

VICAR'S LETTER

The view from the study.

Remember ‘the Beast from the East’, that period of fiercely cold weather that swept across the country in late February 4 years ago? We never know quite what the winter will bring, but we live in hope as the renewal of the earth begins in the Spring. The constancy of creation, despite humanity’s best efforts to wreck this beautiful world, is truly a blessing we have not earned.

As we look for signs of spring, let’s not forget to *enjoy* the wonder of God’s bountiful creation – and we can discover the work of God’s hands all around us. I have never lived anywhere, whether in rural or urban areas, where the beauty of the natural world could not be seen. It might just have been a bush that blossoms white or pink in the spring, or a glimpse of trees above the rooftops, or the distant hills appearing as I turned a corner – or even a fascinating bug crawling across the floor.

Many of us use online maps to help plan journeys, but have you ever looked closely at the sea on some of these map apps? The fascinating sub-marine world is revealed in ways you or I will never see in person. Islands are shown to be the peaks of underwater mountains; continental shelves and deep trenches can be tracked around the globe; distant lands and islands are shown to be linked under the sea in ways that most would not appreciate as they fly in on holiday. If you haven’t explored the vast oceans in this way, give it a try next time you are online.

It is a wonderful experience to get out in the wilds of nature, and we are so fortunate here to have such a lot on our doorstep. But even where that is not possible, the above examples remind us we don’t need to go far to marvel in the glory of creation. Indeed, all you need is a mirror and a few moments to examine the wondrous piece of creation *you* are!

The Book of Psalms is a great place to look for words of scripture praising God’s creation. Read Psalm 104 if you can: thirty-five verses devoted to praising God for his providence in creation. When we look at the grandeur of creation, we can feel very small indeed - as Psalm 8 puts it: *When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him..?*

We do well to spend a little time feeling insignificant in the face of creation – it’s good for our humility! But we are also part of that creation and God is indeed mindful of us. In return, how mindful are we of God and his glorious creation?

With my prayers, Neil.

School Governors.

St Michael's School is a fantastic place to be right now. Under Mr Booth the school is embarking on a progressive new era, without losing any of the compassion and warm community feel it has long been known for. There have been a few changes in recent years, which can be unsettling for a school, but with the truly dynamic staff team and dedicated board of governors, the future is looking bright.

YOU could be part of this. We are currently seeking THREE new 'foundation governors' for the school. These are PCC appointments, so it is important that those appointed share the Christian ethos of the school and have a commitment to the life of the church.

The time commitment involves a full governors' meeting once a term, then beyond this, governors are asked to serve on sub-committees and take on roles such as being attached to a specific class, or taking an interest in a particular subject area.

You do not need experience of the education sector, and in fact, in order to broaden the range of skills on the governing body, we encourage expressions of interest from people with experience in other areas of life.

Please think prayerfully about whether you might be able to serve as a governor, and do have a word with me if you wish to discuss the possibility.

Thank you, Neil.

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.

Christmas Quiz

I would like to thank everyone who supported me with the quiz this year. Altogether it raised an amazing £1271 for church funds. The winner was Mrs Anne Barker and the answers are at the back of church. Thank you once again. James

News from "FAF"

While fundraising has been affected by the pandemic, that is not to say that we have not been busy. We held our first meeting of 2022 on Monday January 24th and, hopefully, we will have lots of exciting plans and events to share with you in the next magazine.

However, a date for your diaries, subject to Covid restrictions, is Saturday 23rd April. On this date, we have booked "Ferraris Restaurant" for a return of the popular Parish meal, 12.30pm.

There will be a list to sign at the back of Church, and I would be grateful if you could sign the list and have the correct money ready on the day, as you have done in previous years.

You will need to indicate, your preferences on the sign-up list:

2 courses £15.00

3 courses £19.50

Children under 12 years of age – Half price or the children's menu

Coffee – an additional £2.50

You will also be able to indicate on the list, if you require a lift to the venue.

Looking forward to sharing a Parish Meal once again. If you would like to attend, and may not be able to sign the list, please email me, jaynewoollam@hotmail.co.uk or tel 01772 704112, or contact any "FAF" member.

Salvation Army

A letter of thanks from the Salvation Army for their Christmas appeal is on the Church Notice Board. Highlights are:

This year we helped 235 families with toy/gift hampers. We provided toys for 243 0-10 year olds, and gifts for 200 10-18 year olds. On average each child was given about 10 items making the total around 4430 toys/gifts that were given out.

The food bank was also extremely busy in December which saw us giving out 1085 bags of food & 313 bags of toiletries to people in need.

Grimsthorpe Parish Church Electoral Roll 2022

The Church Electoral Roll is the basic list in every parish of all those entitled to vote in elections within the Church of England.

Before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) the electoral roll is either reviewed or, once every six years, completely renewed.

This year we are reviewing the electoral roll therefore, if you have completed a form last year there is no need for you to do anything further as you will remain on the electoral roll until it is renewed. However, if you have moved into the village, started attending church or turned 16 in the last 12 months and would like to be included on the electoral roll please fill in a form that can be picked up from the back of church or downloaded from the church website.

Who can be on the electoral roll?

To be on the electoral roll a person needs to have been baptised, be at least 16 years old and either:

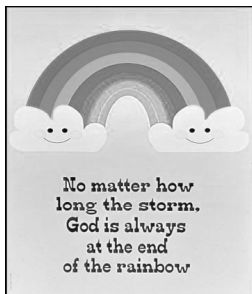
- Living in the parish and a member of the Church of England or a Church in communion with the Church of England.
- Not resident in the parish but is a member of the Church of England (or a Church with which the Church of England is in communion) and has regularly attended worship in the parish during the six months prior to enrolment
- A member in good standing of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and they are prepared to declare themselves a member of the Church of England, having regularly attended worship during the six months prior to enrolment.

Dates in our parish relevant to the review of the electoral roll:-

Put up notice regarding the revision at least 14 days before the start of the revision	7 th April 2022 at the latest
Undertake the revision on a fixed date 15 to 28 before the APCM	21 st April 2022
Display the revised roll with a list of those names removed at least 14 days before the APCM	1 st May 2022
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)	15 th May 2022

For further information please speak to Jennifer Perry.

MOTHERS' UNION



I love to see a rainbow!

The poster on the church notice board reminds us that after the storms, God promises to be with us, to hold and keep us safe.

Rainbows can also symbolize a fresh start full of opportunities to love and grow.

As we begin to see signs of Spring emerging I pray that you experience new hope in our loving Father God.

We pray especially for those going through storms at the moment, Geoffrey and Sondra Loxham and Maureen Wood.

We also remember Brenda Croft and Cath Champ's family

News from our group

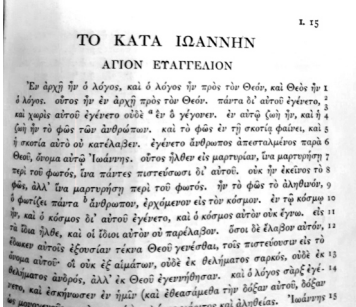
Unfortunately, with new outbreaks of Covid, we are still exercising caution when meeting, so the

AGM and the January meeting with a meal of Fish & chips at the Plough had to be cancelled. The February Meeting will be on February 16th. Miss Joy Rushton will be telling us about growing up as a vicar's daughter, and now, her job with Bishop Gill as Witness Manager. 7:30pm in the church. There will be the Mothers Union literacy stall so bring your purses!

We have been asked to support the Prison Toy Appeal, to provide new toys or craft items for children as they visit Preston prison. Our group will be giving for the 5-8yrs age group. Please bring your donation to the March meeting. Also any other gifts—Easter Eggs or unwanted Christmas gifts. Thank you

Ruth

IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME!



What a mess! A jumble of unfamiliar letters and squiggles! You can't understand a word of it.

Well, actually you'll be surprised at how much Greek you already know. Know what a hippopotamus is? To the Greek traveller Strabo first seeing them in the Nile, they were a horse (hippos) of the river (potamos). Know the word “psyche”? This is a direct transposition of the Greek word Psuche, their word for soul.

Let's move on to the alphabet; yes, that's it, that's how the Greek alphabet starts, Alpha, Beta. You probably know the next 2 letters as well, Gamma, Delta.

This article was prompted by a discussion in the vestry between Neil and me about translation of the bible into English, in respect of the New Testament from spoken Hebrew into Greek into English, and the scope for misunderstanding deriving from that. Not all our discussions there are so erudite, but this one stirred me, on Neil's prompting, to try to explain a bit about ancient Greek, which is after all the language in which we receive the New Testament, and how it is not so daunting as first it seems; and if there is any interest in this, I can expand, another time, on the alphabet and a number of other topics about the language.

You not only know those Greek letters, you know the last one too, “I am Alpha and I am Omega” Revelations Ch.1 v.8. You also know, courtesy of Covid, that Greek has another letter o, Omicron; so Omega is long o (as in the word “home”) and Omicron is short o (as in “rock”).

On ancient Greek language generally, many assume that it is a fixed entity, uniform across the ancient, Before Christ period. This is not so. The Greek of Homer (if there ever was such a person) was first committed to written form c 900 BC. Before that, reciters travelled about the Greek speaking world, reciting to an illiterate audience, chunks of poetic stories they had committed to memory.

We then move to the classical period, c 480 BC when the Persian emperor first tried to conquer Greece, through to c 380 BC when the Greek world of city states began to disintegrate, a quite short but intense period of literary development, including plays by Aeschylus (the war against Persians in which he was a soldier), Sophocles (king Oedipus who it turned out, had killed his own father and married his mother) and Euripides (a leading play about the Greek version of the wine god and the cultural clash between the state and art) as well as philosophy (Aristotle, Plato) fundamental to all modern Western philosophy.

So, bear in mind it's 400 years from Homer (the Iliad about the Trojan war; the Odyssey, about Odysseus' tortuous return home to Greece) to the classics, and another 400 from them to the 1st century AD New Testament. Think how much our own language has changed from the time of Shakespeare and King James 1, and spare a thought for the poor classical scholar having to mug up on 3 different sets of vocabulary.

That's enough for now. The passage at the head of the article is a very familiar one to you, read every year (in English of course!) at a particular time in the church calendar. *Cont on pg 15*

Any ideas? By the way, ignore the squiggles above the characters. Accents were only added c 200 BC by a scholar at the library at Alexandria, to try to fix the way Greek was pronounced; originally Greek was written without accents.

Mark Lamberty

SCHOOL REPORT

On behalf of all school staff at Grimsargh St Michael's, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy new year.

It was great to welcome our wonderful children back into school after the Christmas break and we are excited about what this term has to offer.

Our Spring term topic is called, '**Our Changing World**'. There will be opportunities for children to explore real world events, statements, pictures, quotes and they will have their thoughts and opinions heard, challenged and questioned.

On Thursday 6th January, we celebrated the Epiphany. As the children gathered to celebrate, they listened to an animated version a well-known carol, 'We Three Kings' and enjoyed the story of the wise men visiting the baby Jesus. Then they talked about some of their favourite Christmas gifts and completed a quiz- matching gifts to people of different ages.

School staff recently attended an exciting training session led by Cross Curricular Orienteering. This will be a fantastic resource for staff to use to not only make learning active across the curriculum but make learning fun for our children and make learning 'stick'. The orienteering markers can be spotted around our school grounds.

We are again extremely proud to be able to offer a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs to all our children. Our clubs have again proved very popular with full take up on those with limited numbers. We have many different sports clubs, a Athletics club, Bible fun club, Yoga club, Art club among many others.

Our PTFA continue to be active and are seeking help with donations of any outgrown or unwanted Christmas jumpers. There is a collection box in the main school reception area. Each year, millions of Christmas jumpers are thrown away or never worn again. In addition, our PTFA are accepting any unwanted Christmas gifts or other donations that can be used as prizes at future PTFA events! They are looking for gift sets, alcohol, bottles, smellies and anything else unwanted! Items to be dropped off at our school reception.

We have continued to enter all events on the sporting calendar. The most recent event was the 'New Age Kurling' for which we entered two teams of year 6 children. After enjoying many competitive matches against various other local schools, both our teams won through to the semi-finals in which they were drawn against each other! After the first end, Grimsargh team two were 1-0 ahead. However, team one fought back, winning the second end 2-0 and thus the match 2-1.

Grimsargh team two played against Kennington in the 3rd/4th place play-off and won 4-0, earning them a BRONZE medal each and a trophy for school. Grimsargh team one, played against Fulwood and Cadley in the FINAL, winning 2-0 and earning them a GOLD medal each and a trophy for school.

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

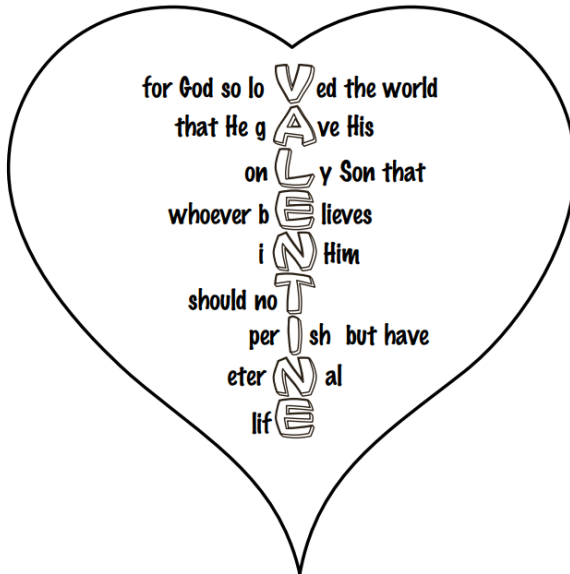
Mr Stuart Booth
Headteacher

JIGSAW CLUB

For the children of Michael's, Grimsargh.

It is February already! For this month's activity I would like you to get your bible out and find some of the passages that explore God's eternal love for each and every one of us..

John 3:16



What did John Say About Love? Read the verses and answer the questions.

- John 13:34 - What does Jesus command us to do?
- 1 John 4:7 - Who does love come from?
- 1 John 4:9 - How did God show his love for us?
- 1 John 4:11 - Why should we love one another?

Further suggested reading: 1 Corinthians 13. This is called the love chapter because it's words describe how to show love to others.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

November 21st	£189.00	
November 28th	£362.20	
December 5th	£191.00	
December 12th	£335.00	
December 19th	£197.70	
December 24th	£123.85	
December 25th	£157.40	
December 26th	£158.10	
January 2nd	£139.00	
January 6th	£81.00	Epiphany
January 9th	£384.35	
January 16th	£149.25	

We acknowledge with grateful thanks a donation
of £200 for the Churchyard Fund
from John Cowell in memory of Marlene

FLOWER ROTA

February	6th	Vacant
February	13th	Vacant
February	20th	Vacant
February	27th	Vacant

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Readers Assistant	Coffee
Feb 6th		R Woollam	S Cowell Vicar	
Feb 13th		B Mackley	B Mackley Vicar	
Feb 20th		R Buckley	Youth Reader	
Feb 27th		K Thompson	J Eccles Vicar	

Holy Baptism

January 16th

Jesus said "Let the children come unto me"

Florence Mary Jacques

Funeral

November 1st

Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

Peter Joseph Croft, 76

With sincere apologies, especially to Brenda and family, that Peter was not included in the December magazine.

January 10th

Cath Champ, 71

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

- 3rd** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 4th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 6th** **4th Sunday before Lent** The Queen's Accession, 1952
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Morning Worship
4.00pm Confirmation Course (Adults)
- 10th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 11th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 13th** **Septuagesima / 3rd Sun before Lent**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Holy Communion
4.00pm Confirmation Class
- 16th** 7:30pm Mothers' Union in Church with Joy Rushton (see MU report)
plus the Literature Stall
- 17th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 18th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 20th** **Sexagesima / 2nd Sun before Lent**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Family Service
4.00pm Confirmation Course (Adults)
- 24th** *St Matthias, Apostle and Martyr*
11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 25th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 27th** **Quinquagesima / Sunday next before Lent**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Holy Communion
4.00pm Confirmation Class

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