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PARISH LETTER

Christmas is coming ...

It does feel odd writing this before November is over, but I suppose we're all used to Christmas music in shops, trees appearing in people's homes, and lights in our towns well before most churches (and vicars!) get their act together.

But it's not here yet!

As Christians we have the chance to pause and reflect before celebrating the birth of Jesus. Advent is an important time of year when we can remember the lead up to Christmas which started thousands of years beforehand. Our readings on Sundays will be using some of the Old Testament passages that remind us how old God's plan of salvation is.

The Diocese is also giving away **free** Advent booklets to help us think about Advent and Christmas each day leading up to our celebration. Do let me know if you'd like a copy, in that way we can all be preparing together during Advent.

So how does our season of Advent help us get ready for the 'big day'. When I looked up Advent I found this online: 'The word "Advent" (from the Latin "Adventus") can have three related meanings. It can mean "arrival;" it can mean "presence;" it can mean "coming, on the way." For Christians, the liturgical season of Advent means all three.'

Arrival - we are waiting for the birth of Jesus. Our Bible readings will remind us that his birth is imminent, that it is part of God's plan, and that we can do nothing to speed it up. Maybe in the waiting we can all learn a bit of patience (me included) and not rush headlong into Christmas without thought and preparation. We all spend time preparing carefully for important events in life, why not Christmas - even with all its familiarities?

Presence - the birth of Jesus marked a new way of God being involved with the world He created. No longer would He be distant, speaking through appointed prophets, now He would actually be present in the person of His Son, Jesus. One of Jesus' names 'Immanuel' means 'God with us'. As we get ready to celebrate His birth maybe we can reflect on the impact His presence made on the earth, how it changed us and our relationship with God, and how He continues to be with us through the Holy Spirit.

Coming, on the way - the season, and its Bible readings, remind us that we are waiting for something - much like we'd wait for a bus or train. We know they're coming; we can see signs that they are on their way - even if we're not sure of the time! Another big theme of Advent is that one day Jesus will return in glory. There will be the fulfilment of all God's promises and a new era of his reign. There's something we all need to be ready for all the time.

So, in the run up to our great celebrations at Christmas let us get ready in thoughtful and prayerful ways. Let's not let the busyness of December lead to a weariness on one of our biggest days of celebration as we rejoice together in the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, and the hope for the world.

Blessings, Andy



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Christmas Fair – Saturday 2nd December, 1pm.

Help required for setting up for the Christmas Fair. School will be open from 9.30am so if you are able to help please just turn up. Help is also required for people to man the various stalls etc. If you are able to help with this please let Jayne know or simply turn up in plenty of time. If you can donate cakes, bottles, bric-a-brac or any items for the raffle, please see any FAF member.

Carols round the Crib

Come and join in on Friday 1st December, 6pm, on Grimsargh Green, for the blessing of the crib and singing of carols.

Carollers We Need You!

If you can sing, play an instrument, or hum, please join us to sing carols on Thursday 21st and/or Friday 22nd December. We will meet at The Plough, 6.30pm, The Club 7pm and Haighton Manor 7.30pm on both evenings. Last year we had a lot of fun and raised £240.00!

On the Friday evening, following singing at Haighton Manor, we will make our way to John Baron's house. John and his wife Cath have kindly offered to provide us with mulled wine and mince pies!

On Saturday 16th December, we will also be singing at the Farmers' Market, meeting at 10am. We would really welcome your support. Come and sing carols and get into the Christmas spirit.

If you would like any more information, please contact Jayne or any FAF member.

Toy Service

The Toy Service will be held at the Morning Worship on the 3rd December. Please bring any toys, gifts for teenagers etc, unwrapped. These will all be donated to the Salvation Army for distribution.

Christmas Quiz

It is that time of year again when I do the Christmas Quiz. If you would like one, they are £2.00, please ring or text James on 07715642083 and he will drop one off for you. Thank you for your continued support.

Food Bank

Contributions to the food bank will be taken to the Salvation Army on Monday 11th December in time for distribution at Christmas. Thanks very much for all the support given.

Remembrance Service.

There was a full church to observe the service of remembrance where the uniformed organisations presented their flags. A two minute silence was observed and the two verses of the National Anthem sung. Afterwards many of the



congregation made their way to the Stone Cross for a rather damp laying of the wreaths. The band from the army cadets arrived to play both the Last Post and the Reveille as well as other military music.

The Amazing John Bowdler brings Blackpool to Grimsargh.

On Saturday 18th November the hugely popular “Strictly Come Dancing” came to the magnificent Tower Ballroom at Blackpool. However, John Bowdler, resident organist at the Tower Ballroom, brought the sparkle of the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, to Grimsargh, on the very same evening. For many of us, this could have presented a real dilemma! However, for those who enjoy live entertainment, there was only one choice – record Strictly and settle down for an evening of live musical entertainment with John Bowdler. What a treat!

John thrilled a packed audience with his mesmerising performance on the organ. He played a medley of popular favourites, from “Goodbye” from “The Whitehorse Inn” to the haunting “Skye Boat Song”, from the jaunty “Alexander’s Ragtime Band” to the lyrical “Charmaine”. There were moments when we were singing along with John and stamping our feet but there were also quieter moments, when the mood became nostalgic and poignant. There was truly something for everyone in this potpourri of musical treats.

No-one could have failed to be impressed by his superb playing – his musicianship and enthusiasm left the audience open mouthed in admiration and wanting more, as gaily John’s fingers danced over the keys; his skill and artistry were projected onto a large screen behind the organ, a novel way for the audience to engage with the skill and grace of his playing.

The audience would not let John leave without an encore, and John did not disappoint. He treated the audience to another ridiculously fast and syncopated ragtime treasure.

Bravo John – what a wonderful evening. In addition, over £1,000 was raised for Church Funds!

A Ramble round Rome (continued)

Probably the most famous Roman poet is known in English as Virgil, full Latin name being Publius Virgilius Maro. He wrote after Octavian had emerged as emperor following the defeat of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra at the naval battle of Actium 32BC.

His most famous work is the epic poem, the Aeneid, modelled on Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey. It is the story of a minor character from the Iliad, the Trojan warrior Aeneas, who escapes with a band of soldiers from the sack of Troy by the Greeks, and has various adventures in a voyage across the Mediterranean, eventually arriving in Italy supposedly to found Rome. In other words he seeks to attribute



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the Roman Empire to being a successor to Troy, and the ultimate victor over the Greeks. The first half of the epic is based on the Odyssey, a journey tale of adventures at different places, with the second half being based on the Iliad, a war to establish Rome in the face of opposition by the Etruscans, led by the villain of the piece, called Turnus. The metre is the same 6 beat metre as the Homeric poems. An example of this is the renowned line by the Trojan king referring to the finding by the Trojans of the Wooden Horse, which they foolishly dragged into the city:

“Sed timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.” But I fear the Greeks (the Danaeans) even when they bring gifts, or, especially when they bring gifts.

Virgil also wrote some pastoral poetry, The Eclogues, and also the Georgics, 4 books on farming. Book 4 is the best known, being about bee keeping, although if you followed Virgil’s advice in the book you would not end up with a successful bee hive; the book shall we say, lacks scientific rigour.

Mark

On how to make the most of carol singing

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Carol singing is not what it used to be. My fond memories of a group of choristers, muffled in scarves and overcoats, carrying lanterns, and walking from door to door in the snow, as they sang ‘While shepherds watched ...’ had to be suddenly revised when I saw your own music group, in T-shirts inscribed with ‘Jesus loves You’, singing ‘Little donkey’, in your shopping centre. I suspect any money you raised would just about have paid for the electricity used to power your banks of electronic equipment. Singing in the main square of the Centre next to the fountain may have looked good, but it seemed to mean that the choir men were obliged to make constant trips to the lavatory.



Here at St James the Least of All, carol singing is regarded as a staff perk for the choir; the year when the Boys’ Brigade tried to break their monopoly was suppressed with a ruthlessness that would have impressed Genghis Kahn.

Our annual carol-singing route involves months of meticulous planning. We find that a transparent collection box is vital, so that donors can see what earlier patrons have given. This means that those who are bound to put in notes must be visited first – *‘pour encourager les autres’*. It also needs a detachable base, so that if coppers are given, they can be removed from sight before the next call.

Those homes that contain several children are visited just after bedtime, so that parents will give generously simply to get the choir to go somewhere else. Veiled threats to stay and sing more carols (unless they give generously) are usually very effective. Getting whoever looks the most innocent and photogenic to ring the bell

and ask for money is a far more subtle way of ensuring a donation than planting any number of mafia lookalikes (such as our church treasurer) on the doorstep.

The choir always finishes its evening at the local pub – but again, the timing must be carefully managed. Too early and there will only be the landlord, his wife, and their Labrador to listen; too late and people will be so full of Christmas cheer that any carols will be hi-jacked and become the equivalent of back-of-the bus rugby songs.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

MOTHERS' UNION

The Christmas meal in November was a lovely time together, an opportunity to share good food, test people on the Trivia knowledge and to meet the new vicar Andy and his wife, Louise.

Next meeting December 20th at 7.30 in church

Christmas Communion service followed by refreshments. An opportunity to take a quiet moment out of the mad rushing around.

Time to think

From my Lectionary reading today...a reminder that we're never too old to be used by God!

Moses was 80 when he was called by God to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt!

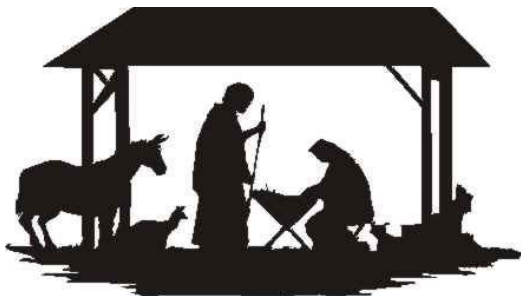
D.L. Moody noted that Moses spent :-
40 years thinking he was someone
40 years learning he was nobody
40 discovering what God can do with a nobody!

Once Moses was uncertain about his own capability, he said, 'Who am I to go to Pharaoh?' God knows that now he is ready and so assures him 'I will be there with you' That is all we need to know and be assured, maybe through the words of Psalm 23

' You are my shepherd..... I have everything I need ' .

I pray that this Christmas season we may all hear God's call and know that He is truly with us. 'Emmanuel ...God with us'.

Sending love to all our members this Christmas time. Especially thinking of Joyce Lee on the death of her husband Jim and Janet Wilby and Christine Yates whose husbands are having health problems at this time.



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SCHOOL REPORT

Reverend Andy

On Saturday 21st October, children, parents, staff and parishioners joined Bishop Jill and Archdeacon David, to welcome Reverend Andy to our village. Reverend Andy is our new vicar. Huge thanks to the children, parents and staff who attended the service. A group of children sang and a member of Year 6 took the lead during the prayers. We are delighted that the children let their lights shine during this special service. Representatives from various community groups formerly welcomed Reverend Andy, including Mr Booth, and Miss Smith read the first reading during the service. We are looking forward to working alongside Reverend Andy and further strengthening the school/ church links.

Lest We Forget

Year 5 visited Archbishop Temple for a remembrance workshop and then led our whole school remembrance worship on Thursday. We gathered together to lay a handmade wreath, from each class, in our 'Rest and Reflect' area. At 11am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year, we give thanks for the brave troops who sacrificed/ sacrifice themselves to protect us.



'Make A Noise About Bullying'

Monday 13th November was the start of Anti-bullying Week in school. Too often, we are silent when we see bullying take place, silent about the hurt bullying causes, and silent when we hear bullying dismissed as 'just banter'. Together, we can make a difference and take a stand against bullying. Of course, we won't like everyone, and we don't always agree, but we can choose respect and unity.

During Anti-Bullying Week we came together to discuss what bullying means to us, how 'banter' can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying. We took part in Odd Socks Day to celebrate uniqueness and each class completed activities throughout the week.

Trikidz

The children had a fantastic time enjoying activities related to the triathlon provided by #trikidz. They used resistance bands to replicate swimming, standing fixed bikes for cycling and also had some friendly yet competitive running

competitions (some of which the teachers joined in!)- all this was at no cost to school. The organisers of the event praised the children for their excellent attitude and listening skills. Big thanks to Jahn and Sarah for their time and we wish every success to their amazing charitable organisation.



SPORT

Hockey

Our hockey team played both their final hockey league game and the hockey tournament on Tues 17 Oct at UCLAN. The team showed great team spirit and determination in their games but despite a brave fight (especially in the early stages of the games) they lost 5-0 to St Andrew's and 3-0 v Barton St. Lawrence. We recovered well to put on a resolute performance v Goosnargh in a 0-0 draw and then in a narrow 1-0 defeat v St. Anthony's.

Football– League

Our league campaign got off to a start with us playing three matches on the same evening. The first saw us up against Kennington and despite dominating possession, territory and chances, the match finished 0-0. In our second match we faced St Clare's and ran out 2-1 winners. In our final match of the evening, we played Ashton. Again, we took the lead but again we were pegged back by an equaliser. The match finished 1-1. In what was possibly our final league match of the season, as it is looking like Deepdale have pulled out, we played Holme Slack and a really solid performance resulted in a 2-0 win.

Football– Girls

The girls football team put up a brave fight despite losing 7-1 against a strong OLSE team in the Dick Kerr Trophy on Thursday evening. We were caught cold with a goal in the first minute, but after that the girls showed great tenacity and were really competitive.

Mini-skills

Our year 1/2 mini-skills team competed in the inter-school competition at West View Leisure Centre. Our team competed across 6 different events which tested their speed, throwing accuracy and passing accuracy. Our team performed particularly well in the 'obstacle relay', achieving the 6th quickest time. When all points were totalled, we achieved the 6th highest score.



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Triathlon

Our team of triathletes achieved a tremendous result of 3rd place at Fulwood Academy. This was achieved amidst tough competition as the Triathlon event was open to all Preston primary schools. We left tired, but very happy with bronze medals. This continues the tradition of us being very strong in this event having won it 2 years ago.

SAFEGUARDING

We have continued to share the very useful Safeguarding guides with our parents and carers. We have shared the 'What Parents and carers need to know about EA Sports FC', 'What Parents and carers need to know about X', 'What Parents and carers need to know about Microtransactions' and 'What Parents and carers need to know about SMART TVs'.

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 well and hope you all continue to support each other and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Mr Stuart I

Headteach



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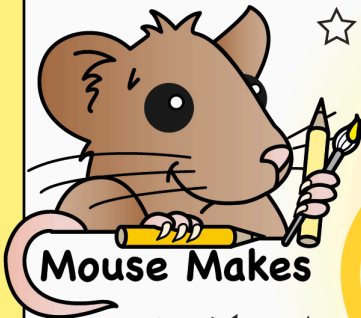
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Mouse Makes



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

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

ADVENT comes from the Latin 'AD VENTO' which means **ARRIVAL**

In Advent we celebrate Jesus' birth and look forward to the time when Jesus will come again.



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

Colour in one star each day until Christmas

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And

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Oct	19th	£58.00		Nov	5th	£194.32
Oct	21st	£404.32	Induction	Nov	5th	£194.32
Oct	22nd	£291.00		Nov	5th	£194.32
Oct	29th	£108.25				

FLOWER ROTA

Dec	3rd	Vacant	Jan	7th	Vacant
Dec	10th	Holding Family	Jan	14th	Nellie Cowell
Dec	17th	Ruth Buckley	Jan	21st	Vacant
Dec	24th	Janet Wilby	Jan	28th	Vacant
Dec	31st	Vacant			

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

		8.30am	10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
Dec	3rd		James Cowell		S Cowell B Holt	
Dec	10th		K Thompson	M Lamberty	J Eccles B Mackley	
Dec	17th		B Mackley		Youth Reader	
Dec	24th		James Cowel	B Mackley	L Wood J Lander	
Dec	25th		D Rae		M Lamberty Vicar	
Dec	31st		B Mackley		N Cowel D Rusling	
Jan	7th		John Cowell		B Mackley L Wood	
Jan	14th		R Buckley	N Cowel	S Cowell J Lander	
Jan	21st		N Maudsley		Youth Reader	
Jan	28th		K Thompson	M Lamberty	Ben Holt N Cowell	

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

		Leader	Duty		Welcome
Dec	1st	Marlene	Jean	Eileen	Janet
Dec	8th	Nellie	Marlene	Jean	Janet
Dec	15th	All who are available			
Jan	5th	Marlene	Nellie	Helen	Linda
Jan	12th	Jean	Marlene	Eileen	Janet
Jan	19th	Nellie	Kate	Maureen	Linda
Jan	26th	Eileen	Jean	Marlene	Janet

Holy Baptism **Jesus said "Let the children come unto me"**
 Oct 29th Alfie Terence Nelson

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

- 1st** 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
6.00pm Carols round the Crib - Grimsargh Green
- 2nd** 9:30am Setting up for the Christmas Fair in School
1.00pm Opening of the Christmas Fair
- 3rd** **1st Sunday of Advent**
10.00am Morning Worship and Toy Service
12.00 Baptism
- 8th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 10th** **2nd Sunday of Advent**
10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club
6.00pm Ecumenical Service with Alston Lane at Grimsargh Church
- 15th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 16th** 10.30am Carol singing at the Farmer's Market
- 17th** **3rd Sunday of Advent**
10.00am Family Service
6.00pm Carol Service
- 20th** 7.30pm Mothers' Union Holy Communion
- 21st** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
6.30pm Carol Singing The Plough; 7.00 pm The Club; 7.30 pm Haighton Manor
- 22nd** 6.30pm Carol Singing The Plough; 7.00 pm The Club; 7.30 pm Haighton Manor
8.00pm Light Refreshments Silver Birches
- 24th** **3rd Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve**
10.00am Morning Worship
4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service
- 25th** **Christmas Day**
10.00am Christmas Family Communion
- 31st** **1st Sunday after Christmas**
10.00am Morning Worship

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

- 5th** 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 7th** **1st Sunday after Epiphany**
10.00am Morning Worship
- 5th** 7.30pm PCC Meeting in school
- 12th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 14th** **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**
10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club
- 15th** 7.30pm FAF meeting at Jayne Woollams
- 17th** 12.30pm Mothers' Union AGM at the Plough
- 18th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 19th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 21st** **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**
10.00am Family Service
- 26th** 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 28th** **4th Sunday after Epiphany**
10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club

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



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