

TARVIN & DUDDON



GRAPEVINE

March 2021

50p

From the Vicar...

From the Vicar.....

Spring is coming, daffs are coming out and the grass is beginning to grow, the garden needs some attention and time, but complain I probably will, even though I know how grateful I am. Lighter evenings, warmer days, more signs of hope in our world. Mowing the grass, seems to be something I have done for years, (even at theological college, when working for the maintenance department for the summer holidays, after cleaning the loos, and putting out the bins, I progressed to making the tea and mowing the lawns) Then through 18 years of ministry too mowed and mowed. There is something slightly mundane about mowing, although I did always like straight lines, much harder on a sit on mower. The time spent mowing can be a great time to think, to be with nature and to be with God. Yes, walking might be nicer, or even just sitting listening to the early morning bird chorus. Mowing can give great satisfaction. The Vicarage Garden is so big, and I do hope we will be able to have our annual garden gathering this coming year, we will just need to wait and see. Mowing the vicarage lawn with a 20" mower, pushed by hand, did take 8 hours, with the sit on it is down to 1 hour (if I put my foot down). The difficulty is I don't get as much satisfaction and the reality of squeezing the cutting in between other things, rather than a day planned, mowing the grass each fortnight (as could never manage each week) cutting down that mundane job, made less time for thoughts, for imagination. If we fill all our days, then when can we have time to be, to think, reflect, contemplate who we are and what we are going to do next. Think about what we need to change within ourselves in order to get better, grow stronger and be better people. It is much more than the mundane grass cutting, as it is the time doing something (dare I say it, z team I am sorry) that takes little planning and thought, in order to give us time for thought, for planning about ourselves and the direction of our life. Spring for us is always in Lent, it's just about where we live, but it helps us understand maybe the pruning that is done in March for the blossom that is to come, the choices of what we do and can't do in the time we have each week. For some of us this last year has enabled us to think about how much time we spend in a

car travelling to work, what time we don't spend on ourselves, and also what we really want to do with our lives as whole. I feel that in the main I have managed to form a way of balancing, work, home and leisure, put on hold for the past year as it has for many, and there are a great number of us that will just need to have a rest when we can, especially all those in the NHS working shifts, busy every day for the past year, just keeping going now is such a strain. As spring comes up from the ground, with hope coming in through vaccines, we need time for thoughts, to slow down from the busy lives that we have made for ourselves. To think about if we want to go back to who we were and what we did, or we want to spring up from the ground we have been hibernating in, into someone different, changed a lot or slightly remodelled. The choice is our own.

Adam



@ Grapevine

Copy deadline for the March edition is Saturday 20th March. Please send any news items, articles, events, diary entries to tarvingrapevine@gmail.com

The Parish Calendar is available on the parish website www.tarvinparish.com

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

Church Services

The PCC met this week and feel that the COVID cases within the countess have decreased and the local infection rate for the ward of Tarvin and Kelsall is extremely low in comparison to Cheshire West and Chester as a whole.

The problem we have is related to the current situation at St Andrew's which means we are unable to hold any services in there at this time.

From the 7th March we will be holding services at St Peter's Church in Duddon, this we be as follows: 8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer; 9.30am and 10.45am Family Communion using Common Worship.

We have a limited number of seats in order to remain COVID safe and keep the 2metre distance in accordance with the government guidelines. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME TO THE 9.30AM or 10.45AM SERVICE YOU WILL NEED TO BOOK A SEAT.** If you have not booked a seat we may not be able to accommodate you. (currently we are not asking those coming to 8am to book a seat in advance)

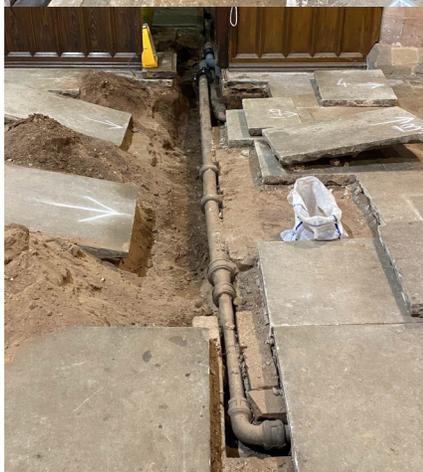
To book a seat please contact Sandra Turner on 01829749310 or email her on sandraturner1234@btinternet.com.

We look forward to welcoming those who want to come back to public worship, if you feel that this is not for you at this time, that is fine. Our service will remain on Facebook and YouTube at 10.15am on a Sunday morning and through the Telephone service on 01829708989. The service will also be available through the email system.

Thank you for your patience at this time and we look forward to being together and sharing in worship together."

St Andrews—water beneath the stone floor

As you may know St Andrew's has had some damage to the flooring and the organ blower caused by water. This is still being investigated and as part of that we have need to replace some heating pipework. This is still very early stages of what is going on and we expect St Andrew's to be out of action for a couple of months whilst the flooring is fixed and the cause of the problem found. These photographs will help to show you the extent of our problems.



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Curates Corner

Reasons to be cheerful. It is getting lighter, which is a great help in Lent. We need the light. Aren't the days better when it is sunny? A robin singing his heart out on my fence post, such a beautiful song.

Geese, noisily flying over
Crocus and daffodils braving the cold.
Buds noticeable on trees and bushes.
Being on eye-level with a squirrel as it stopped in its climb up a tree.
Smudge didn't spot it!

Staying afloat. I hope your boat is continuing to ride the waters of home schooling, being alone or working from home. Sometimes it is very difficult to keep positive thoughts uppermost, especially as from one day to the next we don't know how it is all going to work out. Hopefully we are on the crest of wave which is going to carry us to a safe harbour, which I believe is now in sight! Please hold tight, stay strong and safe as we negotiate the rest of this year

Bobbin' along. "Everything is changing," said Rabbit. "It's uncomfortable." "Change will do that." Said Bear. " It wants you to say goodbye to who you were, so you can say hallo to who you're meant to be." In Lent we hear what people are going to give up, alcohol, chocolate, cake, biscuits, etc. as part of the pilgrimage to Easter. Lent is a time for evaluating what is good - which I expect we have all been doing for the past year! Has it brought about a change of attitude or expectation? Has it helped to realise what is important in life? So we need to hang on to what is good, get rid of the bad, hang on to the positive, get rid of the negative and say to ourselves, "Gosh, haven't we done well? I pray that this Easter we will journey will travel hopefully knowing what God wants to be

Will your anchor hold?

There is a lovely idea in the Celtic tradition that if you send out goodness from yourself, if you share what is happy or good within you, it will all come back to multiplied a thousand times. In the kingdom of love there is no competition, there is no possessiveness or control. The more love you give away the more love you will have. (From Anam Cara by John O' Donohue)

Love and prayers,
Barbara

Joyce Owen 100

Joyce Owen celebrated her 100th birthday recently. She had a very special day spent with her children. Joyce received her card from The Queen and zoomed family from various parts of the world. You can see from her photographs she had a wonderful cake. We would, in normal circumstances have celebrated with Joyce in Church. We were able to take some messages to Joyce with a birthday message from Tarvin Primary School and the Curate and the Choir singing Happy Birthday. Joyce also received communion on her birthday. If you would like to make a donation to Joyce's charity please follow this link: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mary-morgan6?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=mary-morgan6&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=18cabe1d55fe4eec9fa06616de49943a



Joyce replied.....

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone for their warm wishes, cards, gifts and charity donations for the Salvation Army to celebrate my milestone birthday. Also to the children and staff of Tarvin Primary school for their greetings and to Ken and the church choir for their lovely rendition of 'Happy Birthday'.

Weekly reflections

Week 1 (Lent 3)

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Bible Reading — John 2 13-22

Verse 16b "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place"

There is a glimpse here of the frustration that we all feel as human beings and we see Jesus 'lose it'. His rage is absolute for what is going on in the house of God. What we see is the house of God in terms of 'bricks and mortar', yet he also refers to the house of God, the temple being his body. When I was growing up the body was talked about in terms of being the vessel that held God in our world. If we take this notion and put it together with what Jesus is doing, he is purging all that is undesirable out of the Temple so that there is nothing left to distract us from the purpose for which we are made. This would mean that the verse above is about you and me, not about the church building we inhabit. It is about the bodies that we carry with us everywhere that we go. It is about all the things that take us away from Jesus, all the distractions all the temptations that we follow, these are distracting us (just as they distracted from the purpose of the Temple) from letting us walk completely in the light of Christ. As we move through Lent, let us try and see what 'Market Stalls' are going on in our lives and work hard to overturn them and drive them out of our lives.

Prayers Week 1

All of life can be seen as a journey. Lent is a special journey, walking with Jesus to the cross and resurrection. So Lord as we walk each day with you, we ask for forgiveness of our sins so we can walk with eyes looking up, to see your creation and our fellow human beings and pour out love, for ourselves and others and may our love for God be nourished.
'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.' (1Corinthians 2.9)

**Week 2 (Lent 4)
Mothering Sunday**

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Bible Reading — John 9 1-25

Verse 16 Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said . 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided.

The established churches of our world can be a great asset, but can also be the 'poisoned chalice'. The do's and the don'ts. Most recently for me I have a great dilemma, (trivial to many, but important to me). For the past year the common cup has been suspended within communion in Church of England, and wider Anglican Communion and Churches. A great debate has erupted as to if we can use individual cups, as our close ecumenical neighbours do. The Church of England however will not allow wine to be consecrated and distributed in this way, there is a theological precedence of the 'one cup' at the last supper. To me, personally, it is the sharing of the wine, as a symbol of the sacrifice that Jesus made. In my earlier years a university we would use crisps and coke, maybe, and share in the same words, remember the same sacrifice, with no disrespect or degrading of what Jesus did and what our salvation through him meant to us. Alas to keep my license for ministry I need to abide by these rules, but in my eyes, it does not make them right. Jesus healing on the sabbath, yes some said he should know better than work on a day of religious rest, however is showing compassion and love work? Is that not something that is deeply rooted within us to be in response from one human being to another, which is what Jesus did the whole of his life, so yes I think Jesus would go, 'Global Pandemic' communion by cups? 'Yes, why not'. We work with what we have, even if it isn't perfect, because what we have is an instrument that can be used for good, even if in my humble opinion needs a few tweaks.

Prayers for Week 2

You were tempted in the wilderness Lord. You faced loneliness, physical stress and temptation. We have been through a wilderness, Lord, we still walk in its shadow. Help us to remember what we have learned and give us wisdom and strength to resist the lure of the selfish way out of any difficulties.

'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God.' (Romans 8.38-39)

Mothering Sunday 14th March

Loving God,

Thank you for mums and children and for all the joys of family life.

Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother;

be close to those who are struggling because they have no children;

be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love.

Let your love be present in every home, and help us all to share that love with others.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Week 3 (Lent 4) Passion Sunday

Most merciful God,

who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross

we may triumph in the power of his victory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen

Bible Reading - John 12 20-33

Verse 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

I am sure we can all relate to having a troubled soul, I remember with deep pain and anguish the times that my soul has been troubled. There are still moments all the time where I can be troubled. When I see the pain that others feel, when I see the ruins of war, people displaced from their families, children starving, the vast vacuum between the 'have's' and 'the have not's'. So yes, often my soul is troubled. Sometimes helplessly so, there isn't anything I can do or say to help. I wonder If I can change the world? I'm sure you have felt all these things before too, the heart wrenching clips on the tv, the anguish of another disaster in our world killing 100's, all those who search in hope for loved ones lost, the recent flooding in India caused by a glacier break in the Himalayan mountains comes very sharply to mind. So what have we done with

our troubled souls? Sometimes I would very much like to let it go, find a remote place and live off grid! But that is ignoring the problem rather than facing up to the challenge. Jesus asked and knew even in asking that the anguish was there for the reason he was there too, in order to be the saviour of all humanity. So why do we wry in anguish. For the same reason, we don't have the ability to be the saviour of humanity, although we could try to save as many as we can. Through aid agencies, through local support and help, through being a friend, on other end of the phone, which many have done over this past year. That is never going cure the troubled soul, but it will enable it to feel it is doing something to help. So let us read that verse again, and see if we can help in this hour, in this day, just someone, in some way that helps ease their pain.

Prayers Week 3

Dear Lord, strengthen those who are weak, comfort and help the anxious and be with those who are poorly. As we walk around our village help us to pray for all we meet, to pray for the people we can't see in the houses we pass.
'Be thou a bright flame before me,
be thou a guiding star above me
be thou a smooth path below me,
be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
today, tonight and forever.' (St. Columba)

Week 4 Palm Sunday

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory. Amen

Bible Reading - Mark 1 1-11

Verse 9b "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Well I have to say Palm Sunday is right up there as one of my favourite festivals, topped only by Easter and Christmas. The lighting of the Easter Candle from a fire, outside the church building has always been a great favourite of mine. Palm Sunday with a donkey (yes a real one in real life) is a wonderful things. When I was a curate (and yes I remember that far back) at my local school I went in to tell the story of Holy Week in a 30 minute one person show (I was so, so keen!). We started with the story of Palm Sunday and went through to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. (Doing my A Levels I did a one man show using the songs from Jesus Christ Superstar!) I had said

to the Head Teacher that I wanted to bring a donkey into school for the beginning of the story and was this ok, I got a yes, so all was set into motion. I turned up with the donkey to the Head's eyes almost popping out, 'I didn't realise you meant a real donkey'. You all I know that if I say I am bringing a donkey, a donkey I bring! So, this donkey came into the school and although after all these years those children, now very much adults, may not remember the story but will remember this ridiculous curate who came into school with a 'farting' donkey (yes it was very smelly in a small hall!). For me it was always giving children and adults a good experience of Christianity, the understanding that it can be fun as well as serious. On Palm Sunday, the crowds were singing praise as their saviour who would rescue them from the Romans. What Jesus came to do was rescue us from ourselves. To take to the cross our sin, our wrongdoings, even before we have done them. Our failures to help those in need, all these Jesus comes, riding on a donkey to save us from. Our selfishness and greed, our envy and sin. All these Jesus strides in to Jerusalem, with the crowds shouting 'Hosanna' not really realising how awesome a big deal it was. You and I come to this moment to shout 'Hosanna to the Jesus' (if you have never been charismatic before, now is the time!) for he saves us from ourselves.

Prayers for Week 4

'Teach us good Lord,
To serve thee as thou deservest;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to seek reward,
Save that of knowing
That we do thy will.' Amen (Ignatius Loyola)

God, the giver of life, give you hope,
Christ the Redeemer, give you peace,
the Holy Spirit who inspires all, give you joy. Amen



Christian Aid—Coronavirus Appeal

As more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their COVID vaccinations, we rejoice and are glad that our loved ones are protected. We give thanks for all the NHS staff and key workers who continue to save lives across the UK.

For the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These people already face a lack of water, food, and healthcare.

Some are homeless. Some are living with underlying health issues such as HIV.

Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support - but with your gift of thanks we can do more.

Have you or your loved ones had your vaccine?

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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 usually 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. During the Covid lockdowns more Information from 01829 740832 or 01829 740473

Tarvin Women's Institute

Tarvin WI are still unable to hold our regular monthly meetings but we are learning to navigate our way around the virtual world of Zoom and taking part in the various talks organised by the Cheshire Federation of WIs.

If you are interested and would like further details please contact Margaret Matthews telephone 01829 741081 - we would love to hear from you.

Tarvin Meeting Point.

A group of lively minded women who meet fortnightly in members homes to discuss a wide variety of topics, both serious and light-hearted. Keep your mind buzzing! For Further information during the current lockdowns contact Sue Hardacre on 01829 741962

Ash-worth Time bank

If you are either over 60, a carer, have recently suffered bereavement, are a single parent or maybe have been made redundant, you are welcome to attend our free therapy sessions which include For details Caroline or Sue on 01829 751398. www.ash-worthtime.org.uk or email ashworthtime@hotmail.co.uk

Woodland Notes — March

The woodland across the seasons.

As I write this, the winter monsoon seems to be over (at least temporarily!) and instead the sun is shining brightly and pretending to melt the last of the snow. There is a benefit to walkers in the woodland, in that the oceans of mud are now pretty well frozen solid and progress is much easier. The early snowdrops are making a display of white clumps that seem like stars twinkling amongst the dark earth and leaves lying beneath the almost bald and stick-like trees. In just over a fortnight, it will be March - which will usher in the spring in all its greenery. Season by season, pandemic or not, the woodland changes with the passage of the year - and in each season it will have new delights for us to admire. How fortunate we are in Tarvin to have the community's own woodland, which will be open for walkers every day and despite anything else that is happening. Soon the trees will be clothed in pale green leaves and the celandines and the wood anemones that follow the snowdrops will be adding extra enjoyment to our walks. Watching the woodland change through the seasons is fascinating. Why not include it amongst your regular walks, so that you, too, can enjoy it in all its richness?

Hazel Catkins.

Users of the woodland cannot fail to have passed hazel bushes or trees, even if they have not recognised them. In the original woodland, the bushes are all of a good age and so will have been coppiced (cut down close to ground level and allowed to re-grow) - often several times. However, in the Saxon Heath woodland, the bushes have yet to begin their first cycle of coppicing and re-growth and so they are of an age where they are producing catkins in abundance! The catkins begin to form in the late Autumn and, in January and early February. They are clearly evident as pale green "tassels" hanging from the branches and are the male flowers of the hazel. Once ripened, they become yellow and will produce tiny grains of pollen - the male cells. These are dispersed by the wind.

The female flowers are much less evident and, unlike the catkins (which hang there for all to see), they must be deliberately looked for. They are very small and are mostly concealed within the buds on the same branches that bear the catkins. A careful search will reveal the tiny, bright red styles sticking out at the top of a bud and it is on these sticky styles that the pollen may land if the wind has blown it in the right direction. Once the pollen has landed, this then begins to produce a seed (often referred to as the kernel), contained within a fruit, in the shape of the hard shell of the hazelnut.

In nature, the dispersal of hazelnuts is, of course, largely done by squirrels, who rely on the nuts as their source of food during the winter. During the autumn, the squirrels will hoard the nuts in hidden caches, often in a variety of places. The nuts in these caches are usually well-protected from other predators and, if left uneaten or forgotten by the squirrel, will grow into new hazel bushes. In previous years, the only hazels in our woodland that might produce nuts would be the ones which were far enough through their coppicing cycle to begin to produce flowers. This limited the quantity of nuts available - and the squirrels usually got there first! However, this year we have a large number of hazels flowering in the Saxon Heath section of the woodland and there is a fair possibility that there may be too many for the squirrels to "squirrel" all of them away - in which case, there may be some for us! And, in the meanwhile, enjoy the sight of the catkins waving in the breeze and realise that, like the snowdrops, they are showing us the certainty of spring - and giving us the promise of better times.

Daffodils in the woodland.

In the years between the completion of the A51 Tarvin bypass and the granting of a Gardening Licence to the Parish Council in 1997, the orphaned part-fields between the road and the houses were used by dog-walkers but were otherwise abandoned. The dog walkers and others opened up a pathway through the land and some generous souls then began to plant flowers, notably daffodils and crocuses, in the area adjacent to Townfield Lane.

In 1997, the Parish Council formed a sub-committee, under the chairmanship of Jim Grogan, to begin to develop a Community Woodland. The intention was to develop a natural woodland of native trees and plants and the decision was made that no more non-native or cultivated plants would be introduced. However, the daffodils and crocuses that had already been planted were allowed to remain - and they can still be spotted in springtime at the Townfield Lane end of the woodland. Roadside verges and areas bordering the woodland must have been planted by villagers, though, because those alongside the woodland on Hockenhull Lane and at Broomheath Lane boast a fine display of cultivated daffodils in the spring. These are growing on land belonging to the council (who seem not to mind) and, like those at Austins Hill, serve to brighten the village every spring.

The Trust recently made the decision to plant perennial wild flowers in the grass area adjacent to Fairfax Avenue (in the Saxon Heath area of the woodland). As a part of this, a large number of bulbs of Lent Lily (or Easter Lily), the British wild daffodil, were planted.

These were once common in the wild throughout British woodlands, but with the clearance of woodland and improvement of pasture, the numbers of these wild daffodils has dramatically reduced. They are short perennial plants (usually between 15cm and 30cm tall), which bloom in February and March. They have narrow, grey-green leaves and a familiar daffodil flower, but with pale yellow petals surrounding a darker yellow trumpet. This two-tone look is one of the easiest ways to tell them apart from their garden relatives. It is our hope that these truly wild daffodils will, in future, provide a fine display of our native Lent Lillies for us all to enjoy as they brighten up the Spring.

Our website.

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

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Safeguarding Officer	Treasurer Secretary (Currently Peter Ladd) Volunteers Welcome Pat Briscoe	732515
	Jenny Burkill-Howarth	740319
Women's Group	Rev Barbara King	
Grapevine	Paul Mercer tarvingrapevine@gmail.com	309306
Gift Aid	David Caddell	
Z Team (Churchyard)	John Plant	740057

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

TALES FROM THE GRAVEYARD FEBRUARY 2021



After a recent inspection of St. Andrew's by the Church Architect, the focus of attention during February has been the repair of the rainwater drainage around the church. Several of the downspouts had become blocked and a few had actually become loose from their fittings on the wall.



The blockages were easily rectified, along with the outlet gullies that had silted up over a period of time. However, refitting the downspouts to the church wall took a fair bit more effort, even to the extent to manufacturing new brackets in both wood and steel. This did require a fair bit of ingenuity from the team. The problem was that the brickwork and mortar had crumbled in the very places where the downspout brackets were to be fixed. The top two pictures show Mark Wyatt & John Waring measuring up for the new steel bracket which then had to be bent to suit the pipe diameter and the location site. The lower pictures show John Sim & Tony Bland working on the South Porch rainwater system.



Once these downspouts and gutters were fixed, all were cleaned up, and, given a good spell of weather, will be coated with appropriate paint, sourced by Bill Turner. Thanks to all for their efforts in this maintenance work.

