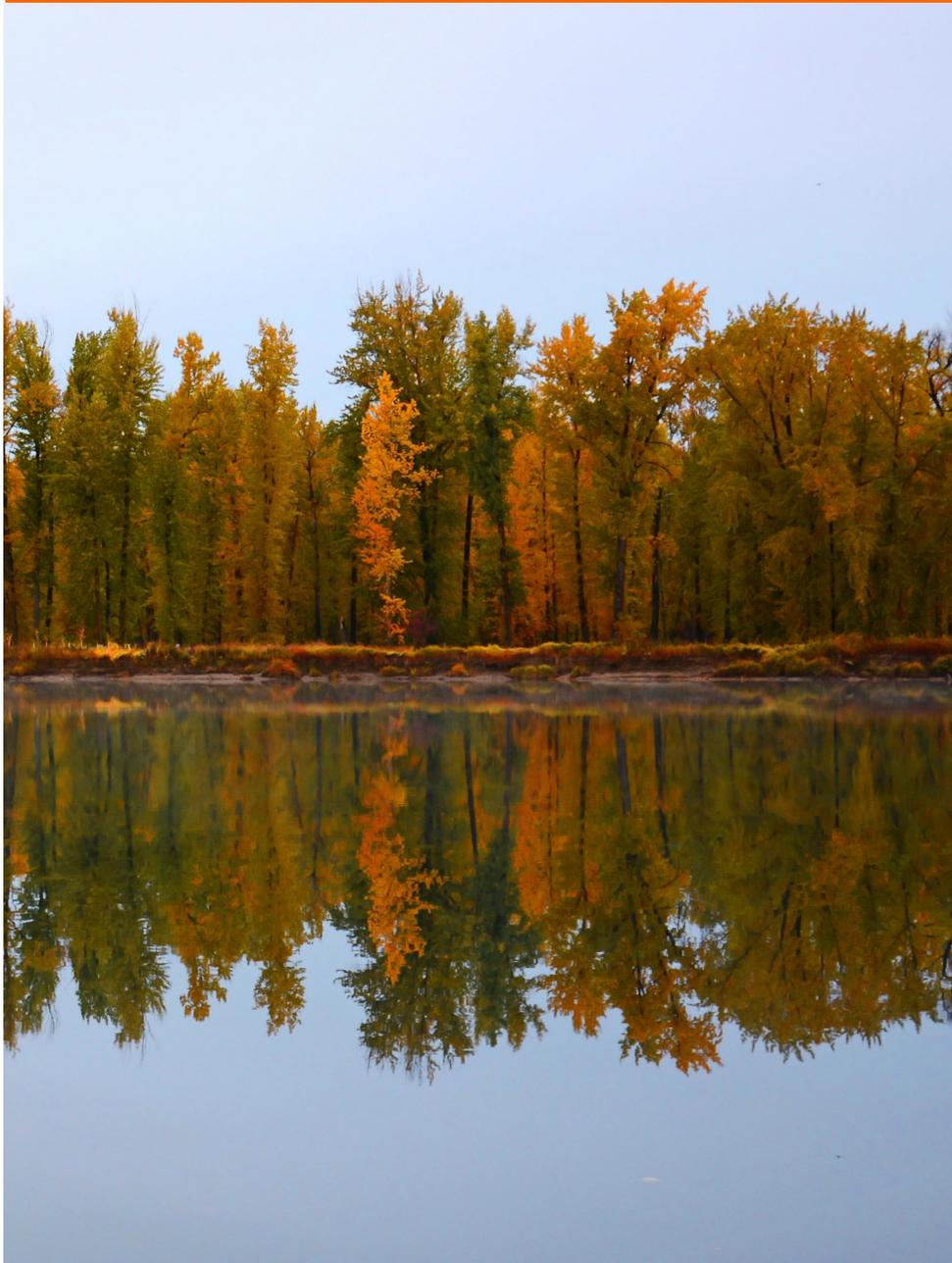


TARVIN & DUDDON



St. Peter's &  
Andrew's



GRAPEVINE October 2021 75p

## From the Vicar...

I always have a fond spot in October for the 18<sup>th</sup>. It is the feast of St Luke, the writer, the doctor and also known as the healer. He writes his gospel for everyone, he came from a background of wanting to help others and has many 'healing miracles' in his gospels. Jesus helping not just physical, but emotional and mind illnesses too. There have been so many people showing so much kindness to others, and just as when Jesus was alive on earth, there are those who have no compassion, and those who find it hard to hear a message that the way they lead their lives is at the detriment to others. I like to picture Luke as a calm, patient person. Someone who has a heart for others as well as wanting to communicate that with faith comes a need to speak and act in a certain way. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October at 6.30pm, I would you like you to come and join us in church for a service to say thank you to all our key workers. These are the people who had no choice but to keep working during the pandemic, many of them became ill, when there was a lot of unknown about treatments and vaccines were something to be dreamed of. These are those who work in the HNS, those who cared for children who were not able to be at home because of their parents' jobs. These were those working in the Police, Fire, Ambulance service. Those working for local authority infrastructure. Collecting our waste and recycling. Those in the food industry, packing, distributing and those on the floor in the supermarkets. There are actually so many people we rely on, to produce a definitive list would mean I would miss so many out. As even I do not comprehend all the people that kept the world for us, turning. From engineers, energy companies, cleaners, transport drivers. Please do join us for our service on the 17<sup>th</sup>, to be thanked if you are a critical worker and to say thank you if you were a recipient of their role and job. As we move forward with our lives, with clearly some uncertainty, we need to do so with the patience, kindness, and determination that St Luke had. A touch of healing is in all of us, with the words we can choose to use with each other. Above all we are all human, each person living, deserves our kindness as we need theirs.

Adam

## St. Andrew's Church, Tarvin

You are invited to pop in for refreshments, a chat or a game of dominoes....

**EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING 10am to 11:30am**

We have freshly brewed cafetiere coffee,  
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There is no charge but if you feel that a small donation is in  
order then it would be welcome.

**WE WELCOME EVERYONE, so pop in and say hello**



## Parish Diary

|                  |                |  |               |
|------------------|----------------|--|---------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 6.30pm         | Choir Practice                         | St Andrews    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 8am            | Holy Communion                         | St Andrews    |
|                  | 9.30am         | Family Worship                         | St Peters     |
|                  | 10.45am        | Family Worship with Communion          | St Andrews    |
|                  | 6.30pm         | Sung Evensong                          | St Andrews    |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 9.30am         | Visit from Tarvin Pre-School           | St Andrews    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 9.15am         | Morning Prayer                         | St Andrews    |
|                  | 10am - 11.30am | Coffee Morning                         | St Andrews    |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 9am            | Duddon School Collective Worship       | St Peters     |
|                  | 10am - 11am    | Coffee Morning                         | St Peters     |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 6.30pm         | Choir Practice                         | St Andrews    |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | 8am            | Holy Communion                         | St Andrews    |
|                  | 9.30am         | Family Worship with Communion          | St Peters     |
|                  | 10.45am        | Family Worship                         | St Peters     |
|                  | 12.30pm        | Baptism                                | St Andrews    |
|                  | 1.30pm         | Baptism                                | St Andrews    |
|                  | 4pm            | Messy Church                           | Williams Wood |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30pm         | Standing Committee                     | St Andrews    |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30pm         | Ecumenical Communication Group         | TMC           |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | 9.15am         | Morning Prayer                         | St Andrews    |
|                  | 10am - 11.30am | Coffee Morning                         | St Andrews    |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | 9am            | Duddon School Collective Worship       | St Peters     |
|                  | 10am - 11am    | Coffee Morning                         | St Peters     |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | 6.30pm         | Choir Practice                         | St Andrews    |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | 8am            | Holy Communion                         | St Andrews    |
|                  | 9.30am         | Family Worship                         | St Peters     |
|                  | 10.45am        | Family Worship with Communion          | St Andrews    |
|                  | 12.30pm        | Baptism                                | St Andrews    |
|                  | 1.30pm         | Baptism                                | St Andrews    |
|                  | 6.30pm         | 'Thank You' Service                    | St Andrews    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | 9.15am         | Morning Prayer                         | St Andrews    |
|                  | 10am - 11.30am | Coffee Morning                         | St Andrews    |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | 9am            | Duddon School Collective Worship       | St Peters     |
|                  | 10am - 11am    | Coffee Morning                         | St Peters     |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 6.30pm         | Choir Practice                         | St Andrews    |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 1pm            | Memorial Service for Richard Orfanelli | St Andrews    |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | 8am            | Holy Communion                         | St Andrews    |
|                  | 9.30am         | Family Worship                         | St Peters     |
|                  | 10.45am        | Family Worship with Communion          | St Andrews    |
|                  | 12.30pm        | Baptism                                | St Andrews    |
|                  | 4pm            | 'One for All' Worship                  | St Andrews    |
|                  | 6.30pm         | Choral Evensong                        | St Andrews    |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | 9.15am         | Morning Prayer                         | St Andrews    |
|                  | 10am - 11.30am | Coffee Morning                         | St Andrews    |

|                  |                |                                  |             |
|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | 9am            | Duddon School Collective Worship | St Peters   |
|                  | 10am - 11am    | Coffee Morning                   | St Peters   |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | 11.30am        | Wedding                          | St Peters   |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | 8am            | Holy Communion                   | St Andrews  |
|                  | 9.30am         | Family Worship                   | St Peters   |
|                  | 10.45am        | Family Worship                   | St Andrews  |
| <b>November</b>  |                |                                  |             |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 7pm            | Memorial Service                 | St Andrews  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 10.30am        | Ministry Team                    | Parish Room |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 9.15am         | Morning Prayer                   | St Andrews  |
|                  | 10am - 11.30am | Coffee Morning                   | St Andrews  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 9am            | Duddon School Collective Worship | St Peters   |
|                  | 10am - 11am    | Coffee Morning                   | St Peters   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 6.30pm         | Choir Practice                   | St Andrews  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 8am            | Holy Communion                   | St Andrews  |
|                  | 9.30am         | Family Worship                   | St Peters   |
|                  | 10.45am        | Family Worship with Communion    | St Andrews  |
|                  | 6.30pm         | Sung Evensong                    | St Andrews  |

## Sunday Services

### St Andrew's

8am

Every Sunday BCP communion

10.45am

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's Family Worship (with communion)

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's (and 5<sup>th</sup>) Family Worship (not Communion)

6.30pm

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's at 6.30pm Evensong BCP

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (No Service )

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 4pm 'the One service' (all age) 6.30pm Taize style worship (reflective and quiet)

### St Peter's

9.30am 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's (and 5<sup>th</sup>) Family Worship (not Communion)

9.30am 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's Family Worship (with communion)

## Autumn Plans

In October we wanted to have an opportunity to say thank you to all those who have been working through this Pandemic to enable society to keep moving. All NHS staff have done an absolute self-sacrificing job and there have been others too, from recycling staff to teachers, supermarket workers to emergency service personnel.

On Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of October at 6.30pm we will be hosting a service to say thank you to all 'Key Workers'. We want to especially thank those who live in the Parish of Tarvin and Duddon. This service will be in St Andrew's and if you know of a 'Key Worker' that lives near you please let me know at [tarvinparish@gmail.com](mailto:tarvinparish@gmail.com) so that we can send them an invitation to the service.

In November we will be hosting a special service to remember and give thanks for those who have died since March 2020. In the service we will be remembering those whom we have had contact with as a church. I know that some people will be having a memorial service for those services where numbers were very limited. I am also aware that emotionally in grief we are all in difference places.

The service will be held on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of November at 7pm in St Andrew's Church. If you wish to remember someone who was not part of this community or who didn't have their service in church or the churchyard, then as you come into church there will be a list for you to add your loved ones name, to be remembered on.

## Music Weekend

On the weekend of the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of October we are planning to host a Music Weekend in St Andrew's. Following the success in 2019 we are bringing it back. There will be a variety of concerts over the weekend so please book this in your diary.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> - 7pm A concert of Singing and Organ Music - St Andrews

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> - 10am Organ Recital - St Andrews

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> - 3pm Concert with Coffee and Cake - St Peters

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> - 7pm A Night at the Opera, Flat Pack Music. - St Andrews (Tickets £10)

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> - 2pm Alice in Wonderland - St Andrews (Tickets £5)

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> - 6.30pm Choral Evensong

There are tickets available for two of the events, the rest of the weekend is by donations.



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## Memorial service



**Richard  
Orfanelli**

23rd October 1951  
- 7th April 2020

Hosted by Richard's  
family

Please join us for a  
service to celebrate  
Richard's life

on  
Saturday 23rd October  
2021  
at 1pm

St Andrew's church  
Tarvin



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## Curates Corner

Brown **October** brings the pheasant;  
Then to gather nuts is pleasant.  
I have never gathered nuts, this seem a bygone pleasure, unless you  
count conkers, which are a dangerous weapon now...

### **Reasons to be cheerful.**

We are singing 3 hymns!

I have had my flu jab! Waiting for Covid booster now. Such amazing  
brains and so much research; I am extremely grateful for all who  
have worked and continue to work to find vaccines.

We have a service to say thank you to all and everyone who helped in  
whatever way during Lockdown. THANK YOU!

All those people who brought a smile and love to us, THANK YOU!

I am sure we can all think of someone, hopefully many someones, who  
made life just that little bit easier and probably because they are  
lovely, like you, they continue to do so, THANK YOU!

### **Staying afloat**

Daily life is getting back to a familiar pattern, schools and universi-  
ties are fully back in business. Going into town doesn't feel quite so  
strange. I hope all this continues. I pray for all businesses and places  
of work that have adapted so well and continue to adapt and adjust.  
It has helped me be content with the simpler things of life, which  
may not help the local economy, but makes me grateful for all that I  
have! Which I am still trying to reduce! Tidying up time for winter, I  
think. Not getting ready to hibernate, well, not yet!

### **Bobbin' along**

It has been good to sail on calmer waters. Covid is the shark we have  
to live with! Hopefully our jabs have blunted its teeth! We can avoid it  
by still wearing a mask in crowded places and keeping to some social  
distancing. We need to encourage each other, support each other,  
still and always, to be aware, to keep safe. We are social beings and  
need human contact and it is good to meet with friends and have a  
hug! Help each of us to go out and greet our neighbour; we are all the  
same, with good days and bad, help us to understand each other and  
to love. Listening God, light up the world through us today. Help us to  
hear your word and put it into practice. Amen

**Will your anchor hold?**

With an anchor firmly held in the foundations of Jesus we can and have survived, many storms. With winter coming maybe we need to oil the links to prevent any rust which could weaken the hold. Each day and every day we give thanks for all our blessings to God, and that all our plans, all that we do, may be from him and for him. That doesn't mean the hairshirt and ashes; God is with us in the cup of coffee with friends, the lunch out, the box of chocolates. Listening God, light up the world through us today. Help us to hear your word and put it into practice. Amen

Love and prayers,  
Barbara

**MacMillan Coffee Mornings**

Together St Andrew's and St Peter's raised £495:15 ( including Gift Aid) for the cancer charity. Thank you to all who came and supported us!



## Weekly reflections

### Week 1

God our Judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Mark 10 2-16

##### Verse

"Jesus said to them "Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

This does not mean that unless we believe when we are young children we are not going to heaven. It is in the words 'as a little child'. Children are always full of trust which is why they need caring for and looking after. I as an adult, sometimes when a child, never appreciated how wonderful life could be, with no concerns of needing to look after myself. This isn't true for everyone however, and for too many children, childhood is not good, and across our world there is tragedy every day. What Jesus meant was that as a child, our focus is to trust without question, we are told the fire is hot and most of us believe without the need to burn ourselves. This is true about the faith in Christ, faith in God. To trust and believe without question is truly hard for any adult to do, as we question all the time. So to believe like a child is to put aside those question and trust in Jesus.

#### Prayers week 1

Listening God open my ears today to the world, the stranger, to myself. Help me to have a generous spirit, dare me to say 'yes' before I say 'how'. Open the door on surprising conversations and life changing encounters.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## Week 2

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mark 10 17-31

#### Verse

"but Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.'"

Context is everything in all situations. We are tempted to think in our lives of a small needle used for sewing. Jesus was referring to a small gate into the city of Jerusalem, called the 'eye of the needle' it was big enough for people to come and go and a camel with not cargo, or little cargo at best. So if you had a lot of things being carried by a number of camels, then you would need to take all the baggage off and carry it through the gate and then take the camels through and reload. Not an easy task. I remember trying to pack and unpack the car after holidays and it will all fit, but sometimes had to be repacked a few times. (However, with the van that is now never an issue). If you are rich then is this a warning for you? I would say it is a warning to us all. To have wealth and keep it without compassion for others is indeed not a way of faith. To give in the culture we now live in is something that is being eroded. Not just money, but the 'can a loan of cup of sugar' attitude that was (I am told back then) as I wasn't quite around at the time. Then it was a culture of help who you can when you can, back when churches were fuller and people listened to the words of Jesus.

#### Prayers week 2

Listening God, open my ears today to the world, to the stranger, to myself. Don't let us shout today, either in frustration or anger. Help me not to mistake volume for righteousness; break open spaces in arguments so that we can wait for wisdom. In the face of destructive noise let quiet love be strongest. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

### Week 3

God, our light and our salvation: illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness in the land of the living and looking on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### **Mark 10 35-45**

Verse

'Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with?'

Can we really do this, can we follow Christ completely. I wonder if we lived as nuns and monks, in community where the world around us does not enter, we would be able to follow Christ. Without the temptation of falling into sin, without the trials and tribulations that being in this world bring. To be Christlike in our world is to be patient, show kindness, acknowledge our limitations and to live in harmony. It is not to settle for what we believe life is, but to accept what life is going to be, to live it, celebrate it and be like Jesus within it. This is the world that we live, one full of beauty, if we can see and look at it. One with remarkable people, if we just stop to see what is going on around us.

#### **Prayers week 3.**

Listening God, open my ears today to the world, to the stranger, to myself.

When people tell us weird things, help us to listen without judgement, carrying the message of grace in the way we receive another's truth, willing to hear of your risen presence from unlikely witnesses. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## Week 4

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **John 5 36b -end.**

#### Verse

'You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life.'

I don't think I read the books of bible as often as I should, finding the time for anything we want to do can be very hard in our lives. We spend a lot of time doing what we think we should, must and not a lot (unless we are lucky) of what we want. I am not looking for sympathy, but I went out on my road bike for a good ride (25km, is good for me) and realised when checking through the data that it was back in March that I last got out on my road bike. It's an example of how we can let our lives run away from us. I do wonder if we forget that being a Christian, having a faith is not about restricting life, but it is about expanding it, about giving us more than we had before we committed to be his children and followers of the scripture. Let us not refuse to have life, but to follow Christ and make the most of this one, as it leads to a better one in a better place, a life that lasts eternally.

### **Prayers week 4**

Listening God, open my ears today to the world, to the stranger, to myself.

Help us to ask questions that open up conversation as we fall into step with companions on the road. Show us how to understand your story and find meaning for our lives, day by day. step by step In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## PRAYERS FOR OCTOBER 2021



Healing God, we pray for all whose lives are diminished by their own, or another's mental illness: for people facing the stigma caused by misunderstanding of mental ill health; for all who struggle to find help when they need it.

***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

We ask you to bless with resilience, understanding and respite relatives, friends and carers and all who struggle with the impact of mental ill-health on relationships, homes and families.

***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

We thank you, Lord, for all who work to relieve the suffering of mental health patients—for counsellors, psychologists, chaplains, researchers, charities and support groups.... Bless them all as they seek to relieve and reassure.

***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

Lord, we are all made in your image and are equal in your sight. Give us all a loving and compassionate heart and the grace to open our ears to listen well, to encourage, to include, to welcome everyone into our community with compassion and respect.

May we know your presence with us and may we find your love reflected in one another.

**AMEN**



**Consider the RAVENS: they do not sow or reap, they have no store-room or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!**

**LUKE 12:2**

### **THE PRISONS WEEK PRAYER**

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day.

**AMEN**

## Community Newsround

### Ashton Hayes and Tarvin Flower Club

Do you like flowers and enjoy meeting people? Why not join us for an evening of entertainment as you watch a skilled flower arranger demonstrate their art. All arrangements are raffled so you may even take one home with you!

We meet in Tarvin Community Centre, on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30 p.m. (except August and December) and you would be assured of a friendly welcome.

Further information from 01829 740832 or 01829 740473

Meeting for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Sharon Nolan

### War Memorial Hall, Duddon

The monthly quizzes will be starting again on Friday 8th October in the War Memorial Hall, Duddon at 8pm entry is £2.50, and as usual a bar and raffle.

## Duddon St Peter's CE Primary School

We have started back at school and it has been a pleasure to see all the children back and enjoying school. We have welcomed new families to the school with children starting in reception and across some of the other years and would like to extend a warm welcome to those new families. Hopefully as the year progresses, we will be able to get back to holding events so they can experience the social side of Duddon St Peter's life which we have all really missed during the pandemic.

Year six children are already starting to look towards high school, with several open evenings happening over the coming weeks. The children are all excited and a little nervous about this next stage of their journeys.

We've got a couple of trips in the coming weeks, and everyone is hoping that these will go ahead as planned. They provide a wonderful experience for the children in addition to the learning in class.

Hopefully this nice weather will continue for the rest of the term so the children can enjoy being in our sensory garden at school and the forest school, which is a great resource to teach about the environment and the animals and insects that share our school grounds.

## Birds on the Farm

You may remember in my first article I said that we had no swallows nesting at the farm this year for the first time ever. Well, I know that there are many around. I was driving the tractor (now that's surprised you!) carting loads of straw and many swallows were flying around. The tractors were disturbing insects which the birds were after. It was lovely to see them swooping around and to see their lovely, graceful flight. Swallows feed close to the ground, whereas swifts and house martins catch smaller insects higher up. A couple of years ago we harvested a crop of beans which was full of beetles. As we tipped each load in the shed out flew the insects and very quickly a mass of swallows appeared, all having a good feed. I could hear their beaks snapping. It was Autumn time so hopefully it nourished them ready for their long flight to Africa.

Pat Briscoe



## @ Grapevine

The cover picture is of 'Fall' along the Flathead River in Montana.

Copy deadline for the November edition is Friday 22nd October.  
Please send any news items, articles, events or diary entries to  
[tarvingrapevine@gmail.com](mailto:tarvingrapevine@gmail.com)

**We are also making this Grapevine available in digital format as a pdf download from <http://kenfayle.com/home/grapevine>**

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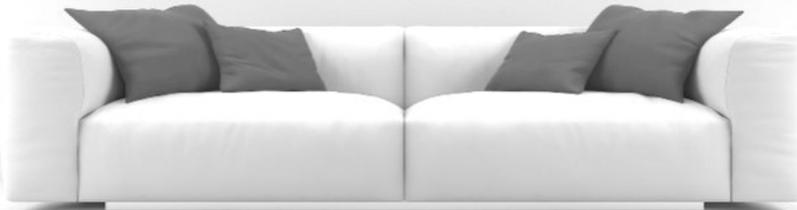
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**Tarvin 700 years ago!**

**THE PAROCHIAL VISITATION OF TARVIN IN 1317**

Historically, St Andrews is probably the most important building in Tarvin because it retains links with our medieval past. As parish churches go, it is a very large building and its size is an indication of how important it was in medieval England. Today, St Andrews serves Tarvin, Oscroft and Duddon and Stapleford but its medieval parish included the townships of Tarvin, Ashton, Bruen Stapleford, Burton, Clotton, Duddon, Great Mouldsworth, Hockenhull, Horton, Kelsall and Fulk Stapleford.

Back in the 14th century, the church came under the jurisdiction of Chester but the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield had a large estate in Tarvin. In the early 14th century he gave the church as a prebend\* in Lichfield Cathedral. That meant that a portion of the church revenue from the whole of the parish which should have gone to Chester was given as a salary by the Bishop of Lichfield to a person he had personally chosen. And, for good measure, the bishop threw in the adjoining parish of Barrow and the township of Willington.

The ST Andrews prebend was exempt from the jurisdiction of the arch-deacon of Chester but the parish could be visited by the dean of Lichfield every three years. Primary visits (visitations) were held by the recipient of the prebend (named the prebendary) who held regular church courts in Tarvin for the presentment (trial) and correction of offenders accused of breaking church laws. In medieval England, religion governed every aspect of daily life so disregarding church law was a serious offence which carried a variety of punishments (called corrections). If the accused confessed and swore not to repeat the offence, they were usually whipped around the church or fined or sometimes required to do a penance. Defendants who failed to appear were suspended (i.e. denied the sacraments) for their contempt of court. If they failed to appear a second time excommunication was imposed. This was a very serious punishment because it meant that the excommunicate would be cut off from society as well as being denied the sacrament.

The visitation in 1317 opened with nine charges against the vicar, eight of which were related to sexual misconduct resulting in him having fathered at least three children. The non-sexual charges involved his demanding tithe payments from his parishioners and refusing to administer the sacraments until they paid up. Multiple charges were also brought against five other men of clerical status, three of whom were chaplains. Cases against lay people which related to sexual misconduct were often the result of the way in which the church's teaching on marriage was interpreted locally which resulted in people sometimes not being sure whether they were married or not.

When the penalty of whipping round the church was imposed, it was usually between five and seven times. The greatest number was eighteen imposed on Robert de Kelsale for fornication, followed by twelve imposed on women for the same offence. Fines were also common. The vicar was fined £10 for his several offences plus 20 marks to be given as alms. Sometimes offenders were required to travel all the way to Canterbury Cathedral to make an offering often of a 1lb candle but William de Barrow had to take a 4lb candle to Lichfield Cathedral for his offering.

In a large number of cases the defendant denied the charge and was able to clear their name but witnesses had to be called and give evidence under oath. The number of witnesses required was six for fornication and twelve for adultery. However, thirteen were required for Margery, the widow of William de Mon in connection with her liaison with the vicar.

\*A prebend is part of the revenue of a cathedral or collegiate church given to the appointed administrator as a wage or salary

Jo Richards

## Woodland Notes

This month, we'll have a look at two of our creatures that you very well may not see, although both are very definitely present in our woodland. The first is the **Tree Creeper** (*Certhia familiaris*). This is the bird that you are most likely to have seen while walking in the woodland, without realising that it is there! It is a small bird - about the size of a wren - and very active, living entirely in trees, where they might (with luck) be spotted scuttling up trunks or branches looking for a tasty morsel to bring back to their nests. Treecreepers are mottled brown in colour, with light streaks and white underparts. These mottled brown feathers help them to easily blend in with the trees they climb. They have a white stripe above the eye and a long, thin beak which curves downwards - ideal for probing cracks and chinks in bark to find the tiny invertebrates (such as insects, earwigs or spiders) on which they feed. Their clawed feet are ideally suited to clinging on to the bark which they are searching. They might also feed on seeds during the winter months when invertebrates are scarce. Their tail is straight and stiff, being used like an extra limb to help brace against vertical trunks.

Treecreepers are homebodies; they stay in their own small territories, some sticking to only one tree! They are active during the day, creeping up trees, exploring bark and crevices, making use of their long, sharp beaks. Once they've reached the top of the trunk, they will often fly down to the base of another and repeat their upward climb. Treecreepers are actually very common birds, so, if they are so common, yet so busy all of the time, why are they so hard to spot? If a treecreeper is disturbed, it generally freezes on the tree trunk, where its black and brown mottled plumage provides camouflage and makes it look like the bark of the tree. It is also the case that the birds have an annoying habit of avoiding you by moving quickly to the other side of the tree the moment you spot one!

A West Country name for the treecreeper is the 'tree mouse', which suits it perfectly - it climbs up tree trunks in a 'mouse-like' manner, supported by its long, stiff tail. However, unlike the nuthatch, it can't climb back down head first. It has to hop down backwards due to its tail getting in the way and so will often choose to fly down instead.

When it comes to nestbuilding, treecreepers do not opt for the most common solution. Instead, they build their nests behind flaps of loose bark. The nest begins with a base of twigs, wedged into a crevice. Then they add grass, spiders' webs, moss, grass, lichen and wood very extensive (and frequently updated) website. Do 'visit' us at:-

chips. It takes about a week to build the whole nest. The female then lines the nest with hair, wool and feathers. Given that a clutch size is about 5-6, the nest can get quite crowded towards the end. The chicks fledge at around 15 days old, but will return to the nesting site for a few days to be fed by their parents. It is possible to buy wedge-shaped nest boxes that have been designed for treecreepers, but they are rarely used - as we have found to our cost in the woodland!

The other creature is a mammal, rather than a bird, although it is a flying mammal! It is the **Pipistrelle Bat** (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*). Users of the woodland on warm summer evenings may have been fortunate and seen a whole lot of these tiny bats swooping around and catching insects. They are tiny, match-box sized bats weighing around 5 grams (the same as a 20p piece) and having reddish-brown coats and blackish-brown ears, nose and wing membranes. Pipistrelles are the commonest (and one of the smallest) of the British bats, and yet they can fly at a speed of seven metres per second and a single bat can eat 3,000 tiny insects (such as moths and gnats) in just one night!

Like other bats, pipistrelles are nocturnal, emerging at dusk to feed for a couple of hours before returning to their roosts within natural features such as trees and caves and man-made features such as houses, churches, bridges and mines. Bats don't build nests like birds. They are crevice dwelling, only needing a gap the size of an adult thumb within which to roost. Bats are commonly found in houses beneath barge boards, under roof tiles, under hanging tiles and in cavity walls. Bats droppings can look like those of a mouse but mouse droppings are hard and bat droppings will always crumble. Where space permits, pipistrelles often form small colonies, especially where they hibernate in their winter roosts. Around October, common pipistrelles become less active and by December will have entered full hibernation. The bats normally hibernate in buildings, taking advantage of the warmth and shelter provided (although they may come out to feed on warm days). As the weather begins to warm up in March, the bats start emerging, usually becoming fully active by May.

Common pipistrelles normally breed in autumn and winter, but will not give birth until the following summer. During the breeding season, males establish "courtship territories". They will patrol this area while emitting high-pitched calls - a sort of singing - to attract the attention of females. When ready to give birth in June and July, females gather in large maternity roosts. Typically, they each have just

one, known as a pup. Because bats are mammals, they feed their young on milk. At about around three weeks old, the pup is able to fly and can become fully independent two to three weeks later, finally leaving the roost in August.

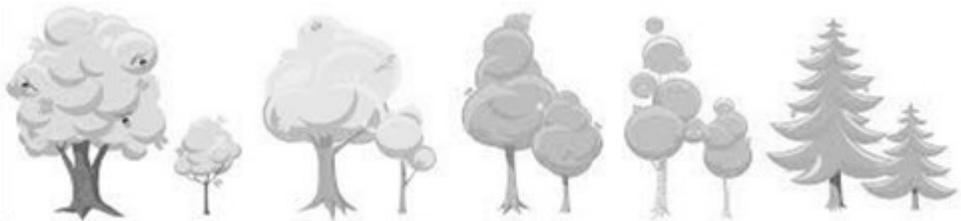
We can encourage more bats by making our garden more wildlife friendly. We could plant a mixture of flowering plants, vegetables, trees and shrubs (including night-scented stock!) It is worth thinking about a water feature for a wildlife garden - a pond, a marshy area or a bog will provide an insect breeding ground, thereby providing food for bats. Installing bat boxes where bats are known to feed is an excellent way to ensure that local bat populations have access to safe roosting places, and this in turn will encourage breeding.

**Our website.**

Everything that is going on in the woodland is well documented on our very extensive (and frequently updated) website. Do 'visit' us at:- [www.tarvincommunitywoodland.org](http://www.tarvincommunitywoodland.org)

*Charles Bradley*

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|   |  |                                      |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
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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 SEPTEMBER 2021



One of the annual tasks in the graveyard is the trimming of the perimeter hedges. This task usually takes a series of weeks depending on the weather and availability of team members, etc. This year, as it was dry, there seemed to be a great deal of pollen and dust generated by the cutting. This seemed to emanate from the ivy that was intertwined with the hawthorn hedge.

The picture on the left shows Ron having to wear a mask to overcome the amount of dust, etc generated. Very shortly after the picture was taken, however, the hedge trimmer broke with a linkage in the gearbox having snapped. Mark knew of a second hedge trimmer, and below shows him getting it started after about six years of being on the shelf. (It did start, then stopped, and refused to re-start!)

Fortunately, spares for the original hedge trimmer were available, so the gearbox was rebuilt and is now running again. This repair saved having to spend several hundred pounds on a new trimmer.



Apart from hedge cutting, one of the tasks throughout the year is clearing the grasses, etc, from around the graves, especially where the mowers cannot reach. Below are three of the volunteers who regularly use the strimmers for this task. On the left are Peter Ryan and Tony Wilson discussing how to maintain the machines, and to the right Wyn



Owen clearing an area in the east end of the graveyard. Thanks to them, and other team members, for all their work. It is appreciated by all.

