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Feb	21st	4 days	Wales – Caernarfon at the Celtic Royal Hotel.....	£415.00
March	7th	4 days	Warners – Early Spring Break at Alvaston Hall.....	£495.00
March	21st	3 days	March Luxurious Mystery Tour.....	£385.00
April	6th	6 days	Flanders & The Western Front	£795.00
April	26th	5 days	The Isle of Man at the Empress Hotel, Douglas	£595.00
May	5th	5 days	Dawlish & Dartmoor	£695.00
May	12th	5 days	Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick & Shakespeare’s County	£595.00
May	19th	5 days	Norfolk & Sandringham Estate	£685.00
May	25th	6 days	Sidmouth and The Jurassic Coast.....	£790.00
June	2nd	5 days	Scotland – The Isle of Arran	£790.00
June	15th	6 days	Llandudno – Railways of Wales & Snowdon.....	£885.00
June	24th	8 days	Scotland – North Coast 500 and the Isle of Skye	£1325.00
June	27th	6 days	Cornwall – St Agnes & St Michaels Mount	£745.00
July	6th	6 days	The Isle of Wight at Sandown.....	£695.00
July	16th	5 days	Torquay and the English Riviera	£560.00
July	27th	6 days	Scotland – Dunoon and the Isle of Bute.....	£615.00
Aug	4th	5 days	Scarborough & Whitby – East Coast Explorer	£695.00
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Sept	18th	7 days	Ireland – Killarney, The Ring of Kerry & Dingle Peninsula	£920.00
Sept	29th	5 days	Special Lakes Tour staying at the Damson Dene Hotel	£695.00
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Oct	13th	5 days	Bournemouth & The Dorset Countryside.....	£595.00
Oct	20th	5 days	Warners Leisure – Autumn Break	£675.00
Oct	27th	5 days	Scotland – The Palace at Inverness All Inclusive.....	£695.00
Nov	3rd	5 days	Wales – Llandudno Turkey & Tinsel at the Merrion Hotel.....	£615.00
Nov	21st	4 days	Norwich & Thursford Christmas Spectacular – Afternoon performance	£585.00
Nov	28th	4 days	Norwich & Thursford Christmas Spectacular – Evening performance... ..	£585.00
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Dec	30th	4 days	Scotland – Hogmanay at the Highlander	£605.00

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- CHURCHWARDENS: Mr. Anthony Cowell
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Mr. Mark Lamberty
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- MOTHERS' UNION Every third Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm
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- GUIDES 1st Grimsargh Every Monday at 7.00pm In the Village Hall
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PARISH LETTER

A time for receiving and giving.

By now I suspect you're all fed up with seeing Christmas (or more likely Xmas) being advertised. It seems like the start of the season gets earlier each year. It has been rather odd seeing Christmas and Halloween merchandise side by side in the shops for several weeks.

What are you hoping for this Christmas? I'm sure there are a few things that we'd like to receive from our loved ones as a sign of that love and that they know us really well. It doesn't seem to matter the size or value of the gift (except for children) but some token that we're valued, loved and remembered. Of course if we were vying for Miss World then the answer would be world peace - and that seems unlikely for this or any future Christmas at the moment.

We'd all love to see those close to us and spend time together - as long as it doesn't turn into a time of stress, busyness and bad tempers.

One of the reasons for our amazing Christmas story is that God wanted to be closer to his created family - us. He wanted a way to forgive us for our sin, stubbornness and waywardness that was just. That culminated in the sending of the best gift ever - His own Son born as Jesus in strange circumstances, in an obscure village, at a seemingly insignificant time.

God's greatest gift to us asks us for a response, not like the swapping of material presents which we'll do on or around the 25th of December. His gift is given out of love for a need we didn't know we had, by a loving Father who only gives the best gifts. So what is our response? The words of one of my least favourite carols (do ask me about it) says;

What can I give Him poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb

If I were a wise man, I would do my part

Yet what I can, I give Him, give my heart.

Those words of Christina Rossetti remind us that there is nothing of material value that we can actually respond with to God's generosity - it is all His anyway. The one thing He wants is what He can't control - our very selves.

We know the importance of being with family and friends at any time of the year is special and important- especially if we've been separated in some way. Being present and offering ourselves, our time, our love is what is important, not the gifts and food.

It is the same for our Lord. Being present with Him, showing our love for Him, is always more important than all we can do for Him. This Christmas let's receive God's wonderful gift, Jesus, and respond with love.

Blessings, and Happy Christmas (when it arrives), Andy



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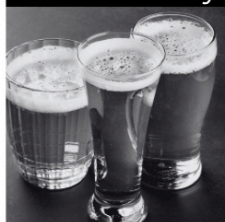
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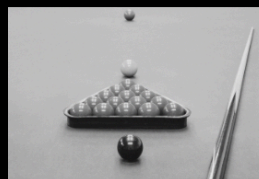


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Toy Service

The Toy Service will be held on Sunday 1st December. Donations of new toys (unwrapped) and gifts for teenagers (hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries etc) will be taken to the Salvation Army in Preston for distribution at Christmas. Thank you.

News from FAF

Come and Sing Carols this Christmas!

Come and sing carols with us on Friday 13th December. We will be meeting at The Plough, 6.30pm, before moving onto The Club, 7pm, Houghton Manor, 7.30pm and finally Silver Birches, 8pm, where Cath and John Baron will be serving mince pies and mulled wine. Carol Singing at the Farmers Market 11.00 am December 21st.

Come and get into the festive spirit.

Christmas Fair, Saturday 7th December, 1pm.

The Christmas Fair is always a great way to celebrate the start of the festive period. This year, we will be setting up the stalls from 10am and we would be very grateful of any help that you can offer.

As always, we appreciate covered cakes for the cake stall, chocolates for the chocolate-bola, items for the good as new stall, clean second hand soft toys and donations for the raffle.

The Christmas Fair is a wonderful way to celebrate the start of the Christmas season, to hear the school children sing Christmas songs, to enjoy a delicious pie and to visit Father Christmas in his grotto.

"Tis the season to be jolly" - come and start your Christmas shopping with us and enjoy a couple of hours of fun.

The Christmas quiz

The Christmas quiz is once again on sale for £2.00 if you would like a copy please text or ring James on 07715642083

6th December – What’s in a (Christmas) Name

What do your family call him, that cheerful old man in a red robe and floppy hat who pops up everywhere at Christmas? Sometimes he’s Father Christmas, sometimes Santa Claus, and in parts of Europe he’s Saint Nicholas. That’s his real name, abbreviated to ‘Santa Claus’ by Brits and Americans who don’t like to follow the Europeans, and then turned into a more homely, cuddly kind of name for the children. Whatever he’s called, his function is the same – delivering presents to children at Christmas.

The first St Nicholas was bishop of Myra, in the country we now call Turkey, in the fourth century. He was known as the friend of the poor, and especially poor or abused children. At (or just before) Christmas he went around handing out presents to them, as well as rescuing some from dreadful circumstances. The red robe our modern Santa Claus wears may be a vague representation of a bishop’s garment, and the floppy hat is his mitre!

The original good bishop from 1600 years ago is remembered by the Church on December 6th, and the lucky children in Belgium and the Netherlands get their presents then.

Christmas Geese

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: *'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!'* So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: *'Why don't they follow me?!'* Then he realised: *'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.'* Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas, let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. *'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us''*. Matthew 1:23.

St James the Least of All

On why Carol Services are so dangerous

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman – or more likely a double glazing salesman – you will be remembered as “the Curate who offended Mrs Smith.”

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. But don't forget that every third year, the Boys' Brigade must be asked, or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday. If someone represents the choir, then over a four year period, all four voice parts must be called on – and if the organist isn't asked on

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the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime – and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings,

Then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the church council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order than a representative of the Men's Fellowship and no self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner.

If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place. The variations on “Here endeth”, “This is the Word of the Lord”, and “Thanks be to God”, are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek – apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive.

You have two alternatives: either repeat last year's Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own – and then take Christmas off

Your loving uncle

Eustace

MOTHERS' UNION

News.

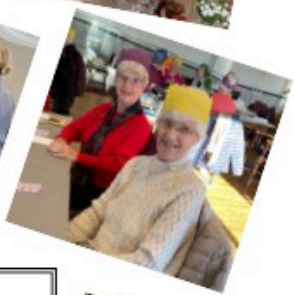
Sheila Swift—from the Deanery, who brings the MU stall to us, is retiring. We wish her well. A big thank you to her for the many times she's brought the cards & literacy to our meetings. If anyone would like to continue this vital role please have a word with Louise.

Annual MU subs are due -£31.50. Please give your subs to Nellie in a named envelope

Cash or cheques payable to Grimsargh Church Mothers Union.
(£24.50 goes to Central MU, £7.00 to Blackburn Dioceses MU).

Next meeting December 18th (in church) Christmas communion followed by refreshments.

January meeting (Jan 15th) AGM in the Plough—more details to follow at the December meeting.



November Meeting
A very early Christmas meal!
What a lovely occasion,
great food and fellowship!
Thank you to the staff
at the Crosskeys, Hazel and
all the Mothers Union Committee
for organizing it.



Apologises
from Ruth if
she's missed
anyone out!

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Meet the Mothers Union Birthday Girls (I'm still catching up!!)



Maureen Wood September 5th

Maureen and her husband moved to Grimsargh 6 years ago. She loves living in Grimsargh and feels she's been here for ever. She has lived in many different villages in the North from Appleby in Cumbria, to Giggleswick, Langho and Brockhole. She used to teach Maths having met Lawrence, a cellist, at Stonyhurst where he was teaching music.



Sheena Cartmell September 7th

Sheena has lived in Ribbleton for 18 years but she has fond memories of living in Grimsargh opposite the church in a bungalow, and still travels to Grimsargh to join us in everything! She was an active member of the Grimsargh community being Enrolling member of the Mothers Union and the W.I. President. Her grandson, who now lives in Austria, was baptised by Rev. Brindle 40 years ago.



Liz Emmott September 7th

We were fortunate to hear about Liz's exciting life at her talk at the March meeting, 'From Kuching and back again'. Nowadays she enjoys sketching, sewing and painting water colours. She is looking for an art class to expand her painting skills. We are very grateful to Liz's contribution to the Grimsargh tea towel with her sketches.



Nellie Cowell September 24th

Nellie celebrated her 82nd birthday this September, but has the energy of a 21-year-old! She always welcomes newcomers into church with a smile. The Cowell family have lived and worked in the village for many generations so ask her about it as she has a font of knowledge of all things and people belonging to Grimsargh



Two corrections from November magazine!

Jean Burr's birthday is on August 3rd, not 23rd, sorry Jean!

And a better photo of Linda Eccleston! Sorry Linda!



SCHOOL REPORT

Year 5's Harvest Heptathlon

Year 5 have been focusing on 'courageous advocacy'- the confidence and belief that we can make a real difference to the world. As a result, the children have decided to undertake a 'Harvest Heptathlon', in order to help Bishop Phillip, in his quest to raise money for the 2024 Harvest Appeal. After a democratic vote, the children chose to participate in an ultimate fitness challenge: running 7 laps of the school track, for 7 school days. Our children raised over £500 for the female literacy programme within the diocese of Multan, Pakistan. Family and friends of year 5 have been incredibly supportive and have kindly sponsored the children. To all the children and families of year 5 – you are amazing. Thank you!

Lest We Forget

On Monday, at 11am, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month of the year, we gathered together to present a handmade wreath or poster, observed a minute's silence and listened to the last post. During worship, we gave thanks for the brave troops who sacrificed/ sacrifice themselves to protect us.



'Make A Noise About Bullying'

Monday 11th November was the start of Anti-bullying Week in school. We took part in Odd Socks Day, on Tuesday 12th to celebrate uniqueness and each class completed activities throughout the week. 'Choose Respect' was the theme this year. Imagine a world where respect and kindness thrives- it's not just a dream, it's in the choices we make.

SPORT

Hockey

Our hockey team, who enjoyed a successful league campaign, competed in the hockey tournament at UCLan last half term. In our opening match, we played a strong Our Lady and St Edwards side and lost 2-0. In our second match, we played Barton St Lawrence. Both teams cancelled each other out and after 5 minutes of play, the match finished 0-0. Our third match saw us go up against the eventual group winners, Sherwood. We had previously, narrowly lost against them in our league match, 1-0. The match was fairly even but Sherwood showed their strength again with two quick goals. We did press and pull a goal back. In our final match, we played well and again, Reggie C was denied a goal, with a great save from Queen's Drive Kicking Back. The match finished 0-0. A special mention was given to Joshua P for mainly playing as our Kicking Back and for making some crucial saves. Well done to Joshua P, Reggie C, Evan W, Jack D, Annabelle L, Aamal I and Amelia T

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Football League

Our season will consist of 6 league matches, in Division 1 of the football league. In our opening match, we played a strong St Mary and St Andrews side. The match was fairly even but I felt that we created the better chances. Despite this, we were unable to score. The match finished 0-0. In our second match, we played St Peter's. We dominated the match from start to finish and created some good goal-scoring opportunities. The match finished with a 1-0 win for us.

Harold Slater Shield Cup

Our boys football team competed in the Harold Slater Shield Cup competition against Blessed Sacrament this half-term. We dominated the match from start to finish, and played some fantastic football, especially in the first half. We went into half-time with a 2-0 lead. The second half continued in a similar way but we were unable to add to our lead.

Well done: Zsolt H, Finley H, Malachy W, Charlie B, Fred C, Aryan C, Thomas G and Ben W.



Mini-skills

On Tuesday morning our year 2 mini-skills team competed in the inter school mini-skills competition at West View Leisure Centre. Our team competed across 6 different events, which included 3 different relay events, a throwing and catching for speed and accuracy event, a kicking a ball for accuracy event and throwing into a bucket event testing speed and accuracy. I was incredibly proud of our team for how they performed and competed– they were a credit to our school. Once all the points had been calculated, we found out that we finished in 12th place.

Well done: Archie B, Oliver M, Caleb H, Charlotte H, Hattie L and Eliza G



SAFEGUARDING

We have continued to share the very useful Safeguarding guides with our parents and carers. We have shared the 'Developing Healthy Sleep Patterns', 'What Parents and carers need to know about Fortnite', 'Encouraging children to choose respect' and 'Top Tips for Teaching Cycle Safety'.

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.

Mr Stuart Booth

Headteacher

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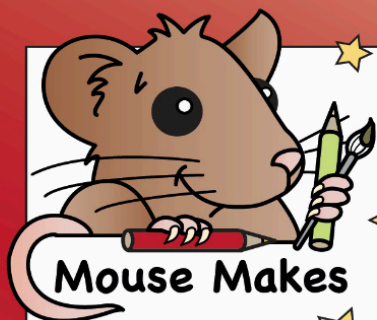
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Mouse Makes

"Jesus said,
I am the ___ Y
and the ___ U ___
and the ___ I ___.
No one comes to the Father
except through me."
John 14:6

"The child to be born
will be called
H ___ , the
___ of ___"
Luke 1:35

"For unto you is born
this day a
S ___
who is
___ R ___
the ___ R ___"
Luke 2:11

THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,
and shall call his name

for he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said,
I am the

and the life."
John 11:25

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

O H O L Y O R C R T U
S O N O F M A N H A R T
N L S H E P H E R D U
O Y A E P E R G I F T G
C H R I S T M A S T H S
R E S U R R E C T I O N

JESUS
—
THE
GREATEST
GIFT
OF ALL!

P R O P H E T I
R E D E E M E R
I E M I L I G
E M E S S I A H
S R M E G F T
T E A C H E R E

E V E R L A S T I N G
K I N G O F K I N G S
I N K I G W F D O U
S E S O N O F G O D D
S E W O C O U W O R D
C O U N S E L L O R U

EMMANUEL • MESSIAH REDEEMER • KING OF KINGS • WORD
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Find the words from the Bible verses too!

Dec24 © deborah noble @ parishpump.co.uk



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

Meeting in church for the first hymn at 10.00am
before leaving for lots of activities and fun.

For more information please contact the vicar.

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CHURCH COLLECTIONS

Oct	27th	£167.64		Nov	10th	£279.93
Nov	3rd	£303.00		Nov	17th	£140.07
Nov	3rd	£147.00	Service of Light	Nov	21st	£32.10

FLOWER ROTA

Dec	1st	Vacant	Jan	5th	Vacant
Dec	8th	Holding Family	Jan	12th	Vacant
Dec	15th	Vacant	Jan	19th	Nellie Cowell
Dec	22nd	Dawn Desai	Jan	26th	Vacant
Dec	29th	Ruth Buckley			

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
Dec	1st	John Cowell		N Cowell L Williams	
Dec	8th	B Mackley	M Lamberty	B Mackley B Holt	
Dec	15th	N Maudsley		J Eccles S Cowell	
Dec	22nd	R Woollam	S Cowell	L Wood L Desai	
Dec	25th	R Buckley		M Lamberty Vicar	
Dec	29th	James Cowell		K Billington D Rusling	
Jan	5th	John Cowell		N Cowell B Mackley	
Jan	12th	K Thompson	N Cowell	L Williams L Desai	
Jan	19th	R Woollham		B Holt M Lamberty	
Jan	26th	R Buckley	M Lamberty	L Wood J Eccles	

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

	Leader	Duty		Welcome	
Dec	6th	Jean.	Helen.	Nellie.	Linda
Dec	13th	Kate.	Maureen.	Eileen.	Janet
Dec	20th	Christmas buffet etc. We ask everyone to help if they can.			
Jan	3rd	Marlene.	Jean.	Nellie	Christine
Jan	10th	Kate.	Eileen.	Maureen.	Janet
Jan	17th	Jean.	Nellie.	Jennifer.	Linda
Jan	24th	Marlene.	Helen.	Eileen.	Christine
Jan	31st	Jennifer.	Kate.	Jean.	Janet

Holy Baptism

Nov 17th

Jesus said "Let the children come unto me"

Harvey Bridge

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

- 1st** **1st Sunday of Advent**
10.00am Morning Worship with the Toy Service
- 6th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
6.00pm Village Crib Service
- 7th** 10.00am Setting up for the Christmas Fair
1.00pm Christmas Fair in School
- 8th** **2nd Sunday of Advent**
10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club
6.30pm Joint Advent Service at Alston Lane
- 13th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
6.30pm Carol Singing starting at The Plough
- 14th** 9.30am Decorating Church for Christmas
- 15th** **3rd Sunday of Advent**
10.00am Morning Worship
- 18th** 7.30pm Mothers' Union Christmas Communion
- 19th** 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 20th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning and Christmas buffet in Grimsargh Club
- 21st** 11.00am Carol Singing at the Farmers Market
- 22nd** **Last Sunday of Advent**
10.00am Holy Communion
6.00pm Carol Service
- 24th** **Christmas Eve**
4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service
- 25th** **Christmas Day**
10.00am Christmas Day Holy Communion
- 29th** **1st Sunday after Christmas**
10.00am Morning Worship

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

- 3rd** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 5th** **2nd Sunday after Christmas**
10.00am Morning Worship
- 10th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 12th** **1st Sunday after Epiphany**
10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club
- 13th** 7.30pm PCC Meeting in School
- 15th** 12noon for 12.30pm Mothers' Union AGM at the Plough
- 16th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 17th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 19th** **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**
10.00am Morning Worship
6.30pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service with Alston Lane
- 24th** 9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 26th** **3rd 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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