

TARVIN & DUDDON



GRAPEVINE October 2022 75p

## From the Vicar...

It is going to be hard, the cost of living has risen, food is getting more expensive as is everything else. There is not much we can do about it, I am sure we will be trying to work out how we can use and have less of everything. As I write this there are reports of the government putting more support in, than already given, are rife, but not confirmed. I was moved by the Archbishop's of York sermon, which if the editor has had room is attached, if not email me and I will send a copy to you, shared in the Chester Diocese by the Archdeacon of Macclesfield. He raises the point, which I have touched on so much, about what it means to be humane in a human world. What we put up with and don't question anymore, because this is what society now has become, like it or not. The archbishop raises the issue of not liking it and challenging us to respond through faith it what we would do. He talks heavily about 'Economy' being a word that translates from then Greek to 'well-run household'. Which we know what this might look like, warm feet, food on the table for everyone, no one locked out of the house exposed to the cold, wind and rain. So how is we have such a small understanding of family, how have we got to this place. We could probably spend decades analysing how, but there are those like me that say, we are where we are, and where do we go from here? The question is obvious but the challenges are many. We all need to start small and work big, after all Jesus taught 12 apostles and then the church of Christ grew. It also means re-evaluating our own sense of faith and self, and if we are really in that place where we need to be spiritually to take on such an awesome challenge and responsibility to change what has now become the norm. As we approach Christmas, a time of celebration and jubilation for most, even for those who choose to shun Christ the rest of the year, we have the time to think about what we can do. I know Paul is keen to organise the reverse Advent Box for the foodbank this year. Excellent and I'm sure details will be in the November Magazine. However, the question put to is, is why has society failed so much that foodbanks are needed at all. When we look further afield at the plight of the world then 'climate change', 'equality', and 'peace' become bigger challenges to change. Jesus said that 'you will always have the poor with you' a prophecy or indeed a reality that society, people, will not change. I want us to challenge God, to step up, step out, and be those who say, no, I will no longer be part of that society which accepts that this is how it is, and does not want to face head on, he challenged that are there. Let us start, by making sure those whom we know, by name, understand that the 'norm' of society we live with is not ok.

Adam

## Weekly Services & Parish Diary

### Service timetable:

St Andrew's

8am Holy Communion BCP (Every Week)

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

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

6.30pm Choral Evensong (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)

St Peter's

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

9.30am 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Week Family Worship

### Weekly Activities

Wednesdays

9.15am Morning Prayer (St Andrews)

10am - 11.30am Coffee Morning (St Andrews)

Thursdays

10am-11am Coffee Morning (St Peter's) Not in the school holidays.

Friday

6.30pm Choir Practice (St Andrews)

### October

2<sup>nd</sup> 6pm Harvest Supper (Duddon) SOLD OUT

4<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Governing Body Meeting (SP)

5<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm St Andrew's Women's Group (PR)

9<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm Baptism (SA)

12<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Deanery Synod (Venue not Confirmed)

14<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm "Sea Dogs" singers. (SA) £10 a ticket

18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Village Fete Meeting (Parish Room) Open Meeting for anyone who would like to be involved.

19<sup>th</sup> 11am Organ Recital by Ken Fayle (SA)

22<sup>nd</sup> 7pm 'Flat Pack' Last Night of the Proms (SA) Tickets £15.

### November

2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm St Andrew's Women's Group (PR)

3<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm Uganda Trip Meeting (SP)

6<sup>th</sup> 1pm Baptism (SP)

7<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Standing Committee (SA)

11<sup>th</sup> 10.50am Remembrance Day Service (SA)

13<sup>th</sup> 10.50am Remembrance Sunday Service (SA)

19<sup>th</sup> Water Aid - World Toilet Day (more info on the way)

25<sup>th</sup> 10.45am Patronal Festival - Welcoming Bishop Julie Birkenhead (SA)

## Save the date!

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November**                      **10.50am**  
**Remembrance Day Service** at Tarvin War Memorial.

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November**                      **10.50am**  
**Remembrance Sunday Service** 10.50am at Tarvin War Memorial

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**  
"Youth Sleep in" - School Years 6-9, 8pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December to  
7am on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please raise some sponsorship for "Chester Aid to the Homeless"  
please email [tarvinparish@gmail.com](mailto:tarvinparish@gmail.com) if you would like to join in.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**                      **5pm to 9pm**  
Tarvin Christmas Festival and Market

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December**                      **4pm**  
A Service to Remember those who have died. (TMC)

## Chester Bible Focus

The CBF team are looking forward to welcoming you to our Autumn series on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022** when Karen Soole will be speaking on **Ecclesiastes : understanding our times**.

Each evening will begin at 7.30pm with a short time of sung worship followed by two teaching sessions with a break for refreshments and a chance to look at the bookshop.

Venue: - All Saints Church, Hoole, Chester. CH2 3HZ

Time: 7.30pm

Tickets are for sale on the door - £3 for one evening and £5 for both.

For more details and directions visit our website

[www.chesterbiblefocus.org.uk](http://www.chesterbiblefocus.org.uk) - where you can also follow us on Facebook.

**Remembering Service**  
**At Tarvin Methodist Church**  
**Sunday 4th December at 4pm**

For some of us the Christmas season can be difficult. Amidst the festivities, the Christmas shopping, trees and tinsel it can be a difficult time for those who are grieving, having experienced the loss of a loved one.

Our **Remembering Service** invites you in a quiet space to remember, made up of scripture, reflection, prayer & worship to reflect and to be still. To come alongside God and know God is with you during this time.

All are welcome.

## Music at St Andrews



### The month of October sees a mini Music Festival at St Andrews

On Friday 14th at 7.30pm the Port Sunlight Sea Dogs will be singing Sea Shanties.

On Wednesday 19th at 11am the Church Director of Music, Ken Fayle, will be giving an organ recital.

On Saturday 22nd at 7pm the Flat Pack Opera are returning to perform 'A night at the Proms'.



# **Port Sunlight Sea Dogs**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm  
St Andrews Church**

Tickets are £10 – please pay on the door.

Come for an evening of fun.

**Refreshments Served**  
(bring your own rum!)

**A Night at the Proms**

Join Flat Pack Music soloists for a celebratory evening of famous proms music and flag waving!

**Saturday 22nd October**

St Andrews Church  
Church Street, Tarvin  
CH3 8EB

**7PM**

**Tickets £15**

sandraturner1234@btinternet.com | 0748419728



flatpackmusicinfo@gmail.com | 07593861366

## TALES FROM THE GRAVEYARD SEPTEMBER 2022

### A TALE OF TWO BENCHES

This month has seen a time of graveyard maintenance of a slightly different kind. The bench in the photo on the right is in the "new" grave area and the wooden planks had become rotten in the seating area. Bill Turner volunteered to undertake the replacement of all the seating planks. Once the new wood was in place, the whole bench was given two coats of wood preservative to enable it to be a place to sit and contemplate the peace of the graveyard.



The other bench that has been giving a few issues is the one on the public footpath on the right hand side at the east end of the church. As the trees have grown around the area, the birds have been using the bench for target practice, covering it with bird droppings. (See left).

One Wednesday when no grass cutting was needed, Ron & Barrie decided to move it from under the tree, complete with the large flagstones, away from the "dropping" area. It turned out that the previous person who put the bench down did not want it to be moved in a hurry! It was well and truly fastened with 4" rawlbolts that had rusted solid. However, the bench is in it's new location, washed and cleaned and will also have a coat of wood preservative.



Sadly, we also have to report on the death of one of the Z Team members. Tony Wilson had been involved for the last ten years or so, and will be sadly missed for all the work that he did, often over and above the normal Wednesday afternoon that the team meet. Tony, we thank you for your involvement.



## PRAYERS FOR OCTOBER 2022

### In our prayers this month....

**Our King**, as he begins his reign—may God bless him and all his family as they mourn the loss of Queen Elizabeth.

**Our Government**, making difficult decisions about the cost of living, that we may be a caring country which looks after all its people.

**A unity in our world** as we saw at the Queen's funeral...that the United Nations may help to solve the world's problems of poverty, war, injustice, prejudice, global warming. We pray for peace in our time.

**Forgiveness** when we ignore the poor; generosity in our giving. We pray for the flood victims in Pakistan, the refugees and the hungry in Ethiopia, Yemen and Lebanon.

**All who are ill** at present...that the Lord will bring healing and peace.

**All who have died** in the faith of Christ, and all who weep.

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



O Lord our God, for those of us whose lives are strained and stressed..... **Hear our prayer and pour out your peace.**

For those of us whose hold on life is fragile..... **Hear our prayer and pour out your peace.**

For those of us whose illness makes them vulnerable..... **Hear our prayer and pour out your peace.**

For those of us whose families struggle to understand them..... **Hear our prayer and pour out your peace.**

O Lord our God, for all whose lives are in turmoil through the effects of mental illness..... **Hear our prayer and pour out your peace. Amen.**



9th—15th October 2022

Father, we bring before you all those in prison. You never turn anyone away who comes to you for help. You have the power to change lives, and so we pray you will reveal Jesus to them. Touch them deeply Lord, and bring healing and deliverance to their lives. Fill them with hope for the future. We give you thanks for all your love and goodness.

## Curates Corner

### **Musings for October**

'O hushed October morning mild,  
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;  
To-morrow's wind, if it be wild,  
Should waste them all.'

So begins Robert Frost's poem October. I can get quite poetical this time of year with the beautiful colours of autumn, the geese squawking overhead and the dew on the grass. It feels a gentle time of year with the sun doubly welcome. A time for reflection perhaps before the hectic time of Chr... I daren't say it yet, though by the time you get this magazine I am sure Adam will have begun the Christmas - whoops, I said it - countdown!

So let us allow ourselves time, to scrunch through the leaves, jump in the puddles, time to be silly, to unwind, to enjoy life, it is very precious.

### **I found this prayer from Mindful Christianity:**

'Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life. Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots, the may nots that may find a home in my heart. Release me from the could nots and would nots that obstruct my life. And most of all, I ask you to remove from my mind, my heart and my life all the 'am nots' that I have allowed to hold me back especially the thought that I am not good enough.'

So with all that in mind, we must allow ourselves to rest and reflect. If you are exhausted rest, it is not being lazy it is restoring you to be yourself. If you don't feel like starting a new project, don't; I find that God is very good at reminding me when the timing is right! There is great value in doing nothing, it lets the brain rest for the great new thoughts to come - how else did all the great inventions come about?

Autumn is the time when trees show us the value of letting go. I have a picture on my laptop of a penguin almost swallowed by a fish with the caption, 'Relax, God is in charge.' It makes me smile and think there is nothing that God cannot do or give me the strength to do. Stress makes us believe everything has to happen immediately.

Faith tells us that everything happens in God's timing. And peace comes when we put it all in God's hands.

I have to reflect back on September, a momentous month, when God's timing, took our dear Queen Elizabeth II to be with him. What a life and example we can celebrate! I'll finish with a thought from her:

'We are in this place to learn, to observe, to love - then we go home.'

#### **A Celtic blessing for October**

May the strength of the wind and the light of the sun,  
the softness of the rain and the mystery of the moon, reach and fill you.

May beauty delight you and happiness uplift you;  
may wonder fulfil you and love surround you.

May your steps be steady and arm be strong.

May your heart be peaceful and your word true.

May you seek to learn, may you learn to live, may you live to love,  
and may you love always.

Love and prayers, Barbara

### **From the Farm**

During the first few days of September we sowed the Oil Seed Rape. In recent years we no longer plough the ground after harvest for some crops. Instead we do what is all "min-till" (minimum tilling of the soil). This involves loosening the soil, incorporating the stubble and discing to make a good seed bed. After the seed is sown the field is then rolled. During this we see hundreds of seagulls looking for worms. Also the buzzards are always around. The soil was extremely dry at the time but the very welcome rain since has helped the seed to germinate.

Around the 10<sup>th</sup> of September we noticed the swallows had disappeared, started their long journey to Africa. I really hope they come back next year. The other garden birds seem to be plentiful and I have just started feeding them again.

Pat Briscoe

## Pilgrimage



For many years I have been involved in helping to develop heritage programmes in Norway, especially at Avaldsnes on Norway's west coast, between Stavanger and Bergen. Avaldsnes is on the eastern side of the island of Karmoy, and has been a centre of power and influence for over 3000 years. It overlooks, and so controls, the beginning of a sheltered sea passage between the mainland and a series of islands stretching 100's of miles to the north. This sea passage is called 'Nordvegen' - 'The North way' and has given its name to the whole country. Whoever ruled at Avaldsnes was rich and powerful.

St Olav's Church at Avaldsnes has a fascinating history, going back over 1000 years, into Viking times.

The first small church there was built of wood possibly before the year 1000 and stood in the centre of a circle of 5 tall standing stones, one of which still survives.

In 1250 the church was greatly enlarged and rebuilt in stone. It was one of 5 collegiate churches controlled by the King and so free from the influence of Rome. Being dedicated to St Olav it became a church of pilgrimage to those travelling to Nidaros, the burial place of St Olav. On the north side you can still see a door with runic inscriptions scratched by the visiting pilgrims.

The remaining standing stone, nearly as tall as the church, is the centre of many legends. One story says that if the stone touches the church it will signify the end of the world. In the mid 1800's the local priest climbed up and chipped some pieces from the top of the stone in an effort 'to save the world'. Today the top of the stone is 9.7cm from the church wall.....close!



During World War II when Norway was occupied by the Germans, Allied pilots used the church tower as a navigation point so the Germans wanted it pulled down. To save their church the local people build a wooden structure over the whole church to disguise it.

Paul Mercer



## REMEMBERING QUEEN ELIZABETH II

**O**ne in many a million,  
**U**nder constant scrutiny, yet with a  
**R**eady charm, a beautiful smile.

**Q**uietly intelligent, but with a sense of fun,  
**U**nquestionably our greatest asset,  
**E**ver gracious and understanding,  
**E**ver kind and considerate,  
**N**ever failing in her selfless duty to the country.

Keith Barker Sept. '22



**Harvest**

**BBQ**

## Tarvin Christmas Festival & Market

The Tarvin Christmas Festival and Market will take place on Saturday 3rd December this year from 5-9pm in Tarvin High Street. The Street Market will have a variety of stalls selling hot foods, crafts and gifts. Father Christmas will again make a special trip to Tarvin and all children are welcome to visit him at his Grotto. Tarvin Methodist Church will have children's activities and Nativity puppet shows throughout the evening. Lots to keep you and the whole family entertained.

And so come along, lend your support and enjoy the fun.



## Advertising

You may have noticed that since June there have been no commercial advertisements in the Grapevine. This started because we wanted the Platinum Royal Jubilee Edition to be special, and the annual arrangements with all our advertisers had ended.

We have managed to run for another 4 months without any advertising, but with increasing printing costs this can not continue. SO FROM NEXT MONTH .....

If your business or organisation would like to advertise in the Grapevine magazine for the next year then please contact the Editor

Paul Mercer at 4 Fairfax Avenue, Tarvin, Chester CH3 8DR  
email [tarvingrapevine@gmail.com](mailto:tarvingrapevine@gmail.com)



**For Hire**

**Tarvin Parish Rooms**

**A Hall with toilets and a small kitchen  
Next to St Andrews Church**

**From only £7:50 per hour**

**For full details please contact the Church Warden  
David Ferguson  
39 Deansway, Tarvin  
Tel: 01829 741192  
Email: davidhferguson@hotmail.com**

**St Peter's CE School, Duddon.**

This is our church school and has a close relationship with our church community.

The school motto is:  
**"Be the Best you can be"**

The School has a nursery which is part of the Foundation Unit and Reception is taught alongside the nursery unit.

Treetops has a younger group 'Treetots' that meet weekly on Wednesdays at 9am,

For more information about the school please call:  
01829 781366

## The Archbishop of York writes.....

### **A sermon from the Archbishop of York.**

*Each year Christians on the Left host a church service at the beginning of the Labour Party Conference. This year Archbishop Stephen was invited to preach at St James in the City, Liverpool. His sermon follows in full...*

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called... take hold of the life that is truly life. (1 Timothy 6. 12 & 19)

First of all, it's a real joy to be with you. Yes, indeed, any invitation from Liverpool is always welcomed. My eldest son came to University here in Liverpool, twelve or thirteen years ago, and basically stayed. He was a member of this church for some years and I've worshipped here quite a number of times. And my daughter in law, his wife was ordained Deacon this year. They serve in Norris Green, which those of you who know Liverpool know, it's a pretty challenging bit of Liverpool. And well, that's what we need to talk about. We need to talk much more about the huge discrepancies of wealth and opportunity in our nation. The way that we're not a very United Kingdom, and the way that we need a new vision, a new home for everybody, but particularly, for the so many left behind communities.

Perhaps I should start by saying that today's readings are those set by the Church for today, not ones we've chosen for ourselves. And they are very challenging for everyone in public and political life whether you are on the right or the left.

But actually, I'm not going to go for the obvious and preach on the text, 'Those who want to get rich fall into temptation...' (1 Timothy 6. 9), or 'The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil' (1 Timothy 6. 10), or 'Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth' (1 Timothy 6. 17), though all these texts are important and very relevant to what is happening in our nation and our world at the moment, especially for those who believe that wealth trickles down, when all of those without much wealth, and especially the poor, know it gathers and expands in the aquifers and coffers of the wealthy and is carefully guarded.

No, I want to preach on Paul's final words, almost the last words in this whole letter to Timothy: 'Be rich in good deeds... be generous and willing to share... in this way you will take hold of the life that is truly life!' (1 Timothy 6. 18 & 19)

Let us build a coalition of hopefulness and goodwill around what we know to be true and good and right. Let us invest in what we know to be true and good and right. Or as Jesus says, Seek first the kingdom of God. And then everything else will be added to you. For in Christ we are shown what our humanity can be.

So, though you may – or may not – be pleased about this week's tax cuts, if you are a beneficiary what you choose to do with your additional money, is an uncomfortable question only you can answer, and no politician or economist can make it for you. It is about each of us asking what is right, what is best in us rising to the surface and shaping who we are. Kevin's quote, I mean, I wrote it down. 'When people treat you like a person, you become a person'. So what can we do to let what is best in us, rise to the surface so that we acquire our full humanity, generous instincts of goodness and grace, that come from a life shaped by the gospel and imitating Christ. Because brothers and sisters, isn't that the message of the Gospel? That God in Jesus Christ has treated us so well has lavished His blessings upon us has forgiven us again, how many times as

many as 70 times? No, seventy times seven. God goes on giving us a second chance, walking the second mile, turning the other cheek, why? Even dying for us so that we could become fully the people that we are meant to be. Generous instincts of goodness and grace that come from a life shaped by the gospel and imitating Christ. This life is often hidden and neglected, sometimes not known about at all, but it is the image of God within us.

If you walk around virtually any major city almost anywhere in the world, without knowing it you will be stepping over hidden, subterranean rivers and streams.

There are many lost rivers here in Liverpool – the Alt, the Garston and the Pool, all tributaries of the Mersey, but now built over.

Sometimes in extraordinary weather conditions these underground streams break the surface, and for a moment we see them again.

Following the death of Her Late Majesty the Queen, I think something extraordinary happened in our nation, of which the most obvious outward sign was the great queue of people, thousands and thousands of people, stretching along the Thames from the east end of London in Southwark park to Westminster.

As you may know, I was in London quite a bit during the past fortnight.

I stayed at Lambeth Place and every time I stepped out of the front door, I encountered this astonishing queue. I chatted – and indeed sung hymns – with many people.

And although a few selected folks had pushing in rights (I'm afraid I was one of them) for most people, whoever you were and whatever your wealth or position, you had to stand in line; David Beckham alongside a pensioner from Crewe or the unemployed job seeker from Hull.

To coin a phrase, the queue levelled us up.

But it also represented something breaking out.

Something that was always there, but hidden from view, broke the surface: not just an outpouring of grief, but a reaffirmation of some of the things and the deep-seated values that are the best of us. Sometimes these values are considered old fashioned values, or British values. These are Christian values.

For a while we were one humanity. We felt united. It wasn't that our differences had disappeared, but they were re-configured within a wider and deeper belonging.

And it felt good, like life itself as it is meant to be, because there has been so much in our nation in recent years that has torn us apart. It has been ugly.

Just this week, alongside that mini-budget, one of the great misnomers wasn't nothing mini about this budget, we have heard that the child poverty gap between the Northeast, where I serve, and the rest of the country has reached a 20-year high.

Consequently, but sadly not surprisingly, we have also heard in this week's report from the Children's Society that children are becoming more unhappy with their lives, prospects, schooling and appearance.

It also tells us that 85% of parents are deeply worried about the cost-of-living crisis. And that is before winter has arrived.

A child growing up in Blackpool or Hartlepool now finds that their life expectancy has gone down, and the gap between their healthy life expectancy and other parts of the country grows wider and wider.

Yes, I'm sure we need a new approach to policy, but most of all we need a hopeful vision.

And the hopeful vision given us by Christ, whether we reckon ourselves left or right, or even Christian, begins with the recognition that, left or right, black or white, male or female, gay or straight - or for that matter any other of the categories and groupings that we are put in or confined by or constrained by - we belong to each other; we have responsibilities to each other. We are one humanity inhabiting one world.

But this also means that we are very unlikely to share with one another (let alone care for one another!) until we have a sense that we first belong to one other and have a commitment to each other. We are sisters and brothers to each other. How do we Christians know this? Because every time we say the Lord's Prayer, we declare it. The very first two words of the Lord's Prayer are a radical statement about what it means to be human. We say Our Father, now I know the word father can be problematic, but there isn't time here. God is the motherly father, you know, God is not male or female. But what those words say is, if you say Our Father, what you're also saying is that everybody else who says this prayer with me is my sister and my brother, to whom I have responsibilities, and in whom I am called to enter into relationships of giving and receiving love.

Moreover, until we realise that our well-being is inextricably tied up with the well-being of our neighbour, we will never build a fair society. The streams of grace may appear from time to time. But they will soon be covered over.

Oh yes, we might be prepared to give our neighbour a handout, but never a hand up. It will always be charity, never justice.

But we are one humanity, and the big issues for our nation, and the massive global issues of peace and climate justice for our world, will only ever be addressed when we take hold of the life that is life, that is the Christian vision of who we are as children of God, made in God's image, decent and precious to God and to each other.

The word economy comes from two Greek words: oikos, meaning household; and nomos, meaning law. So, the literal meaning is 'the law of the household.'

Furthermore, nomos is from another Greek word, nemein, meaning to distribute, indicating that law and justice here have something to do with fair distribution.

This seems to me to be a good place to begin thinking about a hopeful Christian perspective on the economic well-being of communities and nations.

A good economy is meant to be like a well-run household. And even though most people don't claim a great understanding of economics (and I sometimes think that economists and the politicians they advise would prefer to keep it that way) we do know what a well-run household should be like.

One of the things we take for granted in a well run household— in fact, if it wasn't there, we would hold up our hands in horror — is that everyone is catered for fairly and according to their need. There is no preferential treatment. We are - as it were — altogether in the queue.

In a family — a household — it would be unthinkable that at the dinner table some are fed while others go hungry.

Yet increasingly, the safety net in our nation is a foodbank, where more and more people have to go to get what our economy itself fails to provide. I was in Middlesbrough in North Ormesby, earlier this year, visiting a school.

When I send my kids off to school, we'd often send them off with their lunchbox because that's what you do, isn't it? In this school, you go with an empty one. Because there's a food bank in the school. So these kids go to the Breakfast Club first, and they receive free school meals. And then at the end of the day, there's trestle tables set out in the playground, and that's where you fill up your box so you can have some tea. What has happened to us as a nation that the children are taking an empty lunchbox to school to fill up so they can have some tea when they get home.

This is deeply shocking. And what is even more shocking is that we are not shocked anymore. We take this kind of inequality for granted.

What we need is a hopeful vision. A vision that unites all of us and a vision which recognises our common humanity. And I think we saw something of this rising to the surface last week when we stood alongside each other in the queue, levelled up, one people, one nation.

We find this vision in the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. For in Christ there is a new humanity and from Christ we learn of our belonging to each other and the responsibilities that flow from it – the joyful responsibilities for these other people are our sisters and brothers.

We take hold of the life that is truly life, the life of God and our lives lived in community with God and with each other.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, said, 'He has brought down rulers from their thrones and has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant...' (Luke 1. 52-54)

This isn't levelling up, but over-throwing. It is a redistribution. It is mercy and justice. And it can only come from a place of vision about who we are, where we belong, and where our mutual responsibilities lie.

Without it we perish.

We build walls and post sentries. Some get rich. Most don't. Many are left behind altogether. Nations fragment. Dis-ease stirs. Walls are built higher. More sentries are recruited.

More misery ensues. Discord ferments. Wars are started.

And the most pressing issue of all – climate emergency, care for the poor, the excluded, the refugee are neglected altogether.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our brother and our Saviour, let us look for a better way, not putting our trust in wealth, but in God. Amen.

## @ Grapevine

Copy deadline for the November edition is **Friday 21st 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>**

## Woodland Notes

### The Ash dieback problem is now upon us.

This year, we delayed the three-yearly safety inspection of ALL of our trees, so that the arboriculturist could see our ash trees in full growth. Previously, all of our concerns had involved the mature oaks but, this year, we were somewhat fearful of the spread of Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) amongst our previously-healthy ash trees. The disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback in affected ash trees and can lead to the death of the affected tree.

The inspection revealed that we have two ash trees that, while not in a dangerous state, ought to be removed as soon as possible and the job of removing them will be a heart-breaking and costly one. We are bracing ourselves for the (possibly sizeable) felling bill that will have to be added to the initial £450 cost of the survey. Thanks to the funds raised (especially by the Plant Sale), we will be able to find the money - but the amount could deal a real blow to a small Trust like ours. It is for this reason that we are casting about to try to find sources of grants that would help to cushion that severe financial blow for us. We'll let you know how we get on.

### The Woodland Coffee Morning.

As I never tire of saying, Tarvin Community Woodland is funded entirely by Tarvin people, whether through our fundraising, the donations made by village people or the Parish Council grant (which redistributes some of your Council Tax our way.) The need for that funding has become even more apparent now that we have to pay for the professional removal of some diseased and potentially dangerous ash trees - with the possibility of others suffering the same fate in the future. Thus far, the Trust has coped by holding just two fundraising events each year - our plant sale and the Autumn Coffee Morning, although of necessity additional types of event are currently being considered.

The 2022 Coffee Morning is soon upon us - it will be held at **Tarvin Methodist Church** between **10am and 12 Noon** on **Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022**. As ever, we will be providing Coffee or Tea, together with biscuits or cakes and there will be a raffle held to hopefully increase the Trust's funds even further. We are always grateful for the hospitality extended to us by the Chapel, who have been consistently generous to the Community Woodland project and to the Trust throughout their existence.

Coffee mornings are not only fundraising opportunities, even if that is how they are advertised. They also enable the people of Tarvin, who actually OWN the woodland (the clue is in the name - it is a Community Woodland), to talk about their use of the woodland, its condition, management and development, the Green Flags, the quarterly and triennial safety inspections, or any other matter that concerns them. As many of the Trustees as possible will be present and will be happy to talk about what has been and what is being done (although decisions on what is still to be done might have to be referred to a future Trustees' meeting for a definitive answer!)

If you can, please do drop in, even if only you can only manage a short while. The people who run the woodland on your behalf are doing their best but can only know whether they are getting it right if you tell them! They really would value your opinion! Please come along!

**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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Could YOU write something for our Grapevine magazine?

Contributions are always welcome, long or short.

Share something on a serious subject.

Advertise forthcoming events within our community.

Give us the latest news from any of the regular groups who meet in and around Tarvin or Duddon.

Contribute poetry, local history and more.

It doesn't matter what your age or whether your technology is old, new or non-existent - we would love to hear from you and if you provide the words, we can do the rest.

Please send all contributions to Paul Mercer at 4 Fairfax Avenue, Tarvin, Chester CH3 8DR or email [tarvingrapevine@gmail.com](mailto:tarvingrapevine@gmail.com)

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<b>PCC</b> Treasurer Secretary	David Caddell	740554
	Jane Holmes	740564
Treasurer Secretary	(Currently Peter Ladd) Volunteers Welcome Pat Briscoe	732515
Safeguarding Officer	Mary Morgan	740450
Women's Group	Rev Barbara King	
Grapevine	Paul Mercer tarvingrapevine@gmail.com	309306
Gift Aid	David Caddell	
Z Team (Churchyard)	Mark Wyatt Ron Fuller	740909 740559

Tarvin Parish, St Andrew's and St Peter's takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at [www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding](http://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding). If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at [www.chester.anglican.org/social-responsibility/safeguarding](http://www.chester.anglican.org/social-responsibility/safeguarding)