

TARVIN &  
DUDDON



St. Peter's &  
Andrew's



GRAPEVINE September 2025 £1

## The Vicar writes...

### The Joy of Harvest: Traditions Old and New

Harvest time has long been one of the most cherished seasons in the church year—a moment to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the abundance we so often take for granted. While the golden fields and tumbling apples may stir memories of country lanes and village life, the traditions we share at Harvest are as vibrant and meaningful today as they were for our ancestors.

From decorating the church with sheaves of wheat, colourful gourds, and baskets laden with fruit, to the joyful singing of “We Plough the Fields and Scatter,” the Harvest Festival is a tapestry woven from gratitude and community spirit. For many, the highlight is the gathering of gifts for those in need—a practical expression of thankfulness that reaches beyond our church walls.

Each jar and tin collected during our services carries with it a prayer: for daily bread, for shelter, for hope. In years gone by, villagers would bring the first and best of their crops to the altar, trusting that sharing would bring blessing to all. Today, we honour that spirit by supporting our local food bank, ensuring our Harvest generosity continues to make a meaningful difference.

The harvest of ourselves is not such a talked about celebration of this season. Maybe we are nervous unable to envisage what we can offer. We can lack confidence in this area, but however we feel maybe the fact that even 'wonky' veg has a place in society so can we. We all have something we can give within the church community. This starts and is centred around the prayer for others. Whatever our mobility, prayer is something that is open to nearly all of us. The gift of prayer is a sacrificial giving of time with God. This glides through the giving of ourselves to that of cleaning the church, helping with worship, looking after the churchyard and much more. The commodity involved in all of the ways we can harvest ourselves, is time. The gift of time given to us is given back to God. If you can imagine though that in days gone by it was 10% of the harvest given to God than this would be the equivalent of 144 minutes or 2 hours and 24 minutes a day of time. Maybe we can manage half of that (I'll let you do the math).

This year, as we gather for our Harvest celebrations, may we do so with hearts full of gratitude, hands ready to serve, and voices

lifted in praise for every good gift that comes from above. Giving the gift of our time.

Adam

## Diary notes

On 28th September at 10.45am it is the Celebration of Rev. Canon Donald Marr's 60th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. Come and celebrate with Donald at this very special service.

## Weekly Services

### **Sunday 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

#### **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**

7pm Bellringing

#### **Friday**

6.30pm Choir Practice (St Andrews)

## Diary for September

- 1<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm Welcome Service for New Methodist Minister (TMC)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 10am Craft Group (SA)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)  
10am -11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)  
7pm St Andrews Women's Group (PR)
- 4<sup>th</sup> 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)  
6pm Choir Practice (SA)  
7pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 7<sup>th</sup> **8am Holy Communion (SA)**  
**9.30am Family Communion (SP)**  
**10.45am Morning Prayer (SA)**
- 8<sup>th</sup> 9am Ministry Team Meeting (PR)  
11am Toddlers (PR)  
12.30pm Singles Lunch (PR)  
3.30pm Lego church (SP)
- 10<sup>th</sup> 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)  
10am -11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)
- 11<sup>th</sup> 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)  
6pm Choir Practice (SA)  
7pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 14<sup>th</sup> **8am Holy Communion (SA)**  
**9.15am Messy Church (SA)**  
**9.30am Harvest Worship (SP)**  
**10.45am Harvest Communion (SA)**
- 15<sup>th</sup> 9am Ministry Team Meeting (PR)  
11am Toddlers (PR)  
12.30pm Singles Lunch (PR)  
12.30pm Deanery Chapter (Doddleston)

- 3.30pm Lego church (SP)  
 7.30pm PCC meeting (PR)
- 16<sup>th</sup> 4.30pm *Governors Meeting*
- 17<sup>th</sup> 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)  
 10am -11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)
- 18<sup>th</sup> 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)  
 6pm Choir Practice (SA)  
 7pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 21<sup>st</sup> **8am Holy Communion (SA)**  
**9.30am Family Communion (SP)**  
**10.45am Family Communion (SA)**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 11am Toddlers (PR)  
 12.30pm Singles Lunch (PR)  
 3.30pm Lego church (SP)
- 24<sup>th</sup> 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)  
 10am -11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)
- 25<sup>th</sup> 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)  
 6pm Choir Practice (SA)  
 7pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 28<sup>th</sup> **10.45am Celebration of Donalds 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Priesting**  
**4pm Confirmation Service (SA)**
- 29<sup>th</sup> 11am Toddlers (PR)  
 12.30pm Singles Lunch (PR)  
 3.30pm Lego church (SP)

## **October**

- 1<sup>st</sup> 9.15am Morning Prayer (SA)  
 10am -11.30am Coffee Morning (SA)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.10am Collective Worship (SP)  
 6pm Choir Practice (SA)  
 7pm Bell Ringing Practice (SA)
- 4<sup>th</sup> **11am - 2pm Church Open Day (SA)**

## Pilgrimages

We're back on the Alphabet this month with the letter G. The photograph shows the church of my youth; St. George's Scottish Presbyterian Church, 77 Moston Lane, Moston, Manchester. I spent the first 10 years of my life here; often going three times a week:- Sunday morning service, then afternoon Sunday School, and then the Life Boys plus the Boys Brigade when I got older. If you add in Whit Walk processions, both locally and in the centre of Manchester, and it's the longest Pilgrimage walk I've ever made. Although we only lived half a mile from where we lived, when you add up all the return journeys, and it comes to over 1,500 miles.

That's halfway from Tarvin to Jerusalem!!

But first, a quick codicil from last month. My maternal grandfather George brought his wife Mary and three young babies down to Manchester from Aberdeen. Soon, two more girls were born, making seven people in a two bedroom, terraced house. (Not uncommon then). With remarkable foresight, they moved to Brodick St, with Arran and Bute Street at each end. Three Scottish islands and, with a Presbyterian church nearby. Was it luck or forward planning? I guess I'll never know. But sadly, Grandma Mary didn't like Moston or Manchester, or for that matter, England. She mainly spoke the Doric dialect of the Scots language by way of protest and rarely ventured into English.

Back to St George's. I regret to say that I've only got sketchy memories of the interior. Although it was a large church, everything seemed brown and dull with minimal lighting. I have no photos of the interior, nor can I find any on the Internet. If you find any, please contact me. I do remember the two large halls, a kitchen, and side rooms that were at the back of the church. Here we youngsters would have bible class every Sunday morning, having been politely asked to leave the service.....but with strict instructions to return before the last hymn. These rooms also served as our Sunday School, whist drives, beetle drives, dance classes, and dance evenings to a scratchy gramophone hand wound

by a very fierce man called Mr. Charles Price.....you crossed him at your peril. They also were utilised by the uniformed organisations where I learned Semaphore, Morse Code, keep fit, first aid, and outdoors camping. (We spent a week in Largs in Scotland, which pleased my Gran immensely). These halls had a stage where concerts were regularly held, with parishioners forming the cast. Nothing to report here, I never got beyond the chorus.....and was mainly just a stagehand. And there was band practise - we had a fine pipes and drum corps.

So, that's my longest Pilgrimage of all, within that Calvinistic background; being told that mankind was depraved (but could be saved by faith in Jesus), and that there would be a Second Coming soon. There were no Vicars or Rectors as such, just a group of elders (called Presbyters) that governed each church. It was all very strict and somewhat confusing to my younger self.

But, like all of us, I learned some very valuable life lessons that have sustained me to this day.

Donald Bailey



## Notices

**TODDLER GROUP** meet on Mondays (term time only). 11am - 12pm in the parish room next to St Andrews Church. This is open to anyone caring for children.

**SINGLES LUNCH - for those who eat on their own.** We have lunch, and a domino game and conversation. This will be 12.30pm - 2pm on Monday's in the parish room. If anyone would like to know more, or express an interest in coming, please contact Adam on 01829740354, if you would like to come and need a lift, please contact Adam on the same number.

**CRAFT GROUP** meets on the first Tuesday of each month ( except August ), from 10am till 12 midday in St,Andrew's. So far we have played with clay , made a quite tricky card and tried some Christmas ink stamping. You can join in with the activity provided or sit and knit and crochet with June or bring your own ideas along, or just come along for a chat, though it does get very quiet at times when people are concentrating! If you are able to give a small donation towards the cost of the materials, great, but it is not essential! Just come! Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

**COFFEE MORNINGS** at St Andrews Church every Wednesday morning 10.00 to 11.30

**LEGO CHURCH** meets every Monday in School Term time at St Peters Church, Duddon after school at 3.30 and is open to all Primary age children.

**CONFIRMATION SERVICE** We welcome Bishop Julie on the 28<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm for a confirmation service. Anyone who would like to be confirmed at this service, please get in touch with Adam the Vicar. There will be some classes beforehand explaining what it means to be confirmed in the Christian Faith, and the public declarations of belief that you will make within the service.



## Uganda link

We are back off to Uganda in October, I will be asking for some things shortly when we have a list. One thing we would like to take is Duplo. If you have some you can donate please let me know. Also if anyone wants to give me some money to take out to use whilst there then please have a chat to me. So far, I will be taking £300 donated from the Church Coffee Mornings and £2000 from the Rum and Gin Festival. The latter is shared between the 10 Schools within the project.

Anyone who sponsors and child, I will in in touch with you soon asking for some photos of you and your family and a letter I can take and share. If you want to send any gifts, then this will be okay but needs to by only a couple of Kg's.

Adam



## St Andrew's Coffee mornings

The 4th Birthday celebration. Words by Barbara

To you all: cup cuddlers, mug huggers, beverage imbibers...

To you all who munch muffins, taste teacakes, scoff scones; like comforting cakes, piquant pastries and memorable morsels...

To you all who care, share and listen, who chatter, natter and laugh...

To the new friends who have come ... and stayed; to the old friends who have left to drink ambrosia with the angels.

From us, we who serve: your welcomers, seat finders, organisers, facilitators, assistors; your brew masters, confectioners, bakers, toasters, butter and jam spreaders; your endless washer uppers, driers, polishers and putters away...

THANK YOU

Thank you to those who put out the tables and chairs and then tidy them away, who fold the cloths and gather the cups. Thank you to those who tentatively ask, "Can I do anything?" And are immediately given a tea towel. Thank you for coming each week, for your generous support of our charity events. Thank you for sharing birthdays and celebrations with us. Thank you for your care of us as we care for you and all that spurs us on, through the grace of God to be here each week ...last week...next week ... and on!

We will continue!

Life is like a cake with love as the icing on the top. Without love it becomes difficult to swallow.

So please raise your mugs - Happy 4th Birthday!







## What's What and Who's Who....

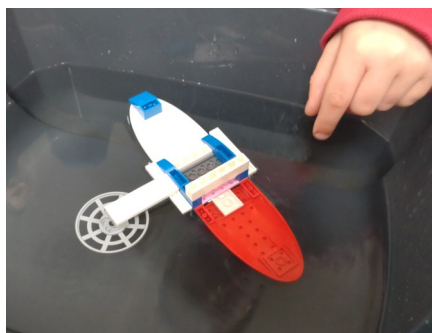
**LEGO CHURCH** meets every Monday at 3.30pm at St Peters Duddon, during term time.

We have LOTS of Lego and great fun building all sorts of things. We usually start with a short story from the Bible.....after we have had something to drink and BISCUITS.

Then we set to and build something from the story. I had the privilege of leading the last meeting of the Summer Term and told the story of some of the disciples fishing all night but catching nothing until a stranger (Jesus) told them to try again from the other side of the boat.

Someone then had the bright idea of testing our Lego models in a big bowl of water ( alright....it was me! ) We soon discovered whose models floated, whose sank and whose capsized under the uneven weight of fish all on one side.

There was also some discussion as to who really had fish for breakfast like the people in the story. Most agreed that fish and chips, or fishfingers are not breakfast ingredients.



I would like to make this page a regular monthly feature, so...

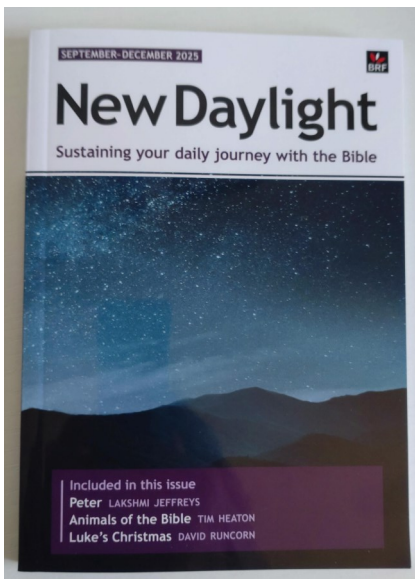
Bell ringers, Flower arrangers, Cleaners, Worship leaders, Cake bakers, Coffee servers, one and all, please send in your comments along with a photo.

## Something to read?

**New Daylight** *Sustaining your daily journey with the Bible*

The next issue of New Daylight, covering September to December is on the shelf at the back of St Andrews Church. Please take one. If there are none left and you would like to order a copy please let me know.

Vivienne Mercer



## @ Grapevine

You can now subscribe to our monthly Grapevine magazine in two ways.

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Copy deadline for the August edition is **Saturday 20th Sept.**

# PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER 2025



*Harvest*

Loving God,



Thank you for the many ways in which you provide for us: food, family, friendship, housing, health, happiness, and ways to use our time and talents. We pray for people in our community and beyond who are facing unemployment, ill-health, isolation or money worries at this time, and especially for those who are unable to afford enough to eat. We pray for practical provision and real hope.

*God of compassion, May your kingdom come.*

Thank you that you call us to play our part, working with you and with others to bring about change. We pray for political decision-makers and leaders: Give them courage and insight to develop policies and systems that support the flourishing of all, so that even in challenging times, no-one goes hungry and everyone has dignity.

*God of justice, May your kingdom come.*

Thank you for those who are serving and caring for others, in churches, in charities, and public services. We pray that you would give them strength, rest and perseverance. As their volunteers work to support others in crisis, we pray for our local Food Bank at harvest time, that they would receive sufficient food donations to be able to respond to every person who needs their support.

*God of love, May your kingdom come.*

*Amen*



Harvest is an important time for food banks, with many churches and schools choosing to donate non-perishable food as a way of supporting people who are in need, whilst also celebrating God's provision. St. Andrew's is always open on Wednesdays 10am till 11:30am as well as Sunday mornings and we welcome any donations of non-perishable food for the Foodbank. **THIS YEAR THE FOODBANK HAS PROVIDED FOOD FOR MORE LOCAL FAMILIES THAN EVER BEFORE. PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IF YOU CAN.** Thank you.

## Church Fundraising

This year, William's Wood chose St Andrew's and St Peter's Churches as beneficiaries for their charitable output. What this means is that for every member of the congregation who avails themselves of William's Wood products or services, ranging from firewood, bean poles through to attendance at events or activities like apple pressing or family school holiday activities, a percentage will be given to the Churches on April 5th 2026 and we can claim gift aid too.

Firewood is sold, certified as Ready to Burn under Certificate WS4344, in single nets or multiples. The current log net price is £5.25 inc VAT at 5% and we are given 50p per net. **Collect your wood from William's Wood or for orders 8 nets or more, in multiples of 8, delivery to the villages of Tarvin and Duddon are inclusive.** 40 nets is a tight stacked cubic metre.

They don't deliver tipped bulk loads because nobody really looks forward to receiving and dealing with a pile of logs on the driveway, and the drivers will stack the nets wherever you want as long as it is easily accessible from the road with a sack truck.

Even if you don't burn firewood yourself but know someone who does, as long as they mention the Churches at purchase, the donation will be made.

Contact William's Wood on 01829 830325 or look at [www.williamswood.co.uk](http://www.williamswood.co.uk) to make an order.

Please join the members of the congregation who already purchase from William's Wood.



**Easy Fundraising** is an add on to shopping online, many retailers allow you to buy the products you usually do and with NO extra cost to you, make a donation your

chosen charity. If you would consider Tarvin Church as a charity you can donate to in this way, please use this link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tarvinparishchurch/>. You should be able to set up an 'add on' to your web browser and this will automatically prompt you when you are on a website that uses this way to donate to charity.

## Barbara's bit

### Angels

Not because its nearly Christmas - and angels are not just for Christmas - but because the end of September, 29<sup>th</sup> to be precise the church celebrates St Michael and All angels. The nearest Sunday is the 28<sup>th</sup> so it will be a great celebration that day alongside Canon Donald Marr's 60 years of priesthood.

Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and Uriel are the four named biblical angels depicted as the beloved messengers of God. Michael, which means 'who is like God', is described as the protector of Israel and leader of the armies of God. He is best known for defeating the angel Lucifer. Lucifer, out of pride and desire, wanted to equal God. So he gathered his supporters and dragons and launched a huge battle against Michael, which of course, Michael, representing God's will and order, won. Lucifer, embodying chaos and rebellion, was thrown out of heaven and became Satan. He apparently landed in a thorny blackberry bush, whereupon he spat on it and cursed the fruit, so its best to eat blackberries before the end of September!

Gabriel, which means 'the strength of God' was sent by God to tell Mary she was going to have a very important baby; Raphael which means 'the healing of God' is depicted in the Book of Tobit as the one who restored Tobit's sight; Uriel, 'the light of God' appears in a vision to Ezra.

There is an order in angels. They form 3 groups: those closest to God, Seraphim and Cherubim busy in worship of God and Ophanim or Thrones who are God's chariot; Governance which has Dominions, the sort of middle management angels, with Virtues who bestow blessings and Powers who maintain the order between heaven and earth; Messengers which has Principalities who look after cities and towns, Archangels which are the greater angels and Angels, who are closest to earth, the sons of life.



There is no scriptural proof about Guardian Angels. Matthew 18. 10, Jesus says, "See that you do not look down on these little ones. For I tell you their angels in heaven see the face of my Father in heaven." Little ones can mean children or any believers; 'their' is a collective noun in Greek so all believers are served by angels in general who watch the face of God to hear his commands on any help needed. God uses angels as he uses us and works all things for good.

You may remember this from childhood nursery rhymes and bedtime songs:

'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John,  
Bless the bed that I lie on.  
Four corners to my bed,  
Four angels round my head;  
One to watch and one to pray  
And two to bear my soul away.'

Or this version:

'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John,  
Bless the bed that I lie on  
and blessed guardian angel keep  
me safe from danger as I sleep.'

Lots of angels, may they guide and keep you and "do not forget to entertain strangers for by doing so some people have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13.2)

And the angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest!'

Have a good September!

Barbara



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Curate	Revd Barbara King 01244 300756	
Readers	Mary Burgess 740716 Jo Richards 741474	Colin Haworth 07584 419348
Pastoral Worker	June Willis 07950 121078 01829 749382	
Parish Wardens	David Ferguson, 39 Deansway, Tarvin 741192 Paul Mercer, 4 Fairfax Ave, Tarvin 309306	
Director of Music	John Williams	07702
St Andrew's Verger	Sandra Turner	305709
Bell Tower Captain	Fiona Panton	749310
		07855
PCC	Treasurer Gary Feldman	
	Secretary Jane Holmes	740564
Safeguarding	Mary Morgan	740450
Women's Group	Rev Barbara King	01244 300756
Grapevine	Paul Mercer tarvingrapevine@gmail.com	309306
Gift Aid	David Caddell	740554
Z Team	Mark Wyatt	740909
(Tarvin Churchyard)	Ron Fuller	740559

Tarvin Parish, St Andrew's and St Peter's takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at [www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding](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 2025

### CHALLENGE — HEDGES

As written last month, one of the annual challenges in the graveyard is to cut the 200+ metres of hedge that encloses three quarters of the graveyard. Depending on the weather, it normally takes two of the team four to five Wednesday afternoons to complete the task. The main 90m run along the footpath can be seen on the two photos on the left,

with the middle right photo showing a "before" picture to illustrate the extent of the work to be undertaken. Below is that same section after cutting. The bottom picture shows the back hedge in the "old" section after cutting.



As the team now have two battery powered hedge cutters, the operation is not only quieter, but less polluting than with the two-stroke petrol cutters previously used.

Apart from the actual hedge cutting itself, the removal of the cuttings is quite a manual task. These are taken to an area in the graveyard where they are either burnt or shredded depending on both the weather and the wind direction. This summer has given the team a series of dry and hot Wednesdays, so progress has been good to stay on top of multiple task needed to keep the area neat and tidy.



## “Autobahnkirchen” in Germany

A few years ago, on our way to spend our holidays in Austria, we pulled off one of the German motorways at a service area to take a break and to exercise the dogs. We found the usual facilities, places for children to play, a short dog walk through the trees etc but to our surprise, we found that there was a church in a beautifully kept area, part of the service area and just metres from the motorway. After a little research, we found that since 1958, over 40 of these churches have sprung up at service stations all over Germany! [Together with a few in Austria and Switzerland].

As early as the Middle Ages, hikers, pilgrims and travellers had wayside chapels and crosses along the way. They served as places of prayer, of protection, and reflection, and they reminded people to remember God again and again, even when travelling.

The motorway churches [Autobahnkirchen] in Germany are doing the same today. They invite you to come to rest, relax, reflect and pray. They are an antidote to life in the fast lane, where you can find God and yourself. They are at the same time visible signs of the presence of God in our world and of the church's presence in the midst of life.

Some of these churches are Catholic, some Protestant, others led by ecumenical teams but they welcome travellers of all faiths or none. They are reliably open all year round between 8am and 8pm and are designed to be large enough to accommodate a bus tour!

Hundreds of thousands of people visit a motorway church every year. Above all, they appreciate the peace and quietness and anonymity. Most worshippers are aged 50+, already members of congregations and the average length of stay is around 15 mins. There are many “repeat visits”. Many of them use the “Intention Book” to record their thoughts, many light a candle and make a donation.



*“Licht auf  
dem Weg”*



*“Light for the way” an inscription on  
the door of a church we visited.*

Sue

