

# Tarleton & Rufford



# Parish Magazine

JUNE / JULY 2026  
ISSUE



Parishes of  
Rufford & Tarleton

# DW

## DAVID WILKINSON

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Deadline for next  
magazine is:

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July  
2026, 1pm.



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EDITOR@RSMTHT.CHURCH

# from the Rector

I am writing this piece as we prepare for our Annual Meetings. While writing the reports can some times seem like just another piece of desk work to do, I try and turn it in to a time of prayer of thanksgiving to God for the many blessings he has bestowed on us as a Benefice - and in this Centenary year as a Diocesan. It good to be able to report a 4% increase in attendance at both diocesan and parish level. Our step out in faith to appoint a full time youth worker has proved invaluable. Hattie is seen as an exemplar of contact with young people. With her we are doing so in different ways than we have done in the past, because we are in different times, because of this it may not be that obvious what wonderful working is going on.

The other thing that strikes me as I prepare these reports, is the sheer number of hours parishioners put in to support and uphold the work of our church in Rufford and Tarleton. Much of this is unseen. Mike Huddart's work with streaming resulted in us having nearly 600 people join us on-line for our Maundy Thursday service, 500 on Good Friday and a combined 700 for our Easter Services. We dont really know how many read this Magazine, as it is widely distributed and available on-line, but I am as always indebted to our Editor, Colin Hill for his work in preparing it.

At the APCM two stalwarts of the parish relinquished their offices after great service to the church - thankfully they are still going to be around to do some tasks and give advice. Les Abernethy stood down as Lay Chair of Tarleton

PCC and Alex Garden as Secretary of Rufford PCC - my heartfelt thanks to you both.

By the time you read this we shall be in Ordinary time, the great Feasts will be behind us, thanks to you all who contributed so much to our liturgy and worship so far this year.

As the Psalmist writes: "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!"

Scripture reminds us again and again to be thankful, so please join me in thanking God for our many blessings. Giving thanks reminds us of how much we do have. As human beings we are prone to covetousness. We tend to focus on what we don't have, but by giving thanks continually we are reminded of how much we do have.

Blessings,  
Mark



Fr. Joe at Avila

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## CHANGING THE GUARD

At the PCC meetings following our Annual Meetings, Tarleton PCC elected Andrew Mills as Lay Chair and the Rufford PCC elected Dan Sephton as Secretary.



## HARVEST ASSAULT

As the Diocese marks its 100th Anniversary Bishop Philip has challenged 100 clergy to join him on an assault course as part of fundraising for his Harvest Appeal for South Sudan. Fr Joe has accepted the challenge to do the Assault Course on October 3rd.

## TREASURE HUNT

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up” Matthew 13:44  
Whilst not “covered up” visitors to St. Marys, Rufford, on Saturday 9th May, searched for the treasure that is hidden in the fabric of the building. Clues, cleverly crafted by our PCC historian, Geoff Lyon, allowed the treasure hunters to meaningfully explore the church and reap the rewards of their efforts.  
Participants ranged from 10 years of age to those of pensionable age. There were locals and those from farther afield and all enjoyed the search for answers because in the quietness of St. Mary’s all things are answered

On a lovely sunny morning the St Mary's Rufford Walking group set off to walk in the picturesque village of Rufford. The walk is one of the events to celebrate the Centenary year for the Blackburn Diocese. The walk took in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the Mere Sands Woods Nature Reserve, finishing at St Mary's church for refreshments and delicious cakes. Our heartfelt thanks go to Irene and Alan Molyneux for organising this very enjoyable event.



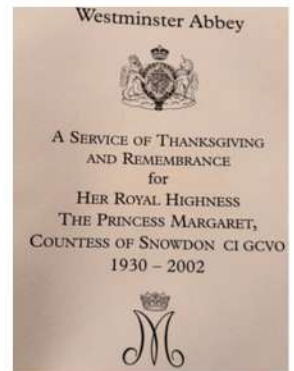
# NEWS IN BRIEF



Fr Mark thanked local author Suzanne Snow following her talk about her writing to parishioners over soup and cake. An enjoyable and fascinating time was had by all at this event in late April.

## RECTOR OPENS UP HIS PERSONAL ARCHIVE

In celebration of his 30 years of Ordained Ministry this Summer, Fr Mark is to display a sample of items from his personal archive. Join him at Holy Trinity Church, Tarleton on **Saturday, July 11th 10am - 1pm**. Refreshments available. Although there is no charge for this event there will be an opportunity to make a donation to the Youth work in the Benefice.



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**Fr Mark recently visited two of the Nazi Concentration Camps in Poland, he reflects on his visit.**

With over a Million Jews killed at Auschwitz we often rightly focus on them, but the Camps first prisoners were over a 100 local Academics from Krakow. The Nazis wanted to undermine the Polish nation so it went for a policy of decapitation - removing the leaders and academics. Many of these Academics were released after a time, following objections from the international community. Why were similar representations not made strongly enough to have a same result for other prisoners. Was it because the Jews, The Romas and Gays were not like us?

Also imprisoned were over 460 Priests and Seminarians, among them was the Franciscan Fr Maximilian Kobe. Along with most of the other Priests in the camp Fr Kobe underwent many beatings and humiliations for his faith.

Following the successful escape of a prisoner in July 1941 the Camp Commandant picked 10 men to die in an under ground bunker. One of the 10 Franciszek Gajowniczek cried out: "My wife! My children!". In response Fr Kobe offered to take his place. An assistant janitor later testified that Kolbe led the prisoners in prayer from his prison cell. Each time the guards checked on him, he was standing or kneeling in the middle of the cell, calmly looking at those who entered.

After the group had been starved and deprived of water for two weeks, only Kolbe and three others remained alive. Keen to bring the episode to an end the four were injected with a lethal drug. He died on August 14th, and was Cremated a Day later on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - do whom he had a great devotion. Gajowniczek survived the war and died aged 94 yrs. Pope John Paul II (who had Been Archbishop of Krakow) declared him a Saint on October 10th 1982. He is one of the 10 Twentieth Century Martyrs commemorated on the West End of Westminster Abbey.

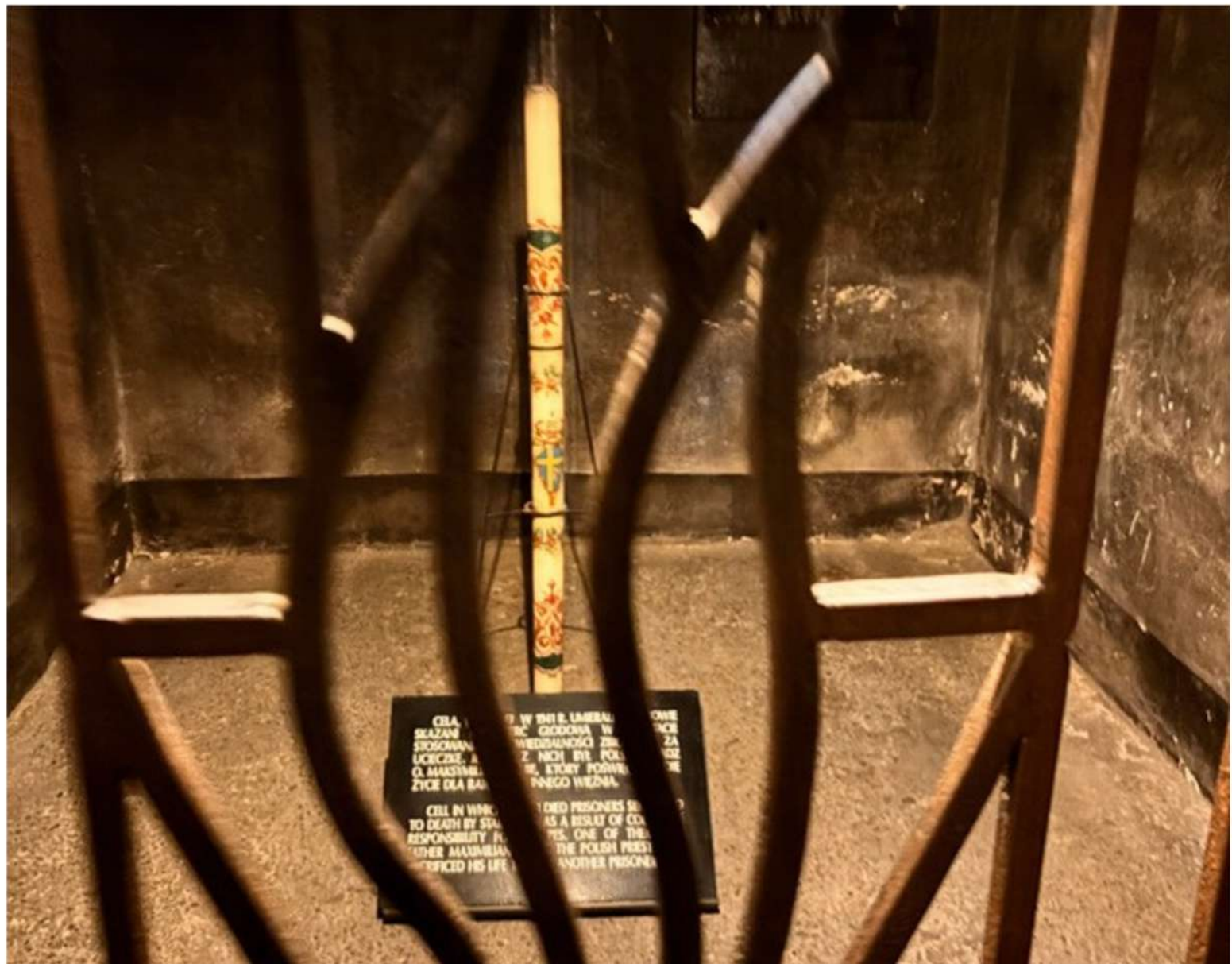
After the War many of those interned in the camp spoke warmly of the saint. It was said he not only fulfilled his priestly duty but offered advice and emphasised the importance of upholding moral values even under extreme conditions.

It would be hard for them, but he told his fellow prisoners to help each other, saying " people should fight for existence and life not at the cost of their neighbour, but with their aid".

In the darkness of the place the bright light of kindness and hope seemed to shine brighter. Ex Prisoners tell many stories about the kind gestures of local villagers, from smuggling in Bibles and Communion Chalice to providing extra food. An SS officer who surreptitiously showed his rosary to a Christian prisoner to let him know his secret was safe. It is nothing short of amazing that in the depths of this place the Christian prisoners managed to celebrate Christmas, often with Carols singing and a Mass. The Jewish prisoners also marked their great feasts.

Another thing which left an impression on me was the sacrifices they would make to fulfil their religious devotions: where water was very scarce keeping some for Baptisms and making rosaries out of the very scarce bread available, for example. How we take our free expression of faith for granted too often.

In a world where genocide still happens, it is good to be reminded what depths humanity can sink too, and how we should never stay silent when we start to see these things happen. As members of the body of Christ it is the duty of all Christians to be those who "call it out".



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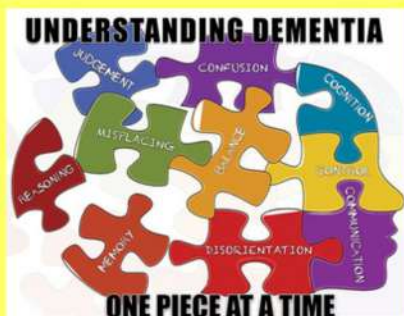
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Thursday 2pm till 4pm

If we can help you or you can help us by becoming a volunteer, please contact us on [Heskethbankandtarletonhelpers@gmail.com](mailto:Heskethbankandtarletonhelpers@gmail.com)

## Hesketh Bank & Tarleton Helpers



## Community café

Every Friday, volunteers from Hesketh bank and Tarleton helpers deliver a community café at Hesketh bank community centre. No need to book



We offer a three-course home-cooked lunch for a donation of what you can afford.

The event is open to everyone, and most visitors are happy to donate £5 for a very pleasant dining experience in a welcoming atmosphere.

**Memories R Made Choir for people living with memory loss & those who support them. No need to book**



Sutton Grange Care Home, Banks

🕒 Wednesdays, 11:00–12:00pm

📍 Alsley Lodge Care Home, Rufford

🕒 Wednesdays, 2:30–3:30pm

## Calling for volunteer befrienders

A free service that aims to help older people who live locally and feel lonely or socially isolated. Our friendly befriender volunteers visit befriended clients regularly in their own homes or, if preferred, out in the community for a minimum of one hour a week.



# LYRICS AND LAUGHTER



We held our first Lyrics and Laughter session at Rufford St Mary's on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. We had a fabulous time singing together and we are looking forward to our next session. Please do come and join us. The sessions are open to all people, and are particularly helpful for people living with dementia and their carers.



## Weekly Rector Update E-mails

Please note that we have switched our e-mail updates from the Rector to a new platform. We attempted to move the current mailing list over, but if you have not received an update e-mail from the rector recently, please scan this QR code with your Smartphone, and follow the link to add your e-mail details, if you wish to be added to our mailing list.

Alternatively, please visit the following link:  
<https://ruffordtarletonparish.churchsuite.com/-/groups/3o9yzhvk>



# Lyrics and Laughter

## at Rufford St Mary's Church



Held at Rufford St Mary's Church, Church Road, Rufford L40 1TA

Thursday 4th June 2026  
Thursday 2nd July 2026  
Thursday 6th August 2026  
Thursday 3rd September 2026

from 2.00pm to 3.30pm

Come and join us once a month for singing, fun, friendship and memories. Each session will begin with tea/coffee and biscuits, followed by a time of singing favourite songs from the past. We will conclude with two hymns and a thought for the day.

The session is open to all people including people with dementia and their carers to come and enjoy time together.

The session is free of charge.

For further details please contact  
Helen Hindle (Anna Chaplain) 01772 815738  
[hmhindle@googlemail.com](mailto:hmhindle@googlemail.com)

Lyrics and Laughter is part of  
**Lyrics and Lunch Network**  
[www.lyricsandlunch.org](http://www.lyricsandlunch.org)



# SERVICES & DIARY DATES

## HOLY DAYS

June 4th Corpus Christi: Mass, Procession & Benediction, Tarleton at 7pm (NO service at Rufford)

June 11th Barnabas the Apostle, Rufford at 7pm

June 24th Birth of John the Baptist, Tarleton at 10am

June 29th Ss Peter & Paul, (Fr Mark's 30th Anniversary of Ordination) Tarleton at 7pm

July 22nd, Mary Magdalene, Tarleton at 10am

## SUNDAYS

9.15 Rufford weekly 10.45am Tarleton weekly

8am Tarleton June 7 & 21, July 5 & 19

Rufford June 14 & 28, July 12 & 26

TARLETON WALKING DAY - Saturday, June 13th

TARLETON ROSE QUEEN - Saturday, June 27th

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## HEALING & WHOLENESS

There will be services at 2.30pm in Tarleton on May 28th, June 25th & July 30th

Bishop Phillip will confirm at Rufford on **Sunday, September 27th**.

If you or your child are interested in getting Confirmed please let the Clergy know asap.

All children to be Confirmed must attend a full day on Saturday, September 19th: this is a day of prep and fun.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF BLACKBURN DIOCESE

All for Jesus

Heavenly Father,  
in our Centenary year  
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Send the Holy Spirit to give us  
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generosity in our service,  
and love for our neighbours,  
that your Church may be renewed  
and many come home to you,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

# PALM SUNDAY



# MAUNDY THURSDAY



# GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS



# GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY



# PASCHAL VIGIL



# EASTER EXPLORERS BRING THE



# EASTER STORY TO LIFE

This Easter, our church hall was filled with laughter, creativity and excitement as seventeen children joined us for our Easter Explorers Holiday Bible Club. Over the course of the programme, children explored the Easter story in a fun, engaging and hands on way, enjoying a wide range of activities designed to help bring the message of Easter to life.

Each session included Bible storytelling, games, crafts, singing and group activities, giving children the opportunity not only to learn more about the Easter story, but also to build friendships and grow in confidence. From energetic team games to quieter creative moments, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Among the highlights were the colourful Hapa Zome crosses, Easter egg hunts and the ever-popular donkey racing, which quickly became a favourite with the children. The enthusiasm and energy throughout the week were wonderful to see, with children joining in wholeheartedly and supporting one another along the way.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the club was welcoming children from a wide range of backgrounds, including many families with little previous connection to church activities. It was a joy to share the Easter message in such an open and welcoming environment and to see children engaging so thoughtfully with the stories and themes.

Parents also expressed their appreciation for the safe, supportive atmosphere provided during the school holidays, as well as the care and encouragement shown by the volunteer team. We are extremely grateful to everyone who helped make the club possible, from those who prepared activities and refreshments to those who supported behind the scenes.

We have included a selection of photographs in this edition of the magazine, which capture some of the creativity, fun and fellowship shared during Easter Explorers. Thank you to all who supported and encouraged this ministry, it was a wonderful week and a real blessing to everyone involved. HATTIE

## MOTHERS' UNION

In April, we enjoyed a delightful meeting featuring Lynn Birchall as she shared her travels. More recently, we celebrated 150 years of Mother's Union with a delightful Afternoon Tea, followed by a sing-along that brought joy to everyone. We also welcomed a new member, Ann Bryan. Welcome, Ann!

### Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, June 10th at 2:00 PM

Brian Topping will give a talk on the Customs Office. Additionally, we will discuss Mother's Union literature with Maron Whitehouse.

Wednesday, July 8th at 2:00 PM

Members and friends are invited to enjoy an evening meal together.



# SCHOOLS



Hello everyone,

I'm delighted to be able to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Tarleton Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School. Having already spent some time in school, it didn't take long to realise that this is a community with something special about it. There's a real sense of warmth, pride and care - along with plenty of energy from the children, which I'm sure will keep me on my toes!

I feel very grateful to be joining Tarleton Holy Trinity at this stage in my journey, having previously been Headteacher at New Longton All Saints' for nine years, where I know firsthand how crucial and beneficial a positive and deeply meaningful relationship between parish and school enables our pupils to flourish. Those experiences have only strengthened my belief in the importance of strong, connected communities, where children are supported to grow and flourish and I am excited to meet you all over the coming months.

What stood out most to me here was how naturally the school's Christian values are lived out day to day. They aren't just words on a wall but can be seen in the way children treat one another, the way staff support each other, and the way the school connects with its wider community.

The school's vision, taken from Philippians, 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," speaks not only to aspiration, but to the belief that we are stronger together, supported by faith and by one another.

I'm really looking forward to becoming part of parish life, building on the existing strong links between school and church, and working together to support our children as they grow, learn and flourish. Thank you for the kindness and welcome I've already received. I'm excited for what lies ahead and look forward to meeting many of you soon.

With best wishes, Mr Jim Maloney

As aside, Bishop Philip will Commission Mr Maloney as the new Head on Friday, September 25th.

# SCHOOLS

I am writing this entry towards the end of May. We can now breathe a slight sigh of relief as Year 6 children have now completed their SATs tests. Mr Skinner and I thought that the children really 'pulled out the stops' in the final days leading up to SATs week...and this group of children were the calmest I've seen in Year 6 (during SATs week) for quite a while. It's going to be a long wait for Year 6 until the beginning of July until the results come through.

As we move into the latter part of the school year we are very much looking forward to some other village events which will take place during June and July – Rose Queen Day, 'Walking Day', and we still have our own extra things to fit in – Sports Day, the Teddy Bear's Picnic, the Year 6 Residential Trip to name but a few.

It's going to be an emotional end to the Year as I move into my final few weeks at school before I retire. I will probably do it again – but I wanted to pass on my huge, heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your many kind messages and support the community of Tarleton has shown me over the last 13 years.

I will leave Tarleton Holy Trinity C.E. School with so many treasured memories and I am so proud to have ended my 34-year career here.

When I walked through the door of school for my interview in February 2013, I knew instantly that this is where I wanted to really make my mark as a Headteacher and that feeling has never left me.

Through good and through more challenging times, the THT School Family has supported me every step of the way.

It is with very mixed feelings that I move on. I feel so privileged to have shared my journey with you all and to be a part of this very special school and community. I am really looking

forward to the next chapter in my life with my family but I will miss Tarleton Holy Trinity School immensely.

I know that everyone will continue to work to keep the spirit of togetherness, that makes our school so special, alive and ensure that THT continues to flourish for years to come. Thank you once again for the warmth, support, and all the incredible memories.

In the meantime - I hope to see you either at Walking Day or Rose Queen Day...or both!! Say 'Hi' if you see me!!

Mr Stephen Smith - Tarleton C of E Primary School.

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# SCHOOLS

As we move towards the end of a busy and joyful year at Mere Brow CE Primary School, we have so much to celebrate at school. It has been a wonderful few months filled with achievement, faith, friendship and many memorable experiences for our children.

We are especially proud of our Year 6 pupils who have recently completed their SATs examinations. They approached the week with resilience, determination and maturity, and we could not be prouder of everything they have achieved throughout this year; not just academically but their growth into young people. As they prepare for the exciting journey ahead into high school, we send them our very best wishes. We hope they continue to grow in confidence, kindness and faith, always remembering to let their light shine brightly wherever they go.

Our children have once again represented our school brilliantly in a wide range of sporting events this term. From 'Muddy Woody' to football and tag rugby competitions, the children have shown fantastic teamwork, perseverance and sportsmanship. They continue to be wonderful ambassadors for our school community and we are incredibly proud of them all.

Faith continues to be at the heart of school life. The children have greatly enjoyed their "Faith in the Forest" sessions with Hattie, spending time outdoors reflecting on God's world and growing together spiritually. Lunchtime outdoor prayer sessions, and Lego Bible club have provided peaceful and special moments for our children to gather in prayer and reflection.

Year 5 and Year 6 recently enjoyed a visit to the theatre to watch the phenomenal production of

The Boy at the Back of the Class. It was a truly powerful performance which sparked thoughtful discussions and was thoroughly enjoyed by both children and staff alike.

We are also looking ahead with excitement as we prepare to welcome our new Reception children and their families into our school community. We cannot wait for them to begin their journey with us and become part of our caring and nurturing school family.

This term also brings a heartfelt goodbye to Mr Smith, headteacher of Tarleton Holy Trinity CE Primary School as he begins his retirement. Mr Smith has been a familiar and welcoming face to the children at Mere Brow for many years. As a new headteacher, I have personally appreciated his support, guidance and kindness throughout this year. We thank him sincerely for all he has given to our school community and wish him every happiness and blessing in his retirement.

Finally, we have all been making the most of the recent sunshine and our weekly Forest School sessions. It has been wonderful to see the children learning, exploring and enjoying the outdoors together.

I continue to feel truly blessed to be part of such a caring school and church family. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and prayers.

**Miss Jessica Rowe**  
**Mere Brow Primary School**



# Rufford C. of E. Primary School

'Together in Faith and Learning'



## SUMMER TERM EVENTS AT RUFFORD



Summer term is in full swing here at Rufford and we have been busy with lots of new learning and enriching activities.

### Holy Week:

We ended exploring Holy Week in school through the work of an Ethiopian artist. We used a picture each day to reflect on the events of Holy Week and how we could draw meaning from this today. Here are our classes enjoying their own version of the last supper, remembering that Jesus left us with a lasting memory of him here on Earth.



### Counting our Blessings:

During Lent we set ourselves an ambitious challenge here at Rufford! We had to count 10,000 blessings before Easter Sunday. Our blessing tree outside school was full of great things that we can say thank you to God for. We used Christian Aid's Count your Blessings poster to give us a theme each week. Here are PCSOs Roy and Steve counting their blessings too. We smashed 10,000 - hitting well over 200,000! From the stars in the sky, the food on our plates or the birds that sing, we counted and thanked God for his gifts. Thank you to the community that shared their blessings with us too!



### The Three Trees:

Elm Class wowed us with their amazing performance of The Three Trees at Easter. For the first time, we held a special community performance, with tickets given out in church to a keen audience. We are looking forward to strengthening this community partnership and sharing school life more in our local area.



### Message for the new Archbishop:

Blackburn Diocese invited schools to send a message to the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally. Maple Class made a short video that would be used as part of a montage from the whole diocese, to wish her luck in her new role. Our children do indeed star in that video - a proud moment for us!





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# ROSE QUEEN



The Rector has congratulated **Hartlyn Conway** on being appointed Tarleton Rose Queen for 2026-2027. She will be Crowned on June 27th.

## Charity Board Game Event

On Sunday 19th April we held a Charity Board Game event at Tarleton Bowling Club. It was such a great afternoon, lots of fun and laughter!!! Thank you to Claus and Emma for hosting the event, raising an incredible £85 for St. Catherine's Hospice, Isabelle's chosen charity.

## Rose Queen Reunion

On Saturday 25th April, Isabelle invited all previous Tarleton Rose Queen's to join her for a celebration of our Rose Queen. It was a wonderful afternoon where memories and stories of this lovely tradition were shared. Everyone enjoyed all the memorabilia and photographs on display. A huge thank you to everyone that helped us with the event, it couldn't have happened without you.



**Teddy Donations Needed - We are looking for teddy and soft toy donations for our 'Rose Queen Teddy Bear Tombola' in June. If you have any donations, please contact Charlotte for collection.**

Email: [Tarletonteddytombola@outlook.com](mailto:Tarletonteddytombola@outlook.com)

Phone: 07896 115020

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Could you help at Southport or Tarleton Food Pantry as a volunteer? Get in touch!

## DESCRIPTION

- Welcoming and chatting to members
- Serving hot drinks
- Assisting with Pantry shop
- Signposting to other local services
- At least fortnightly

Monday mornings: Tarleton Pantry  
(Tarleton Methodist Church) or  
Tuesday mornings: Southport Pantry  
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# SAINTS

## 5th June Tudno

Saint Tudno is said to have been one of the seven sons of King Seithenyn, whose legendary kingdom Cantref y Gwaelod in Cardigan Bay was submerged by tidal activity. Later Tudno studied at St Dunawd's college in the monastery of Bangor Iscoed, in order to make recompense for the drunken incompetence of his father, which had led to the loss of the kingdom under the waves.

Seeking a place to live out the religious life, Tudno went to the great ancient limestone outcrop of Cyngreawdr (the Great Orme). He lived initially as a hermit in a small coastal cave known as Ogof Llech. He obtained fresh water from a nearby spring well Ffynnon Llech. Nothing remains of his 6th century church building, although the present 12th century church, dedicated to St Tudno, stands on the same site. In the early 20th century coffins (and mourners) were transported for burial via the Great Orme Tramway, for which purpose three special tramcars (numbered 1, 2, and 3) were available. Currently tram No4 is named St Tudno.

## 8th June Thomas Ken

Thomas was born in 1637CE at Little Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire. In 1646CE Ken's stepsister, Anne, married Izzak Walton, author of *The Complete Angler*, a connection which brought Thomas under the influence of this gentle and devout man. In 1652CE Thomas entered Winchester College, and in 1656CE became a student of Hart hall, Oxford. He gained a fellowship at New College in 1657CE. Ordained in 1662CE, he successively held livings in Essex, in the Isle of Wight, and in Hampshire; in 1672CE he returned to Winchester, being by this time a prebendary of the cathedral, and chaplain to the bishop, as well as a fellow of Winchester College. He remained there for several years, acting as curate, writing and composing hymns.

In 1679CE, Ken was appointed chaplain to the

Princess Mary, wife of William of Orange. While with the court at The Hague, he incurred the displeasure of William and returned to England in 1680CE. After a short period as chaplain to the fleet Thomas was appointed bishop of Bath and Wells. The consecration took place at Lambeth on 25th January 1685CE.

In 1688CE, when James II reissued his Declaration of Indulgence, Thomas was one of the 7 Bishops who refused to publish it. Feeling that James was compromising the spiritual freedom of the church. Thomas was committed to the Tower on 8th June 1688CE, on a charge of high misdemeanour. He was put on trial but acquitted. Following the 'Glorious Revolution' when James II was deposed Thomas, having sworn allegiance to James, refused to take the oath to William of Orange. Accordingly, he took his place among the non-jurors, and in August 1691CE lost his bishopric.

From this time he lived mostly in retirement, finding a congenial home with Lord Weymouth, his friend from college days, at Longleat in Wiltshire. Queen Anne granted Thomas a pension of £200. He died there on 19th March 1711CE.

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# SAINTS

## 1st July Cewydd

Little is known of Cewydd other than he lived in the 6th century and being known as the Welsh 'Rain Saint', like Medard in France, Gildas in Brittany and Swithin in England. It would appear that a pre-Christian rain day might have been associated with a date in July, when, if it rained on that day, it was believed rain would continue for forty days. Practically he is known mainly from churches associated with him, which are on Anglesey, Chepstow, Somerset and various sites around Wales. Ecclesiastical records in the Book of Llandaff refer to a religious establishment of Lann Ceuid, probably at Lancout (Chepstow), which is likely to have been established by 625CE and was recorded there by 703CE. His feast day varies in South Wales as by tradition it was 15th July as Dygwyl Cewydd – Feast of St Cewydd.

## 14th July John Keble

Born on 25th April 1792CE in Fairford, Gloucestershire, where his father, also named John Keble, was vicar of Coln St Aldwms. He and his brother Thomas were educated at home by their father until each went to Oxford. In 1810CE achieved double first-class honours in both Latin and mathematics. He became a fellow of Oriol College and was for some years a tutor and examiner at the University of Oxford. While still at Oxford, he was ordained in 1816CE, becoming a curate to his father and then curate of St Michael and St Martin's Church, Eastleach Martin, in Gloucestershire while still residing at Oxford.

Meanwhile, John had been writing *The Christian Year*, a book of poems for the Sundays and feast days of the church year. It appeared in 1827CE it was intended as an aid to meditation and devotion following the services of the Prayer Book. In 1831CE Thomas was appointed to the Chair of Poetry at Oxford, which he held until 1841CE. On 14th July 1833CE, he gave his famous Assize Sermon on "National Apostasy" starting the Oxford

Movement. His sermon exhorted judges and officers of the court to deal justly. He contributed seven pieces for *Tracts for the Times*, a series of short papers dealing with faith and practice. Along with his colleagues, including John Henry Newman and Edward Pusey, he became a leading light in the movement but did not follow Newman into the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1835CE, his father died, and John and his sister retired from Fairford to Coln. In the same year he married Charlotte Clarke. In 1836CE he became vicar of Hursley in Hampshire and remained for the rest of his life as a parish priest at All Saints' Church. In 1857CE, he wrote one of his more important works, his treatise on Eucharistical Adoration. John died in Bournemouth on 29th March 1866CE. He is buried in All Saints' churchyard, Hursley. Keble College, Oxford, was founded in his memory. The 'Te Deum' window in the south-east transept of St Peter's Church, Bournemouth, was commissioned as a memorial to Keble, who had preferred to sit in the transept when worshipping at St Peter's daily in the last months of his life. Later, in 1906CE, the transept was re-configured as the Keble Chapel.

**Provided by Fr Philip Green**



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# HYMNOLOGY

It is recommended that you read the hymn before reading the individual narrative. The hymns can be found in the current Ancient and Modern hymn-book, the hymn number is shown in brackets ( ).

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## CORPUS CHRISTI

The institution of Corpus Christi as a feast in the Christian Calendar resulted from forty years work on the part of Juliana De Cornillion born in 1191 in Liege, Belgium, where groups of women dedicated to Eucharist worship lived together, devoted to prayer and charitable works. Orphaned at five years, Juliana and her sister Agnes, were entrusted to the care of Augustinian nuns.

She always longed for a feast day in honour of the Eucharist outside of Lent. In 1208 she reported her first vision of Christ in which she was instructed to plead for the institution of the Feast of Corpus Christi. The vision was repeated for the next twenty years. She eventually informed her confessor and he informed the Bishop of Liege. In 1246 the bishop ordered a celebration of Corpus Christi in his Diocese on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

The celebration of Corpus Christy gradually spread throughout the western church, through the influence of Thomas Aquinas. The institution of the Eucharist is celebrated on Holy (Maundy) Thursday, the liturgy on that day also commemorates Christ washing the disciples feet, the institution of the priesthood and the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. So many functions took place that day that the principal event was almost lost sight of.

Thomas Aquinas pursued the case of Corpus Christi with Pope Urban IV (who previously was the Archdeacon of Liege and the first Pope to be elected without being a Cardinal). In 1264 the Pope established the the Feast of Corpus Christi and extended it to the whole Catholic Church, thus celebrating the joy of the Eucharist on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. Today the Feast is also

observed by certain Orthodox, Lutheran and Anglican churches.

**Here proclaim the glorious mystery of the body and the blood; (458)**

Saint Thomas Aquinas (c. 1227-74) wrote a number of hymns celebrating Corpus Christi and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. His father was the Count of Aquinas, his mother a rich Neapolitan lady. He went to the Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassina when five years old, and stayed there seven years. At Naples University he met the Dominicans and sought admission into their Order. His mother was bitterly opposed to this step, and when he was sent to Paris to escape her influence she had him waylaid and kept him for two years in prison. The Pope moved Emperor Frederick to order his release. He studied under Albertus Magnus in Cologne and went with him to the University of Paris, and at the age of twenty-four he was appointed second professor and Master of Students under Albertus in the new Dominican School at Cologne. He gained a great reputation as a teacher and preacher, was called to come, in 1241, to aid the new Pope, Urban IV, in his project to unite the Eastern and Western Churches.

He declined the offer of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and a Cardinal's hat. In 1263 he was sent to London as Definitor to the Dominican Chapter. When he went to Naples to lecture at the University in 1272 he received an ovation. He died on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1274, when he was barely forty-eight. His 'Summa Theologiae' is regarded in the Roman Church as the standard authority on doctrinal questions. His hymns on the Lord's Supper have a place of honour in the Roman Breviary.



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Deadline for the next magazine is **WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026 @ 1pm.**

Please e-mail to: **editor@rsmtht.church**

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Both our PCCs are now registered charities and they have been entered onto the Register of Charities with the following names and numbers:

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<b>Rufford Churchwardens</b>	<b>Mr Graham Langley</b>	<b>(01772) 224 036</b>
Tarleton Churchwardens	Mrs Victoria Rimmer Mrs Shirley Gornall	(01772) 812960 or 07876 593 815
<b>Organist</b>	<b>Mr Christopher Hartnett</b>	<b>07896 107 684</b>
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