

VICAR'S LETTER

The view from the study.

We could have been anything we wanted to be, and it's not too late to change...
So sang a stage full of year 6 and year 5 pupils at school for the finale of this summer's school production, Bugsy Malone. And didn't they sing it with enthusiasm!

I found myself thinking that this night would remain a very precious memory for those children, especially those in year 6 who would be moving on to high school after the summer. Many will have spent the last 7 years in the school family at St. Michael's, and alongside them on stage will have been some who will become lifelong friends. The school production will have brought them even closer together as they learned their lines, practised their dances and enjoyed performing together, supporting one another along the way.

I also reflected briefly on something that happened about 30 years ago, when the national curriculum was introduced into our schools. One school I was associated with had a new head teacher, who took the decision to scrap the end of year production in favour of a greater focus on the content of the curriculum. I wonder what the year 6 children back then missed out on? Not just the lack of a fantastic special memory of their time in primary school, but also the opportunity to learn through experience what it means to work together to produce something that brings pleasure and inspiration to others; the opportunity to learn what it means to push yourself to new limits; the opportunity to experience a deeper level of trust and camaraderie. So many missed opportunities to discover more about themselves and what it means to live and work together with others.

Thankfully, our year 6 children will carry with them the lessons learned and the wonderful memories gained from performing in Bugsy Malone. The end of term also saw our year 6 pupils achieving a truly excellent set of SATS results. This, as well as the school production, is testament not only to the children's resilience and hard work, but also the tremendous professionalism and dedication of the staff at St Michael's school.

Academic excellence is something to value and each set of exams passed will open the door to a new stage on the journey of life. But the opportunity to get together for a school production will open the door to so much more in terms of personal development. And when those lifelong friends get together 20 or 40 years from now, it will surely be Bugsy Malone that they remember with fondness, not the results of an exam!

Every blessing, Neil.

Vision Day

On Saturday 2nd July 11 of us from St Michael's gathered at St Cuthbert's Fulwood to reflect on our life together as a Church, most ably guided by Rev. Steve Haskett, Parish Renewal Lead for the diocese.

We began with an exercise in word association – asking what we think of when we hear the name 'St Michael's, Grimsargh,' giving a positive image of a church community which is welcoming, friendly, inclusive, compassionate and broadly enthusiastic. We also recognised that we have a historic and attractive building and offer a 'mixed diet' of services which gives us greater flexibility in appealing to the wider community.

All of this gave us a good starting point to consider our strengths as a parish as well as our areas of weakness (or limitations). We were able to recognise a range of strengths, including our active Mothers' Union branch, our strong links with St Michael's school and the excellent musician we have in Ben, all of which I described as particular blessings when speaking about this in a recent sermon.

Some of the things that hold us back we identified as (i) lack of engagement with children, young people and families (which is being addressed in our intention to restart Jigsaw Club (Sunday School) in September – details to be shared in the near future); (ii) the restrictions of a traditional building with limited flexible space and no proper meeting room, and (iii) insufficient opportunities for people to grow as disciples through study and prayer.

We went on to consider the opportunities that lie before us, as well as some of the threats to our desire to grow as a church community: unsurprisingly, the latter included financial concerns and the consequences and ongoing effects of Covid.

The day aimed to leave us with a set of possible objectives on which we could focus to help strengthen the life of St Michael's Church. These included:

- How we use our physical resources (buildings and land)
- Investing time and resources in ministry to children, young people and families
- Enhancing the way we communicate with the wider community
- Investing in activities to encourage discipleship and nurture spiritual growth

Work has already begun in some of these areas and PCC will meet with Steve Haskett again on 5th September to consider the way forward.

Thank you to all who were able to take part in the vision day, and for the many ways in which *everyone* contributes to making St Michael's the welcoming place it is. Please consider prayerfully if God might wish to work through you in new ways, to ensure there is a long and healthy future for St Michael's and the work of Christ can flourish in our community.

Every blessing, Neil.

Confirmation

Confirmation is more than a rite of passage or being admitted to Holy Communion. It is about making a personal declaration of faith in Christ, committing yourself to following him through membership of his Church and confirming personally the promises made on your behalf at baptism.

A confirmation service has been arranged for **Sunday 11th December, 10.00am**, at St Michael's Church. It sounds a way off, but classes for children will begin on Sunday 18th September, starting at 4pm and lasting an hour. There will be 8 sessions through the autumn

Children just finishing Y6 or Y5 are eligible to join the course. Please contact me for further details or to register your interest.

Young people of any age beyond school year 6 can be confirmed – and of course adults can be confirmed too! Just get in touch if you would like to discuss the possibility. I can be contacted at: vicar.grimsargh@gmail.com or on 07566 274186.

Refreshments in Church

We have now started offering refreshments again after the 10am service. Thank you to all those who are already helping on the rota, but more helpers would make it an easier task for all concerned.

If you would like to assist on the rota, please speak to Penny Thompson: 01772 651850.

Melanesia

Many of you will know Rev John Ball, who has taken many services here at St Michael's in recent years. Many will also know about his skill in creating stained glass work, such as nativity sets, crosses and bespoke commissions of windows and glass panels. John uses this gift to support the work of the Melanesian Brothers – a religious order engaged in mission and ministry predominantly around the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Here John writes about the Brotherhood and his connection with it. He will be with us on 11th September to preach at the 10am service and I hope we will be able to offer our support to the Melanesian Brothers through John (this is one way we can maintain our charitable / missionary giving now that the blue envelope scheme has ended).

In 1841 John Coleridge Patteson at the age of 14 heard the Bishop of New Zealand, George Selwyn, preach at Eton College. He was so moved by the sermon on the Bishop's ministry in New Zealand and Melanesia that after studying at Oxford he was ordained to serve in a village parish in Devon. After this he sailed with Bishop Selwyn to work in New Zealand where his first ministry was among Maori people.

Selwyn took Patteson to the islands of Melanesia and Patteson continued his ministry there. He had a gift for languages and soon mastered many of the tribal languages. In time it was realised that Melanesia needed to be a diocese on its own for the work of the church to grow. Patteson was the obvious person to be its first

bishop. Much could be written about this work, but he was killed by some islanders in the Santa Cruz islands in 1871.

I want to jump forward to 1925 when a native policeman called Ini Kopuria had a vision of Jesus calling him to do different work for the people. He founded the Melanesian Brotherhood and he dedicated his life to evangelism taking the gospel to villages in the islands. He recruited men to join him in this ministry. The men were asked to make only a five year commitment to service. Many joined him and some stayed for much longer. Ini died in 1945 but the Brotherhood has grown to be one of the largest religious orders in the Anglican Communion.



I first met two of the Brothers when they came to the Diocese of Chester in 1992. Chester had a link with Christchurch New Zealand and Melanesia and I was subsequently appointed to be the link officer. I went out to Solomon Islands (which is part of Melanesia) in 1994 and I spent some time with the Brothers and also with the Franciscans, the Community of the Sisters of the Church, and the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia (the latter are the female equivalent of the Brothers).

The Brothers receive **no** pay for their work. They are a poor order but what they lack in comforts and luxury they more than make up for by the strength and commitment of their faith. They live in very spartan conditions. I was now fully committed to the Brothers. In 1995 I was asked to lead the appeal in the Chester Diocese to raise £70,000 to provide a new base for the Brothers in the capital Honiara to expand their work. To cut a long story short we managed to raise £77,000 for the new building to be known as Chester Rest House.

When the building was completed in 1997 I was invited to travel to Honiara to open and, with the Bishop, to bless Chester House and to share the life of the Brotherhood at their headquarters outside Honiara. It was a wonderful privilege to return there and I will never forget the experience. I have a rich collection of memories and often allude to them in my sermons. While there I was admitted as a Companion of the Brotherhood and I wear my medal with pride (the right sort!) I am delighted to do my stained glass work to support the Brothers.

Rev John Ball

News from “FAF”

Family Picnic, Sunday 17th July

At the time of writing, we are very much looking forward to the “Family Picnic”. Hopefully, the sun will be shining and the children will be able to enjoy some fun and games.

“FAF” has also organised the “BIG SUMMER RAFFLE” and this will be drawn during the picnic. This has been a very successful venture, with all tickets sold prior to the event. Thank you to everyone who has donated raffle prizes and sold

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tickets – hopefully, this will become an annual fixture in the calendar!

Dates for your Diaries

While August is a quiet month for “FAF”, we have planned several fundraising events for the Autumn and more details will follow shortly.

Family Quiz Night

Friday 23rd September, 7pm, Grimsargh St. Michael’s School.

We are planning a “Family Quiz Night”. There will be a small entry fee. There will be also be a prize for the “Best Dressed Table”, with a harvest/Autumn theme.

During the evening, there will be a raffle and we will be selling new clothes, kindly donated by Agustina. We hope that the evening will be as popular as previous Quiz Nights.

Friday 7th October, “Lancashire Night” in the Village Hall . Please listen for announcements in church .Tickets will be available mid August from Nellie , Jayne .or any member of FAF

Friday 18th November, “Cheese and Wine Evening” - more details to follow.

Saturday 3rd December, Christmas Fair – more details to follow.

If you would like to join us in raising money for Church and while having a lot of laughs, please come to the next meeting of “FAF”, Monday 12th September, 204 Preston Road, Grimsargh, 7.30pm.

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.

It’s all Greek to me! (cont)

To set the context for the classic period of Greek literature c 500 to 350 BC, we must advert to 3 heroic battles which set up in Greece a period when the area was free from outside interference. The first of these was at Marathon 490 BC, when the Persian invaders under Darius was repulsed at the famous battle site 26+ miles from Athens, whither the runner ran non-stop to convey news of the victory, and according to legend, died. The third was the naval battle of Salamis 10 years later in 480 BC when Xerxes, son of Darius, tried his luck at invasion but was there decisively defeated in the narrow seas between the isle of Euboea and the mainland where the Persian superiority in number of ships was counteracted by the Athenian strategists and by the greater manoeuvrability of their ships.

But the 2nd battle at Thermopylae which preceded Salamis, is the most heroic of all. The site was then in the 4th century BC a narrow pass between the mountains and the sea (today an undistinguished scrub land area, as the sea has retreated). There King Leonidas and the 300 Spartan heavy armoured soldiers (“Hoplites”) made a last stand against the Persian hordes, and with some allied soldiers, were annihilated. Leonidas knew that he and his men were setting out on a suicide

mission. If you knew you were going on such a mission, and could choose who to take with you, would you choose men who were unmarried and without children, or married men with families? Leonidas chose only men with sons, which incidentally included himself, so that after his unit's sacrifice, the sons could carry on the Spartan race and tradition. Famously there was said to be a memorial in ancient times at the battle site which read, Stranger, go tell the Spartans that here we lie, obedient to their will. The word for stranger is "Xeinon"; from which is derived the English word Xenophobia. And the Persian wars give us an introduction into the first of the great Greek tragedian playwrights, Aeschylus who wrote the play "the Persians".

Mark

MOTHERS' UNION

At the time of writing the Mothers Union hasn't met since the last report. The July meeting is on July 20th when Mr Michael John will be telling us about the work of Air Ambulance. This promises to be a very interesting and informative evening.

The Preston Deanery Festival at St Margaret's Ingol has been postponed until the Autumn, due to COVID cases amongst members. Etc

Our next meeting is on 21st September when we welcome everyone back together with a service in church. No meeting is held in August.

Think about it!

This morning service Neil & Jayne encouraged us to think about listening and making choices as we looked at the Bible story of Martha & Mary. Martha was busy rushing around doing jobs, Mary choose to sit at Jesus' feet just being with him. I know I'm the worse person for sitting still but realise we have the choice to take just a few minutes to be with God, not to say a lot just be still and enjoy that stillness in His presence.

Maybe to say the words of the hymn will help -

'Be still for the presence of the Lord the Holy One is here'

Be still for the presence of the Lord

The Holy One is here

Come bow before Him now

In reverence and fear

In Him no sin is found

We stand on holy ground

Be still for the presence of the Lord

The Holy one is here

There are other songs which express the same idea. One I find particularly moving is this one :-

To be in your presence
To sit at your feet
When your love surrounds me
And makes me complete
This is my desire O Lord
This is my desire
This is my desire O Lord
This is my desire
To rest in your presence
Not rushing away
To cherish each moment
Here I would stay
This is my desire O Lord
This is my desire
This is my desire O Lord

I pray that you will know God's peace and presence in your life this Summer

SCHOOL REPORT

Our Christian Value for this half-term is **COMPASSION**.

Miss Smith has led us well this term in thinking about how we can show compassion. We have shared many stories from the Bible about Jesus noticing the needs of others and showing compassion- the children have reflected on the main teachings from these stories. We also posed many questions for our children to consider. We decided that compassion is **costly caring, offering help, making a difference, putting others first, always listening, sensitive to suffering, service in action, interested in others, offering care and concern and noticing a need.**

We have enjoyed many community events that returned after a few years of absence. It was lovely to see our school and parish communities together at the Parish Garden Party. Each year our Grimsargh Parish contribute to our school Barchester account which acts as our school 'savings' account. We use funds from this account to support school developments. The funds raised at the Garden Party go towards the annual contribution our Parish make towards our Barchester account. In total, the church raised £2,461 and the children and staff played such a huge part.

Our school went with a SPACE theme for the Grimsargh Field Day. I cannot write about the field day and our walking float with giving a very special mention to the following people: Debs Jacques, Louise Hirst, Debbie Walmsley, Nicola Hough, Alana Pickard, Shauna Helyer, Hannah Clarke, Paul Jacques, Sean Hirst, Lee Walmsley, Sarah Hall, Alison Taylor and Penny Todd. Without the above people, our school would not have been part of the day never mind an award-winning walking float- '**BEST DRESSED FLOAT**' WINNER! The time, energy

and enthusiasm given towards making the Field Day such a special event for our school community was amazing- I was a very proud headteacher.

Our head boy and girl also opened the Queen's Jubilee 'Picnic on the Park' and unveiled the new Grimsargh Park art design plaque that many of our children had contributed to.

We were blessed with hot, sunny weather for our Sports Week. In addition to our sports day and sports stations, we held our own in-house intra-school competitions (football and netball) and also competed in two inter-school Kwik Cricket tournaments. Our sports days for KS1 and KS2 were enjoyed by both staff and children and it was great to see such a super turnout of families! The children showed qualities of effort, talent, resilience and sportsmanship. Some very talented runners were on display. The children showed these qualities in abundance again for our sports stations. This involved a variety of 12 activities in rotation, designed to hone and develop different skills such as running, throwing, jumping, balancing. Following the adding of the scores, Finney was the winning house- congratulations! Thanks yet again to our wonderful PTFA for providing ice pops to the children during sports day- it was much appreciated.

As a result of all our sporting endeavours this academic year, we have been presented with the School Games Mark GOLD AWARD! This award is for our commitment and engagement in the School Games for 2021/22 and we feel it is well deserved. Thank you to Mr Brooks for completing the application on behalf of our school.

Our year 5 and 6 children performed Buggy Malone 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.

We now look forward to our final week in school. Reverend Neil will lead both our KS1 and KS2 end of year leavers' worships, we have our year 6 leavers assembly and year 6 meal and then a whole school assembly on the final day of the year. We will also be saying our goodbyes to Mrs Coulston who has been at Grimsargh St Michael's for over 20 years. Mrs Coulston is irreplaceable and that is why we are not even trying to replace her! We wish her all the best in what is a new chapter in her life and we know she will take advantage of the additional time she will have. Mrs Coulston will always be welcome at our school and will be dearly missed.

Search '**grimsarghstmichaels**' on Instagram and '**Grimsargh 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 Grimsargh community a happy summer holiday. I hope you all continue to support each other and stay safe.

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Kind Regards
Mr Stuart Booth
Headteacher

Salvation Army

Once again the Salvation Army send their grateful thanks for our donations to the food bank. They are now concerned that into autumn and winter with rising energy prices people will struggle to keep warm and would be grateful of donations of blankets, jumpers, dressing gowns etc. as well of course our usual food donations.

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR AUGUST

4th 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

5th 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

7th **8th Sunday after Trinity**

8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am Morning Worship

11th 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

12th 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

14th **9th Sunday after Trinity**

8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am Holy Communion

18th 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

19th 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

21st **10th Sunday after Trinity**

8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am Family Service

26th 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

22nd 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

28th **11th Sunday after Trinity**

8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am Holy Communion

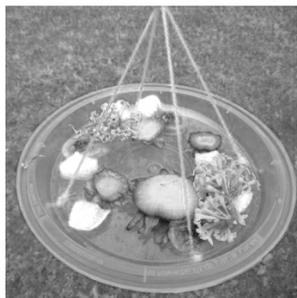
SEPTEMBER DIARY DATES CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

JIGSAW CLUB

For the children of Michael's, Grimsargh.

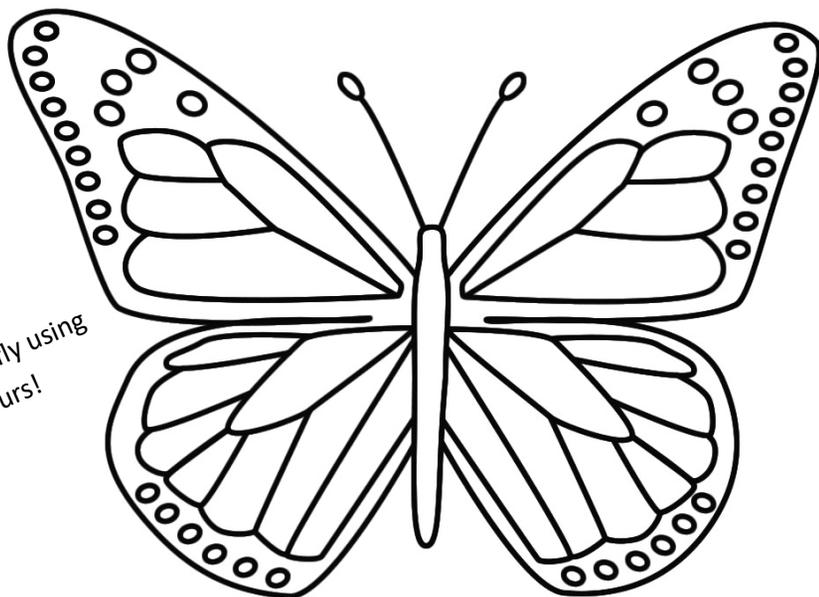
I do hope you are all enjoying the summer break and getting to spend time with family and friends. I love the summer and watching all the butterflies and insects fluttering around the garden. Why not have a go at making a Butterfly feeder one day? These are really helpful during the summer months as butterflies and bees become tired and in need of a rest so they can continue their important work.

Psalm 46:10 says, "**Be still and know that I am God.**" Like the butterflies and bees, we need time to rest and to be still, and restore our energy to continue our work.



All you need is a holder (a plate, jam jar lid or plant pot saucer would all work well) some string and some food!

Simply punch holes in the side of your holder, attach your string through the holes and hang in your garden. Place food like pieces of over ripe fruit on the holder and wait for the butterflies to come!



Colour in this butterfly using your favourite colours!

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

June	19th	£360.66	July	7th	£53.00	
June	23rd	£62.50	July	10th	£271.39	
June	27th	£86.00	July	14th	£52.00	
June	30th	£85.00	July	16th	£79.46	Wedding
July	3rd	£226.34	July	17th	£136.10	

FLOWER ROTA

Aug	7th	Vacant	Sept	4th	Vacant
Aug	14th	Hilary Beattie	Sept	11th	Vacant
Aug	21st	Vacant	Sept	18th	Vacant
Aug	28th	Vacant	Sept	25th	Vacant

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
Aug 7th		K Thompson	B Mackley Vicar	
Aug 14th		B Mackley	M Lamberty Vicar	
Aug 21st		N Maudsley	Youth Reader	
Aug 28th		James Cowell	R Woollam Vicar	
Sept 4th		R Buckley	D Rusling Vicar	
Sept 11th		D Rae	B Holt Vicar	
Sept 18th		R Woollam	Youth Reader	
Sept 25th		B Mackley	J Eccles Vicar	

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

	Duty	Duty	Welcome & Circulate
Aug 5th	Maureen	Nellie	Helen & Janet
Aug 12th	Jean	Eileen	Linda & Marlene
Aug 19th	Jennifer	Christine	Kate & Maureen
Aug 26th	Helen	Marlene	Jean & Linda
Sept 2nd	Nellie	Kate	Christine & Jennifer
Sept 9th	Eileen	Maureen	Janet & Jean
Sept 16th	Jennifer	Christine	Linda & Nellie
Sept 23rd	Jean	Helen	Maureen & Eileen

Burial of Ashes	Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life"
June 23rd	Anthony Pickering, 47
July 10th	Julie (Barbara) Ingham, 85

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER

- 1st** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 2nd** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 4th** **12th Sunday after Trinity**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Morning Worship
- 5th** 7.30pm PCC meeting in school
- 8th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 9th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 11th** **13th Sunday after Trinity**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Holy Communion
- 15th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 16th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 18th** **14th Sunday after Trinity**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Family Service
12 noon Baptism
- 21st** 7.30pm Holy Communion (Mothers' Union opening service)
- 22nd** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 23rd** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 25th** **15th Sunday after Trinity**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Holy Communion
- 29th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 30th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 2nd** **October 16th Sunday after Trinity: *HARVEST FESTIVAL***
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Morning Worship

FOR THE AUGUST DIARY DATES SEE PAGE 15

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