supported by their late son Jon. If you would like to support them for their efforts, and as a thanks for what

they do for the graveyard, please go to :

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/linda-devereux-1>





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



Choir Practice : Thursdays 5:30pm—6:30pm

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**

