

VICAR'S LETTER

The view from the study.

At the risk of breaching feline confidentiality, I want to share with you a little problem we have with our old cat, Lilly. She has developed some bizarre behaviour when it comes to using her litter tray. She spends ages digging a hole then afterwards she fails to cover up whatever little deposit she has made in it. She scratches around the rim of the tray, she scratches the wall beside the tray, she scratches the floor around the tray – but she doesn't scratch in the litter tray itself. Lilly can spend several minutes aimlessly scratching around the tray, making an awful lot of noise, but still not getting the task finished.

I wonder if ever life seems like that to you? So much effort and activity with no tangible outcome! The past year has led a lot of people to reassess their life and career. There are people who toil away at the day job for years, with little reward or inner fulfilment. There are people who work away at a relationship, always hoping for a little reciprocation, only to feel as undervalued as ever. There are people who strive to give their children the very best they can, only to find that their offspring will make their own choices and go their own way – with a greater or lesser degree of gratitude. So often, we think we know what is right, but have we truly listened to and understood the people around us, or indeed the inner voice that seeks our own nourishment.?

In church, we have our traditions and routines that we may cherish, or may just be accustomed to. With so many things having been disrupted through the pandemic, what have we truly missed? What really matters? What are we keen to get back to, and what might we prefer to see the back of? In our mission, reaching out to the community we serve, are we scratching in the right places and in the right way, or are we just being busy but failing to accomplish anything?

How is life for you as we continue towards 18 months of pandemic? Are you scratching around in a fruitful way, or just aimlessly? In your daily life and in the life we share as a parish, ask God to show you where to place your energies, in order to reap rewards that really matter and will endure.

And apologies to Lilly. I asked if she minded me speaking about her, but she just miaowed and stared hopefully at her empty food bowl. Priorities..!

Every blessing,

Neil.

Covid-safe Services

Although restrictions have now been relaxed, please make sure that you continue to sanitise your hands on entering church. Also, it would be appreciated if you could continue to wear face coverings on entering and leaving church and when moving around inside the building (eg, when coming up for communion). Seating will be freely available but please respect others by not sitting too close to people outside your household/group of friends: many will appreciate a little distance for a while as we adapt.

If you are able, please ensure you undertake a lateral flow test twice weekly to check your Covid status. Test kits freely available from Grimsargh Pharmacy or online at: www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

Please do not attend church if you are unwell or showing any signs of possible Covid infection.

A Festival of Angels

24-26th September

29th September, is the Feast of St Michael and All Angels, otherwise known as Michaelmas. This year, we are planning to enhance our patronal festival with a 'festival of angels' over the weekend before.

In order to mark the festival, we invite you to make an angel to display at home. We will also be decorating the church for the festival too. These angels could be models (to stand on the window sill or in the garden, rather like when there is a scarecrow festival in connection with Field Day) or pictures to display in your window.

The angels you create might be like the traditional image of winged beings with a halo, or they might look more like the warrior archangel image of St Michael himself. Alternatively, you might choose to interpret 'angel' in a different way.

An angel in the Christian tradition is a heavenly being (hence wings and halos) who brings God's message to people on earth, as we see most prominently around the Christmas story, with the Archangel Gabriel visiting Mary, and the angels appearing to the shepherds. Angels also bring comfort, such as when Jesus was tested in the wilderness, at the end of which we are told the angels ministered to him. Angels tend to be messengers of hope, bringing peace, joy and light into the world. So, you might choose to ask yourself if you can think of a person who brings these qualities into the world.

As we continue to live with the consequences of the pandemic, there are perhaps people we have come across who have been like angels to us in these hard times.

Let's use Michaelmas as an opportunity to bring a little extra light and joy into our community. What sort of angel could you add to our parish festival of angels? Please speak to Jayne Woollam or Neil if you would like to discuss further. There is a dedicated email address too, if you wish to get in touch about the festival:

angels.grimsargh@gmail.com

Your Magazine

If you wish to contribute items for the magazine, please send them to Bernard Mackley or Nellie Cowell. Anyone willing to help with the distribution of the magazine, please speak to Nellie.

'The Sign' insert features a range of articles on aspects of the Christian faith and the life of the Church. We hope you find something of interest in it.

The Early Service

It is a long time since we stopped holding the 8.30 BCP Communion on Sunday mornings. You may notice that I have added one to the calendar for the Patronal Festival on 26th September, but at present there is no plan to return to the pre-Covid pattern of Sunday services.

Since last August, we have been holding a Thursday morning service at 11am and this has now become well established. The question now is whether to restart the 8.30 on a Sunday.

If you previously attended this service, please let me know if you would like it to run again. Others may have a view on this too, so please let me know. With the easing of restrictions, I would be very happy to start again if there is demand for the service to continue. Please let me know!

Family Services

As well as losing the early service, we have also lost the previous pattern of services which allowed us to have a 'family service' on the 3rd Sunday. It is my intention to start such a service again, most probably in October. Further news in the autumn.

Ecumenical Services

On Sunday 22nd August at 4.30pm Alston Lane Catholic Church is hosting a Songs of Praise service on behalf of Churches Together in Longridge & District. All are very welcome to attend. During the service we will be sharing some experiences of the coronavirus pandemic and the period of 'lockdown'. Members of local congregations are invited to share their reflections on the

past 17 months by writing a short piece of around 300 words. If you would like to contribute, please send your reflection to me by email or on paper by Friday 13th August. It will not be possible to share all contributions, but there will be a selection read out at the service.

Further to this, I would be interested in compiling a set of reflections from our own parish, so if we get enough contributions I will compile them into a booklet, or share them at another service in the future.

Please ensure you indicate whether you wish to have your name mentioned or would prefer to remain anonymous.

A further ecumenical service, also at Alston Lane, will take place on Sunday 24th October at 6.30pm, with the theme of climate change.

Thank you, Neil.

Christians Against Poverty

This organisation (CAP) offers a wide range of support to people experiencing problems with debt and budgeting. Locally, there is a CAP job club in Penwortham and there are two debt centres (one based at Crossgate Church and one at Fulwood Free Methodist Church). There is also a lot of advice and support online. If you feel you would benefit from their support, they are at www.capuk.org or new enquiries for support can be made via the helpline on 0800 328 0006.

CAP also runs a video-based course that can be run locally to help people manage their finances and point them to further support if needed. Are you interested in helping to run such a course? There is a training day in Manchester on Sat 18th September to train people to run a course in their own locality. You don't need to be a financial expert, though it helps if you are good at managing your own money effectively. **Please let Neil know if you are interested in the course training, or would like any further details of the help CAP can provide.**

LLM

Those three letters stand for '**Licensed Lay Ministry**', a revised form of lay ministry in the diocese, replacing what has for many years been known as Reader Ministry. You may recall an article in the magazine last autumn about the diocesan 'Lay Majority Ministry Framework,' recognising that most 'ministry' in our parishes is carried out by the laity (the people) and not the ordained clergy. At the time the Bishop of Burnley wrote: *'Our new diocesan framework for lay majority ministry expresses our passionate belief that every Christian is called by God to play a part in the mission and ministry of the Church.'*

As an expression of that concept, Jayne Woollam was licensed as a Pastoral Assistant some time ago, but then the pandemic struck and she was unable to exercise fully the ministry she was called to.

However, I am delighted to let you know that since then, Jayne has been exploring her vocation further and has now been approved for training as a Licensed Lay Minister. She will begin training in the autumn, then (upon successful completion of the two-year training course) begin exercising her ministry of preaching, teaching and caring here in Grimsargh. In the meantime, Jayne will be relicensed as an Authorised Lay Minister in September (replacing her role as a Pastoral Assistant).

Please offer your prayers for Jayne as she embarks upon her training. Pray also that God will continue calling people to ministry in our parish. Maybe he even has his eye on you..!

Neil

Platinum Wedding Anniversary

Mr and Mrs C Leach celebrated their Platinum Wedding Anniversary (70 years); on July 14th . You will know Mrs Leach as the lady who knits all the lovely and very popular toys for the Garden Party and the Christmas Fair. They are very proud of the card they received from the Queen , not the first I hasten to add . We send our love and warmest congratulations to them both.

MOTHERS' UNION

Opening Service

We hope to start our meetings again with a service in church 7:30pm on September 15th. Please note that there may still be some covid restrictions in place.

90th birthday celebration

Many thanks have been expressed to Liz for her lovely gift to all members for celebrate the 90th birthday. The cake was also much appreciated.

Mothers Union Birthday girls.

Due to a misunderstanding on my part, I was very late contacting all the August & September birthday ladies and consequently have failed to chat to some of them yet. But I am looking forward to chatting with them before the next magazine and so will let you know all about them then.

August birthdays

Jean Burr celebrates her birthday on August 3rd. She returned to England this year, after living in Spain. She has been enjoying the hot weather over the past weeks. It has meant she hasn't missed the Spanish sunshine so much. She has 2 daughters, Stephanie is much nearer now—living on Cow Hill. Alison is not quite so near, working as a Headteacher in Tanzania!

Pam Taylor's birthday is on 19th August and **Anne Clayton's** 23rd August. I hope to bring you news about them in the next magazine!

Linda Eccleston's birthday is on 27th August. Linda (& husband, Jim) have farmed at Alston for 20 years, as well as many other farms in the area. Her one claim to fame is that she got the Rolling Stones autographs when she went to see them in the 60s at the Public Hall in Preston,. She still enjoys their music and went to one of their concerts four years ago!

Doris Parkinson's celebrates her birthday on 28th August. When I spoke to Doris, she had just put on her Mexican dress, a lovely cool dress from Mexico with a bright flowery pattern, ideal for the heatwave we were in! She is the oldest member of St. Michael's Mothers Union ! She, and her husband George, adopted two children, then when they had two of their own babies! George called them their Surprise Babies and that they were a thank you from God for caring for their two older children.

September birthdays

Sheena Cartwell's birthday is on September 7th. Sheena now lives in Fulwood, but used to live opposite the church for many years. She has a close family of many generations from her sister and 2 brothers down to her great-grand children. She has played an active role in Grimsargh leading the W.I. and the Mothers Un-ion over the years.

Liz Emmott (September 7th) and **Brenda Croft** (September 27th) will feature in next month's magazine!

Nellie Cowell's birthday is on September 24th. She said that everyone knows everything about her! I think that Nellie knows everyone too. Nellie (and her late husband, Philip's family) have been involved in St. Michael's church for many generations. Anthony, Nellie's son is church warden now, as Philip was before him, and so was Philip's Grandad! Nellie's one claim to fame is that she spoke to Prince Charles when they were on holiday in Jersey!

Betty Blacklock celebrates her birthday on September 28th. Betty is a keen walker. She can often be seen striding out on her way up to Longridge. She walks 3 miles every day. She has lived in Grimsargh for 45 years. She and Terry, her husband, met on a blind date when he was in the Air Force down in Wiltshire! They have been married 66 years. He doesn't often walk with her as he prefers to be on his bike!

Birthday wishes to you all!

Love Ruth

St. MICHAEL CHURCH WALKS BOOK
WALKS FROM GRIMSARGH!

Fresh off the Press. Make sure you get your copy! Limited Edition

Compiled by Ruth Buckley

Amazing detailed maps by Kevan Thompson

Walked by Nellie, Penny, Jayne and Ron

Find the people you know in the book

£5.00 All proceeds to church funds



SCHOOL REPORT

On writing this report, we have just finished for our summer holidays!

The decision was made for us to remain on step 3 of the Government Roadmap until July 19th. However, we worked within the restrictions to ensure the children experienced as many of the end of year events and activities as they would in 'normal' times.

In the weeks leading up to the end of the summer term, school was extremely busy. All classes enjoyed an educational visit- reception, year 1 and year 2, as well as some KS2 classes, visited St Michael's Church and all KS2 classes went further afield, including Liverpool Museum, Ribchester Museum, Martin Mere and the year 6 children enjoyed their residential at Borwick Hall. It is imperative such visits continue to take place during the next academic year, as learning that takes place in the classroom is brought to life and enriched by such experiences.

Reverend Neil led us in two separate key stage worship in our final week of school, but not in Church as we had hoped as this was still not permitted. Instead, we held these outside in the sun which was lovely. It was great to be able to gather and Worship together. We also awarded our 'Stars of the Year' and their parents/ carers were invited to share in our Worship and these celebrations.

We were also able to hold our year 6 leavers' awards assembly which again took place outside- we were happy to be able to invite two parents/ carers per child. Our year 6 children performed sections of a play titled 'Wow! What a year!', received a certificate for something unique to them as well as a dictionary. We also presented a new award which was generously donated by a family who have a long history with our school. This award is called the 'Duncan Burr Christian Values Award' and will be presented to a carefully selected year 6 child each year.

We held 7 separate sports days, each of which was a great success- we were fortunate to have lovely, sunny weather for all three days too! We invited one parent/ carer for each child- it was great to be able to invite people onto our school grounds. Our PTFA generously bought an ice-pop for each child which was the perfect gift with the weather being so warm!

During the school summer holidays, much of our school is having a fresh coat of paint, we are having two brand new libraries installed and having wall graphics positioned around school, including our two entrances. We are extremely excited to return and see our school looking bright and vibrant in September.

From September, bubbles will be removed. This means that school will be able to operate as pre-Covid-19 times. The school bell will ring to signal the start of the school day at 8:55am and again to signal the end of the school day at 3:25pm for all children; children will have access to the full playground at break and lunchtime rather than be restricted to a zone; we will be able to hold whole school Worship, assemblies and events; we will be able to sing and invite parents/ carers into school and staff will be able to move freely within school.

On behalf of our school staff, I wish our Grimsargh community a lovely summer- stay safe and continue to support one another.

Kind Regards

Mr Stuart Booth

Headteacher

JIGSAW CLUB

For the children of Michael's, Grimsargh.

Did you have a go at any of the activities in last months magazine?
Here are some more ideas for you to have a go at. Have fun!



Outdoor SUMMER

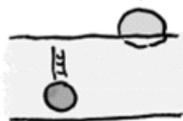
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Chalk Puddles

Occasionally it rains in the summer but don't let the rain stop you going outside! Take some chalk and draw on the ground, or in a shallow puddle. What happens to the chalk when it's wet? Jump around on your colourful creations.

Rainbows are a symbol of God's promises to us. What promises has God made to you? What promises could you make to God? Share and discuss your ideas with each other.



Sink or Float

Enjoy some outdoor water play in a paddling pool, a bucket, or on a rainy day go for a walk to find a puddle. Gather various items that you don't mind getting wet and place them in the water. Do they sink or do they float?

Sometimes we can feel like we're sinking because we're sad, overwhelmed, or confused; we feel like we need help. Can we learn to trust God to help us during the times when we feel like we're sinking?



Walk Through the Trees

Take a walk through the trees. This could be at a local woodland or through trees in a park. What can you see? How does it smell? What does the bark feel like?

When a tree is rooted strongly in the ground it can grow and flourish, and can withstand many storms. The same is true for us; when we are rooted in Christ, through prayer and understanding of the Bible, we too are strong and can flourish.



Tin Can Alley

Stack up some clean empty food cans, (or something similar) in a pyramid shape. Throw a ball or beanbag at the cans and have fun knocking them down. Who can score the most points? Who can do the most creative throw?

Everytime you knock the tins down, you have to build them back up again. No matter what happens in our lives, God is there build us back up when we fall down. How can God help to build you up today?



Build a Sandcastle

Visit a beach (or a sand pit in your local park or back garden) and build a sandcastle. How many castles can you build? What can you do to make the castles stronger? Castles are built to provide safety and protection. God offers us protection from things that try to hurt us. What things would you like God's protection from today?

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

June	27th	£204.40
July	4th	£131.00
July	11th	£161.50
June	18th	£193.00

FLOWER ROTA

August	1st	Vacant
August	8th	Vacant
August	15th	Hilaey Beattie
August	22nd	Vacant
August	29th	Vacant
September	5th	Vacant
September	12th	Vacant
September	19th	Vacant
September	26th	Ruth Buckley

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
Aug 1st				J Eccles Vicar	
Aug 8th				M Lamberty Vicar	
Aug 15th				B Holt Vicar	
Aug 22nd				D Rusling Vicar	
Aug 29th				N Cowell Vicar	
Sept 5h				B Mackley Vicar	
Sept 12th				D Rusling Vicar	
Sept 19th				B Holt Vicar	
Sept 26th				N Cowell Vicar	

Holy Baptism

June 27th
July 11th
July 18th

Jesus said "Let the children come unto me"

Neve Jessica Holden
Max Henry Talbot
Conor Luke Golding

Holy Matrimony:

July 22nd

Luke Tomlinson and Kathryn Salt

Funeral

June 4th

Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

Louie James Halstead (infant)

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

The coronavirus situation may change again - apologies for any sudden alterations

- 1st 9th Sunday after Trinity**
10.00am Holy Communion
- 5th 11.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 8th 10th Sunday after Trinity**
10.00am Holy Communion
12 noon Baptism
- 12th 11.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 15th 11th Sunday after Trinity (or The Blessed Virgin Mary)**
10.00am Holy Communion
12 noon Baptism
- 19th 11.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 22nd 12th Sunday after Trinity**
10.00am Holy Communion
4.30pm Ecumenical 'Songs of Praise' at Alston Lane
- 26th 11.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 29th 13th Sunday after Trinity**
10.00am Holy Communion
12 noon Baptism

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd 11.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 5th 14th Sunday after Trinity**
10.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Parochial Church Council Meeting
- 9th 11.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 12th 15th Sunday after Trinity**
10.00am Holy Communion
12 noon Baptism
- 15th 7.30** MU opening service in church
- 16th 11.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 19th HARVEST FESTIVAL**
10.00am Holy Communion
12 noon Baptism
- 23rd 11.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 25th 11.00am** Church open until 3.00pm for the **Festival of Angels**
- 26th PATRONAL FESTIVAL - Michaelmas**
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion

DEADLINE for the October magazine 15th September.
Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell and/or B Mackley