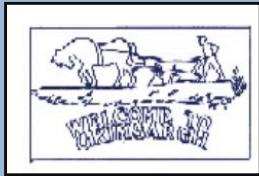


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PARISH LETTER

Here comes the sun?

As I write this in mid July we are still waiting for a proper summer to turn up. Outside my study window it's grey and dull and looks like it might rain again. I know we've had a few bright, warm, sunny days but they seem to be increasingly rare at the moment. People are asking where has our summer gone and suggesting that we're not doing (praying?) enough about it. I do hope that by the time you get to read this summer will be here in full force and we'll be able to enjoy days out, relaxing in our gardens and having BBQs - of course by then it will be too hot!

One thing that some friends are keen to remind us, while bemoaning the grey wet weather, is that the sun is always shining - above the clouds. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to fly abroad certainly know this. As soon as the plane breaks through the clouds there is unending sunshine and beautiful blue skies. I wonder if that is why in many sci-fi films people live on cities in the sky, far above the impact of the weather.

I do also wonder if that would get boring very quickly? There is something about the rhythms of our seasons and weather that help us weather life and its ups and downs. A life of perpetual sunshine and warmth is somehow unnatural and doesn't really happen anywhere in our world.

Like life our spiritual moods fluctuate often depending on our circumstances, different situations and just how we're feeling. It can be easy to let all that's going on around us to affect our relationship with each other and our Lord. When we have had a bright and sunny day (especially for things that are important to us) people have talked about our Lord sending sun on the righteous. Unfortunately for us the full quote from Jesus in Matthew chapter 5 is 'for He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.' We don't have any claim on sunny days because of our faith but we can pray for them.

Likewise we can seek our Lord in the times where life is difficult. The Bible is full of assurances that He is near and responds to our prayers. Just like the sun always shining above the clouds so with our Lord. He is always good, generous and close by - we just need to lift our eyes, our expectations, our prayers above the clouds and circumstances of our lives to meet with Him.

I do hope we get some really good sunny and warm summer days in the weeks ahead. It is good for us all to enjoy. It is also good for us to enjoy the Lord's blessings and presence, especially when life is hard. Remember the Sun is always shining above the clouds - make He break through those clouds for each and every one of us.

Blessings, Andy



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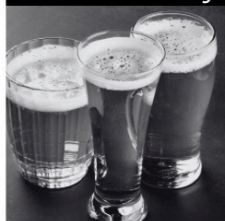
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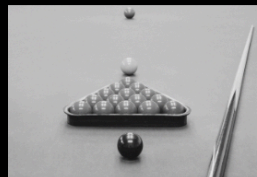


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REFRESHMENT ROTA after SUNDAY SERVICES

Refreshments after Sunday services have always been popular. We have relied on the same team of helpers for a number of years. Happily, due to an increase of the congregation staying we have found that at least 2 to 3 helpers are needed each week.

I am refreshing the Coffee team rota at the end of July and would really appreciate more Volunteers to make the drinks on Sunday morning.

We only ask that the named volunteer on the rota is responsible as the main refreshment maker perhaps every 5/6 weeks. That means they bring along the fresh milk, set up the mugs on trays and make the tea and coffee at the end of the service. There are usually plenty of people to help hand out the drinks on trays and to help with the washing up. You do not have to provide biscuits. There are plenty found in a tub in the church kitchen. Some volunteers however like to contribute when they are on duty.

I tend to ask all volunteers when they are available before I send out the final rota. If you feel that you might be able to help please phone or email me Penny Thompson 01772651850 or pjthompson247@gmail.com

Craft & Chat

Our Craft and Chat group meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month from 2-4pm. Whether you are an experienced crafter or just looking to learn a new skill our craft group is the one for you! Our next meetings are on: August 7th and September 4th.

A Prayer for August 2024

Lord, in a year of changes in our country and in the world, we thank You for the regular rhythm of each year.

We thank You for August, the month of holidays and rest for many, especially for families and those tied to termly timetables. We pray for Your blessing and restoration for all. As we take time out of normal routines, help us to still make space for You; to be refreshed spiritually as well as physically.

Feed us, Lord, by Your Word; revive us by Your Holy Spirit; encourage us by Your indwelling presence, so that we might naturally reflect Your love to all we meet, on holiday or at home or at work.

In Jesus' name. Amen

The Big Raffle



A big thank you to everyone who supported St. Michael's church raffle that was drawn on Friday 19th at the coffee morning. Great prizes !

Also a very big thank you to all who donated them.



Abi (from Kersey hairdressers) receives the first prize on behalf of her Mum, she'll be chuffed she said!

Number	Prize details
1	£100
2	Two tickets for Halle Orchestra

Prize Winner
Ann Barker
Jess Brown

3	Family ticket for Wild Boar Park	Louise Ainsworth
4	Luxury Hamper	Marilyn Salter
5	£40.00 voucher for Haighton Manor	John Coar
6	Beauty Hamper	Theresa Swan
7	Knitted Aran Sweater	Ann Banks
8	£20.00 voucher for Little Town Dairy	Emily Hall
9	Bottle of whisky	Helen Smith
10	£20.00 voucher for Derby Arms	Lindsay Kerr
11	£20.00 voucher for So Plants	Ruth Buckley
12	£20.00 Planter from So Plants	Frank Wood
13	A blow dry at Roberts Hairdresser	Ros B
14	Voucher for Karma Beauty	Jackie Brown
15	A Wine & Cheese Gift Box	Imogen Easton
16	Family Hamper	Val from Sale
17	Grocery Hamper	Beryl Holland
18	Grimsargh Hamper!	Val from Sale
19	Grocery Hamper	Peter Buckley

Three more prize winners!

Deputy head from school, Miss Smith, receives her prize, good start for the summer holidays! Sue's friend won two hamper prizes! Not won this year! No problem... there'll be another one next year!



A Ramble round Rome (continued)

The last article before the summer break I devote to the emperor Marcus Aurelius. He was the last emperor of the classic period of empire, dying in 180AD, but also famous for his “Meditations”, an exposition of stoic philosophy. The 18th century author Edward Gibbon began his Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, with reign of Commodus, the son of Marcus Aurelius, Commodus being the emperor who features in the film “Gladiator” starring Russell Crowe. So it was mostly all downhill for the empire from there, albeit it survived in the west for more than another 200 years.

Marcus’ Meditations are available for all on the net, full of sound principle and wise saws. It must however be said that Marcus was a persistent and ferocious opponent of the early church, despite his calm stoic philosophy. What I perhaps rather unfairly to the

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great man, want to focus on is an anecdote of his early life which unfortunately I cannot track down but am certain I have read. Also it presumably comes from Marcus himself as it is an intimate detail from his life before becoming emperor. His predecessors Hadrian, and then Antoninus Pius, had selected the young Marcus as a future emperor, rather in the manner of the Buddhist religion of selection of a Dalai Llama. One day the future emperor was out riding with an escort, both no doubt richly dressed, and mounted on sleek well groomed horses, the E type Jaguars of the day. They encountered a shepherd driving his flock along a road. The shepherd, a working man with little time for a pair of young toffs, passed some remark in their direction. Marcus, in response to the remark, did not turn the other cheek, but rode his horse hard at the flock, dispersing it in all directions, fully aware of the consequences. Which were for the poor shepherd that it would take him hours to regather the flock, even if he could do so, with the loss of even one sheep being a substantial loss to a working man of limited means. So it was a very nasty thing for Marcus to do. Perhaps in later life he had a conscience about it. But it is the earliest example I know of, of a road rage incident.

Mark

St James the Least of All

On the perils of swinging incense

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Well, at least you tried. Filling in for another colleague who was away on holiday was kind of you; that it was somewhere with a high church tradition was adventurous of you. But just because something is worth doing, must you do it to *such* excess?

I can remember the first time I saw you having to use incense; you held the thurible as though you had just been presented with a dead rat. This time, however, I am told that you heated so much charcoal that the congregation thought you were going to hold a barbecue rather than burn incense.

The church warden was impressed with how quickly everyone knelt down, as you went by. If it was in more of an effort to stay clear of your thurible than to pray; well never mind, at least they were on their knees. And I am entirely on your side; you were not to know that their new fire protection system included automatic sprinklers, activated when too much smoke is detected. I am sure most of them would have dried out by Evensong.

You told me that you had not been sure what to do with the thurible when you reached the front. But swinging it so enthusiastically that the chain broke and catapulted several pounds weight of red-hot brass through one of their stained-glass windows was really not the best solution. Never mind. I am sure the insurance company will be sympathetic.

But surely you knew that smells also implies bells? So why the panic when the server rang the bells in your ear beside the altar? To have promptly dropped the chalice and shouted, 'fire!' was surely something of an over-reaction? Especially as it meant that the vergier re-started the sprinkler system. I am told that several in the congregation left church looking as if they had taken part in a mass baptism, involving full immersion whilst fully clothed.

I am told that you actually even wore full robes, rather than your customary T-shirt and jeans. Just one tip: should you ever wear them again, you might wish to wear the chasuble right side out. But that is a small point compared to the 'hat', as you called it. My dear

nephew, wherever did you get it from? That is only worn by a bishop – and even then, the two tabs hang at the back, not over your face.

I am told that some of the congregation feared that in some frightful ‘fresh expression’ of episcopal rule, you had suddenly been handed control of the diocese. With the Church of England in its present woeful state, I suppose anything is possible.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

MU REPORT

Although we don't have a branch meeting in July there are several MU events coming up in August and September. On 9th August MU members from across the Lancaster Archdeaconry will celebrate Mary Sumner Day in a special service held at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton-le-Sands. During the service the Bishop of Lancaster will be enrolled as a member of the Mother's Union.

We are looking forward to hosting the Preston Deanery MU Festival here at St Michael Grimsargh at 2pm on Wednesday 18th September. (this will replace our evening meeting on that day) During the service Rev Andy will be commissioned as the MU Deanery chaplain and Louise Williams will be commissioned as our new MU Deanery Presiding Member. We will also be enrolling 2 new branch members. Please do try to come along and join us for this special service.

From 8th -14th September at St Bartholomew's Church Colne the ‘Souls of our shoes’ exhibition will be open to visitors from 10am-4pm daily and 6-8pm on Tues & Wed. This is a very powerful and compelling exhibition of shoes that seeks to tell the stories of Domestic Abuse Survivors. Please speak to Nellie or one of our committee members if you would like to go – perhaps we could go as a group.

As part of the MU Rise Up Campaign, raising awareness of violence against women, we have joined with the other MU branches in Preston Deanery to support our local women's refuge by collecting emergency toiletry supplies for women and children arriving at the refuges. There is a collection point at the back of church where you can leave items. Please consider donating items such as; soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste (for both ladies and children), deodorants, shower gel and sanitary towels.

Another project we are supporting is Millys Smiles a Children's Cancer Charity based in East Lancashire, they support families at crisis times when they find themselves facing long and frequent stays in hospital for treatments. As well as a large holdall containing a range of essential items for the child and their parents the charity supplies a brightly coloured handknitted elephant to bring a smile to the child. If you are a knitter and would like to help please ask Louise for a pattern and more information.

If you would like to know more about Mother's Union do come along to a meeting, we have a range of interesting speakers and events, our meetings take place on the 3rd Wednesday evening of the month...new members are always welcomed with a smile

Louise

July Meeting

The speaker at the meeting was Stella Holt. From first impressions—a quiet little lady! Too many to really mention here to do justice to them!

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Stella was born in a Lancashire village, pre-war, and learnt from an early age to have a positive attitude and strong faith. Her mother's quote was 'there's always something you can do in the face of adversity'. Her message throughout her talk was that 'God will provide' and certainly there were many occasions when she saw God providing.

Stella arrived in Ceylon (Modern day Sri Lanka) after the Civil War when the country was suffering from poor running by the government, like very little health service and civil service. She worked alongside the nuns at Mother Theresa's hospital where supplies were minimal and consequently hygiene was very poor.

When she discussed the situation with Mother Theresa her reply was.... 'God will provide and He has provided you!' So, she was handed back the task of sorting it! Which she did, using all her contacts to help....from the Embassies, friends back in Blackburn and ultimately the RAF to fly out the six tea chests full of medical supplies. She told of many more exciting occasions, too many to recall here when 'God did provide', and I'm sure she would be happy to share with anyone!!



Other MU news

We are very pleased to congratulate Louise (our Vicar's wife) on becoming the new Deanery President for Preston. I know she brings lots of enthusiasm and information to our group! Do read her article for more information of MU events in August & September



Meet the June and July Birthday girls

Ann Blatcher, a familiar face at the 10.00 services, always with a smile and a story to share. She is proud of her 9 grandchildren and now is a great grandmother!



Christine Yates, originates from Walkden, Manchester. She has been married to Keith for 59 years, having met him at the local Methodist Youth Club. She loves being involved in voluntary work, having helped at St. Catherine's and Preston prison. Christine was also a volunteer with the Samaritans.



Eileen Parker has a long history of links with Grimsargh, having been born & brought up in the Plough! She is an active member of St. Michael's Church, creating beautiful flower arrangements in church every week as well as being a member of the FAF (Fun & Fundraising) group.



Anne Halliwell is a regular attender at the 10.00 service. She has 2 grandchildren. She has a sister who lives in Italy, but makes twice yearly visits back to England to stay with her which Anne looks forward to for a good 'catch up'



Marlene Mackley is another familiar face at the 10.00 services. Born in Preston, she has lived in Grimsargh all her married life. Married to Bernard for 53 years. They love dancing, gardening and walking. She is a member of the Mothers Union Committee.



I'm Ruth Buckley, who writes the MU articles, and have just celebrated a birthday in July. I love being part of the church at Grimsargh, they have welcomed me in, (even though I live in Longridge) as they do everyone! I love doing anything crazy—trig bagging being my latest thing!



9th August – Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is now more than 140 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.

SCHOOL REPORT

WORSHIP

It was lovely to have Reverend Andy lead our reception/ KS1 end of year worship and our KS2 worship during this, our last week of school. The parents and families of the children who were chosen to be the 'Stars of the Year' joined us and were incredibly proud of their children.

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FIELD DAY

I was yet again, an incredibly proud headteacher on Saturday 22nd June– the effort of all our parents and families who led and took part in the field day procession was incredible! The staff members who were able to attend could not believe how many of our families dressed up and joined in with our ‘The Movies- Toy Story, Minions and Oscars’ themed walking float– we were blown away!

Without the time given, energy and enthusiasm of many of our families, our school would not have been part of the day never mind an award- winning walking float- ‘OVERALL WINNERS!’ The ‘Rose Bowl’ will, for another year, take pride of place, with our other trophies, just inside the main entrance to our school.

I received so many positive comments and not just from people from our school community.



NEON DISCOS

The Neon Discos were a real success with the majority of our children attending. The children looked fab in their neon outfits and danced the evening away! Thank you to our PTFA members and school staff who were able to support this event, whether through organising or attending on the evening. We now look forward to the Colour Run, which will take place on Saturday 28th September.

SPORT

As a result of all our sporting endeavours this academic year, we have, for the third year in a row, been presented with the School Games Mark **PLATINUM AWARD!** This award is for our commitment and engagement in the School Games for 2023/24 and we feel it is well deserved. Thank you to Mr Brooks, Mr Johns and all the staff who have led and taken sports teams this year and to Mr Johns for completing the School Games Mark application. Also, a huge thank you to Mrs Towers, the school office for sorting all the logistics!

PANTASTIC!

Our year 5 and 6 children performed ‘PANTASTIC’ on stage on three occasions- once for our school and parishioners and twice for their own families. The children were fantastic and made us all proud. I would like to thank all school staff for supporting the children but in particular Miss Cross who directed the children and staff helpers superbly. Search '**grimsarghstmichaels**' on Instagram and '**Grimsburgh St Michael's C of E Primary School**' on Facebook to have a snapshot of some of the things our children have been doing.

On behalf of our school staff, I wish everyone within our Grimsburgh community a happy and safe summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming our families back on Monday 2nd September.

Mr Stuart Booth Headteacher

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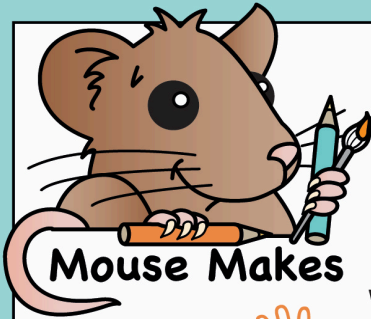
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"AND WHEN YOU PRAY,
PRAY THEN LIKE THIS ..."

Where does Jesus say
to go to pray?
Matthew 6:6



What does God know
before you ask Him?
Matthew 6:8



What can we ask God
to deliver us from?
Matthew 6:13

If you forgive others
what will God do?
Matthew 6:14



D L O R D S P R A Y E R
L F W R E A R T H K S O
D A I L Y K E D A S K O
E T L V T H Y E L H D M
B H L A M E N L L O O I
T E M P T A T I O N N H
S R A R A V I V W O E E
S K N A M E T E E U V A
I C J Y V N E R D R I R
N O U R N A V B R E A D
S M E W I K I N G D O M
J E S U S U L Y O U R J
N E E D S F O R G I V E

"Always be full of **joy**.
Never stop praying.
Whatever happens,
always be **thankful**."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



ROOM • PRAY • ASK • NEEDS • HEARD • JESUS
LORDS PRAYER • OUR • FATHER • HALLOWED • HONOURED
NAME • THY • KINGDOM • COME • YOUR • WILL • DONE
EARTH • HEAVEN • DAILY • BREAD • FORGIVE • DEBTS
SINS • TEMPTATION • DELIVER • EVIL • AMEN



With God, all things are possible. *Mathew 19:26*

JIGSAW CLUB

For the children of St Michael's, Grimsargh.



When?



2nd and 4th Sunday of each month!
(term time only)

What?

Children aged 3 -11

Who?

Fun games, music and activities.

St Michael's Church and then
the Jigsaw Club hut!

Where?

Everyone
Welcome!

Optional
speaking in
Church!

A great way
to make new
friends!

Jesus
Is
Great
Special
And
Wonderful

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before leaving for lots of activities and fun.
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July 7th	£191.55	July 21st	£291.76

FLOWER ROTA

Aug 4th	Vacant	Sept 1st	Vacant
Aug 11th	Vacant	Sept 8th	Vacant
Aug 18th	Hilary Beattie	Sept 15th	Dawn Desai
Aug 25th	Vacant	Sept 22nd	Vacant
		Sept 29th	Vacant

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

		10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
Aug	4th	N Maudsley		L Desai L Wood	
Aug	11th	K Thompson	B Mackley	N Cowell B Mackley	
Aug	18th	John Cowell		D Rusling B Holt	
Aug	25th	R Buckley	S Cowell	M Lamberty S Cowell	
Sept	1st	R Woollam		N Cowell J Eccles	
Sept	8th	B Mackley	N Cowell	B Mackley L Wood	
Sept	15th	James Cowell		L Williams B Holt	
Sept	22nd	N Maudsley	B Mackley	M Lamberty D Rusling	
Sept	29th	K Thompson		L Desai S Cowell	

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

		Leader	Duty		Welcome
Aug	2nd	Jean	Helen		Janet
Aug	9th	Maureen	Jean	Kate	Linda
Aug	16th	Marlene	Christine	Eileen	Janet
Aug	23rd	Nellie	Maureen	Kate	Linda
Aug	30th	Jean	Marlene	Eileen	Janet
Sept	6th	Nellie	Kate	Christine	Janet
Sept	13th	Eileen	Maureen	Marlene	Linda
Sept	20th	Jennifer	Christine	Jean	Janet
Sept	13th	Nellie	Helen	Kate	Linda

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR AUGUST

- 2nd** 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
3rd 12 noon Wedding of Grace Forshaw and Shaun Neale
4th Trinity 10
10.00am Morning Worship
7th 2.00pm Craft and Chat Group at the Vicarage
9th 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
2.00pm Mary Sumner Day. A special service at Holy Trinity Church,
Bolton-le-Sands.

- 11th** Trinity 11
10.00am Holy Communion
15th 11.00am Holy Communion BCP
16th 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

- 18th** Trinity 12
10.00am Morning Worship
23rd 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
25th Trinity 13
10.00am Holy Communion
1.00pm Wedding of Alexandra Wood and Gary Mayall
31st 11.00am Wedding of John Coar and Judith Clark

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER

- 1st** Trinity 14
10.00am Morning Worship
4th 2.00pm Craft and Chat Group at the Vicarage
6th 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
8th Trinity 15
10.00am Holy Communion with Jigsaw Club
13th 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
15th Trinity 16
10.00am Morning Worship with baptism of Zachary Holden
16th 7.30pm PCC meeting in School
18th 2.00pm Mothers' Union Deanery Festival in Church
19th 11.00am Holy Communion BCP
20th 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
22nd Trinity 17
10.00am Holy Communion with Jigsaw Club
11.30am Baptism of Jackson Brown
6.00pm Confirmation with Bishop Jill
27th 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
29th Trinity 18
10.00am Morning Worship St Michael's Day Songs of Praise
followed by parish meal in school
6.30pm Churches Together service for The Season of Creation
at Alston Lane Catholic Church

DEADLINE for the October magazine is 15th September.
Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell (pandncowell@hotmail.co.uk)
and/or B Mackley (bjmackley@aol.com)



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