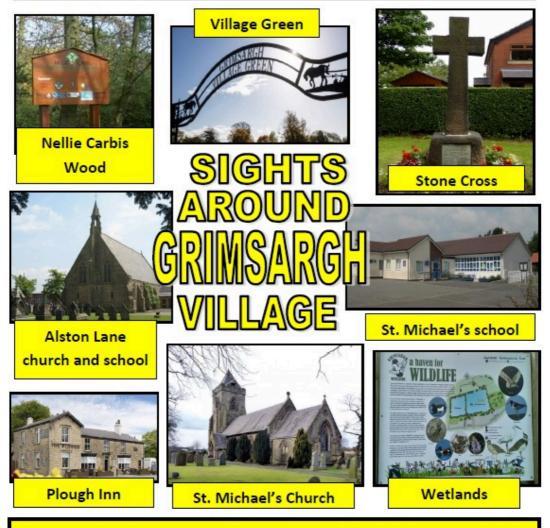
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February 2024 70p





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MOTHERS' UNION	Every third Wednesday in the school. Contact N C	he month at 7.30pm cowell Tel: 651772 ickley Tel: 653940				
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BROWNIES 2nd Grimsargh Every Wednesday at 5.30pm in the Village Hall						
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PARISH LETTER

New Year - New Hope?

Happy 2024 to you all - it does seem odd writing this for the February magazine, but at least I'm writing this in the early part of January.

It does strike me as odd that we put so much store into the change from 31st December to 1st January. There has been lots of partying, no doubt some excessive drinking and eating, and a mad amount of fireworks - all for the change in a date, which in many ways is quite arbitrary. I mean did the 1st of January 2024 seem a lot different to the 31st of December 2023?

We do place a lot of hope, whatever the last year was for us, in the start of a new year. Resolutions aside (how many have already been broken?) we hope that this year will be better / healthier / wealthier / happier / peaceful / add your own, than last year. We place a lot of hope in hope, as there are many things that we can't influence or even know about the next 12 months.

Christians have a different hope - not in events, people or situations changing - but in a Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We have recently reheard the story of his birth and all that God promised He would be - a King, Saviour, God with us.

Placing our hope and trust in other people, our employer, governments, or circumstances end up with us being disappointed in some way at the end of another year - and so the cycle continues, lets hope next year will be better!

On the other hand placing our hope and trust in Jesus can bring transformation to our lives. The New Testament of the Bible continually reminds us that faith in Jesus brings true hope for the future. Not that the world is going to be an instantly different place, but that our part in it and our relationship to it changes.

The Bible promises us the blessings of God, forgiveness for where we've messed up, a new start in life, a new purpose in serving God and one another, an assurance of God's presence with us every day, and a hope of a home with our Lord for ever once it is all over.

It may seem smaller than we'd hope for, but it means that each of us has the power to make a difference in our community and our world and that can be bigger than we can ever imagine. It changes our lives and has the power to change the lives of others, all because God loves each one of us and sent His Son Jesus to live, die, rise and reign in glory.

As we trust in Him new hope and new possibilities can become reality.

Blessings, Andy



Thank you

You may have noticed that we've been able to light the church building up outside over Christmas. It is another way to show people that we are here and make coming to worship in winter safer, and using energy efficient bulbs doesn't use as much electricity as previously. We are also in the process of improving and adding to our microphones in church, hopefully you're noticing the difference. Eventually we'll have 2 headset microphones so Jayne and Andy (and others) can share in leading our worship. There will also be a handheld mic which can be used when hearing from JIGSAW and others in our worship.

We haven't suddenly got rich but have been able to use some of the money given in memory of Philip Cowell.

Thank you, Nellie, for your generosity.

Craft and Chat

As many of you know I love to craft, I can often be found with a crochet hook or a set of knitting needles in my hands. Several people have expressed an interest in getting together to craft and chat perhaps once a month. Maybe you have a craft project that you are working on (or would like to resurrect a project from the back of a cupboard), you would like help getting started with a craft project or would like to learn how to knit or crochet, then this could be the time to make a start! I'm planning to have an informal meeting for anyone who might be interested in starting a craft group on Wednesday 21st February starting at 2pm in the vicarage, 6 Douglas Lane. I look forward to seeing you

Louise Williams

Food Bank

Below is a copy of the letter from the Salvation Army thanking us for our contributions over Christmas.

Dear Friends,

We would like to say an extremely big thank you for your help and support this year with our Annual Christmas Appeal & Emergency Food Provision.

This year we helped 298 families with toy/gift hampers. We provided toys for 311 0-10 year olds, and gifts for 284 10-19 year olds. A total of 595 children. On average each child was given about 15 items making the total around 8925 toys/ gifts that were given out.

The food bank was also extremely busy in December which saw us giving out 1450 bags of food & toiletries to people in need.

Without all the wonderful donations we received we would have been unable to help as many families as we did. Your giving enabled The Salvation Army, Preston, to serve others across the city and beyond.

Thank you all once again, and may we wish you all a very Happy New Year! Kind Regards,

Claire Bowerman Community Centre Co-Ordinator

<u>Churches Together in Longridge and District</u> **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** (A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT) *'Bear with one another in love'* Friday 1st MARCH 2024

11am Christ Church, Berry Lane

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated on the first Friday in March each year by over 120 countries. This year, the service has been prepared by women from Palestine, and includes music and reflection as well as an opportunity to pray for women from all parts of the world and to hear about their hopes and concerns. The theme of the service 2024 'bear with one another in love' seems very appropriate for these women who will not give up witnessing the love of Jesus Christ.

We will be joined by a group of children from Berry Lane school who will be leading us in two of the hymns. The service will last for approximately one hour and will be led by members of all our local churches. A light lunch will be served in the church hall after the service.

Everyone is welcome. Come and join us!



Can you help with serving Coffee and Refreshments after the Sunday services?

Firstly, I would like to thank the lovely team of five ladies, who have been regularly serving refreshments after our Sunday Church services over the last year. Would you like to join our happy team? We really could do with more helpers to step forward so we could have two people on the Rota each week. If you want to find out how you could help, please phone or email me Penny Thompson 01772651850 or pjthompson247@gmail.com



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FUNCTION MENUS

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News from FAF - "Fundraising and Fun"

We are delighted to report that last year, FAF raised approximately $\pounds 10,000$ for Church funds – onwards and upwards!

We also organise many fun activities, which do not raise funds, but which bring our church community together in fellowship and fun. We have lots of events planned for 2024, starting with a Beetle Drive.

"Beetle Drive," Friday 23rd February, 6pm, Grimsargh St. Michael's School. The weather may be cold and bleak outside in February, but you are assured of a warm welcome at our family friendly "Beetle Drive", Friday 23rd February.

In addition, in conjunction with Miss Smith, Deputy Head, St. Michael's School, we are launching a competition for the "Best Creepy Crawly" drawing/painting. There are two age classes, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, and there will be prizes for the winners, who will be announced during the evening of the Beetle Drive.

Entry is $\pounds 2.00$ for adults and $\pounds 1.00$ for children and you can pay on the door. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

You can bring your own refreshments too. If you've never been to a Beetle Drive before, this is your opportunity to discover how much fun you can have with a beetle!

If you don't attend St. Michaels School, and would like to enter the competition, just bring your entry on the night of the Beetle Drive.

A talk by David Hindle on the "History of Grimsargh", Friday 22nd March, 7pm, Grimsargh St. Michael's Church.

Renowned historian and Grimsargh resident, David Hindle, will be giving a talk on the History of Grimsargh on Friday 22nd March. David has written many books on social and natural history. In 2002, David wrote "Grimsargh – The History of a Lancashire Village". During this talk, David will be telling us Grimsargh's story from the Bronze Age to the twenty first century. If you are new to the village, or you're a longstanding resident, this talk promises to be a real treat.

Entry is £5.00 and includes light refreshments. You can pay on the door.

Easter Egg Drawing Competition

In conjunction with St. Michaels' School, we are launching a drawing/painting competition for Easter. We would like the children to draw or paint an Easter Egg depicting some part of the Easter Story. Miss Smith will collect entries in school, and there will also be a basket for entries at the back of church. All entries will receive a small Easter Egg and there will be prizes for the winners. The Easter Egg drawings will be displayed in Church on Easter Sunday, Sunday 31st March, when the winners will be announced. Again, there will be two classes, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Please ensure that names are placed clearly on the back of each entry.

Good Friday Walk, Friday 29th March.

Following service on Good Friday, 11am, we are hoping to have a short Good Friday walk. Please come prepared with walking shoes/boots and weatherproofs.

The walk is on hard surfaces and will only take approximately an hour – a time of fellowship. Please bring a packed lunch – we will hopefully enjoy lunch and a brew after the walk!

"BIG RAFFLE"- 2024

The Big Raffle is back for 2024 and we need prizes. If you can donate a prize, perhaps a voucher or an experience, or donate non-perishable items for hampers, we would be very grateful. We will have a basket for smaller donations at the back of Church, but if you have a voucher etc, please see Nellie.

Tea Towel Artists – We Need You!

We are hoping to create a tea towel to sell at church events. However, we need your help. We are asking people to submit black and white drawings of Grimsargh, not photographs, for a new tea towel. The sketches can be of the Church but also we need other features in the village too, maybe Grimsargh Green, the Wetlands, the Plough, or anything else that you think would be suitable to depict Grimsargh on a tea towel. Please could you submit your sketches to Nellie, Jayne or the vicar. Submissions should be received by Easter Sunday to enable us to organise the production of the tea towel for the summer. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that every entry will be used.

Please contact Nellie Cowell 01772 651772 or Jayne Woollam 07749 934 208 to submit your entries, or for more information.

And Finally – The Parish Meal, Saturday 27th April, 12 noon for 12.30pm, The Cross<u>Keys</u>, Whitechapel

Please put this date in your diaries. We will be holding the Parish Meal on Saturday 27th April, at the Cross Keys, Whitechapel. More details to follow.

A Ramble round Rome (continued)

The passing reference to Caesar Augustus in Luke's gospel has prompted over Christmas this brief diversion from the literature to history, both in youth and now, of greater interest to your writer than the literature ever was. Did you see the excellent 3 part series about Julius Caesar on BBC? It rather triggered the question, what happened next? The conspirators to Caesar's murder were defeated at Philippi in Greece and the 2nd triumvirate was set up which comprised Octavian, later Caesar Augustus, a now little known general called Lepidus, and Mark Anthony. Over the next 10 years Lepidus was side-lined and a conflict developed between the 2 remaining protagonists, resolved at the naval battle of Actium **31BC** (and my apologies, the date I gave for the battle of 32 BC in November's magazine was wrong). Octavian was Caesar's nominated heir, whom he identified as a young teenager as his successor. Although Anthony was a loyal supporter of Caesar, Caesar regarded him as unreliable and a hot head.

And so it was after the battle that Octavian became Caesar Augustus, the 1st Roman emperor. And so also became the name Caesar synonymous with imperial authority right up to 20th century, the Kaiser in Germany and Austria, the Tsar in Russia: though the other names which Augustus acquired for himself were of

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If you are interested in a stall or require any further information email markets@grimsarghvillagehall.co.uk great importance to him. First of all, he called himself "Princeps" or first citizen, but not "Dictator", the title Julius Caesar had taken, which had so offended the conspirators.

Further, he had himself repeatedly hailed as "Imperator", which then was a title equivalent to commander in chief or field marshal, and which a Republican general would be called once in his career if he was lucky, following a triumph, a parade through Rome. A slave rode in the chariot of the successful general, constantly showering him with rose petals, but also whispering in his ear, "sic transit Gloria mundi", so passes the glory of the world. And of course this title then became established as emperor. Augustus had an eventful, and long, life. He was aged about 80 when he died in 14AD, which must have seemed an incredible age to his subjects whose life expectancy would be a great deal less than that. As we know, he ordered a census of the empire. There were also constant wars, in particular beyond the Rhine in Germany. In 9AD there was a massive defeat of the Roman army in a forest in Germany where 3 legions out of the total of 28 legions in the entire army were annihilated in an ambush, and their legionary numbers were never replaced. Augustus also as well as administering this huge empire, fostered literature, a task which he delegated to one of his close associates, called Maecenas; back to the literature next month.

Mark

MOTHERS' UNION

The January meeting took place at the Plough with a fish and chips lunch. A valuable time to catch up with everyone and to receive the Mothers Union Report for 2023 from Nellie. Thank you to Nellie and all the committee for all their hard work in providing a very varied selection of speakers from Mark Aldridge, from the Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue, to walking along the Lancaster canal with Dot Little, going out to China with Lucinda Smith. Then, finding more about Nightsafe in Blackburn with Kieran Spencer and Rachel Ray and The Diocesan Vision 26 with Joy Rushton and learning how to paint with David Wilks, the Painting Policeman! Certainly a very varied mixture!! During the year we have also met for quieter times at special communion services, the Wave of Prayer and the Deanery Quiet hour. A vital part of the Mothers Union.

One of the joys of the Mothers Union is the opportunity to meet each other & to welcome new members. When I started writing the Mothers Union article in 2021 I 'interviewed' the birthday girls each month to help us know a little more about each other. I feel it is time to do it again! But, this time, with addition of a photograph to really help us put a face to the name.



Meet the January birthday girls

Joyce Lee (January 16th) has lived in Grimsargh for 15 years, previously lived in Gamull and New Hall Lane. She loves her home as it is so very central to all the village facilities. These two photos are very special to Joyce.



'The Splash', signed by Tom Finney, Jimmy's birthday present! Received in person from the Deepdale legend



Name the year! Joyce & her beloved Jimmy in their home at Gamull



Linda Fisk (January 18th) went to Australia on a surprise visit to her daughter to celebrate her birthday with her! All arranged by her grand-daughter who is a Police detective in Perth! Her birthday treat this year was a trip to the Lowry to watch the King and I which she thoroughly enjoyed!

Saundra Loxham (January 29th) is a member of St. Michael's Mothers Union but lives in Longridge with her husband, Geoffrey. Geoffrey was vicar of St. Michael's from 1999—2010, so well known by many of you. They are still very active in church life in the Parish of the Risen Lord in Preston. She has a love of animals, in fact would have loved to have been a vet. She often dog walks a friends dog. They both appreciate the prayers from St. Michael's for Geoffrey recently. He has now been in remission for 2 years! Keep praying!



Linda Shaw (January 31st) has lived in Grimsargh for 6 years. She has lived in many places from Tarleton, Southport then emigrated to Vancouver, Canada for many years. She loves crafting - knitting, crocheting and sewing. She would have loved to have made a career from sewing but, unfortunately, had to start work instead of going to college but I'm guessing she gains as much pleasure now from her crafts as she would have done from a job!

We wish all the birthday ladies God's blessings throughout the coming year . May they know and trust in His love and strength.



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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.

On Monday 8th January, we celebrated the Epiphany. As the children gathered to celebrate, they listened to an animated version a well- known carol, 'What can I give Him?' and enjoyed the story of the wise men visiting the baby Jesus.

CLUBS

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.

SWIMMING

Our year 3 children have completed their two weeks of swimming, every day for 45 minutes at Fulwood Leisure Centre. They have shown a super attitude to the sessions, have listened to instructions excellently, have shown perseverance and resilience when needed, have impressed the swimming teachers and have thus represented our school incredibly well. All our school staff have been immensely proud.

SPORTS

We have continued to enter all events on the sporting calendar. We look forward to the events in the coming days and weeks which include the year 1/2 mini-skills, 3/4 football competition, year 3/4 gymnastics, the swimming gala and tag rugby fixtures.

WINNIE THE POOH

On Thursday 18th January, our KS1 classes celebrated Winnie the Pooh Day! It is a special day celebrated on the birthday of author A A Milne. Each class marked the occasion with a range of Winnie the Pooh themed activities that the children enjoyed.

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 Free Speech vs Hate Speech' and 'What Parents and carers need to know about Managing Screen Time'.

Search 'grimsarghstmichaels' on Instagram, 'Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School' on Facebook and 'GSMPrimaryArtDT' to see 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

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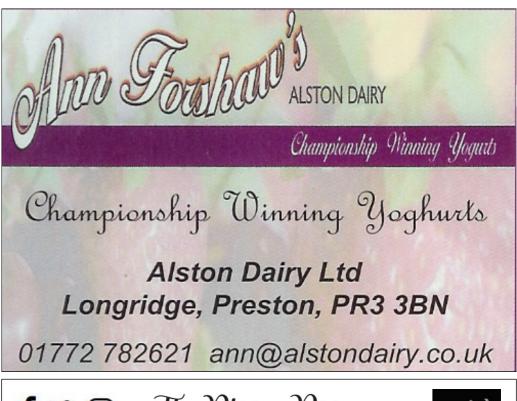
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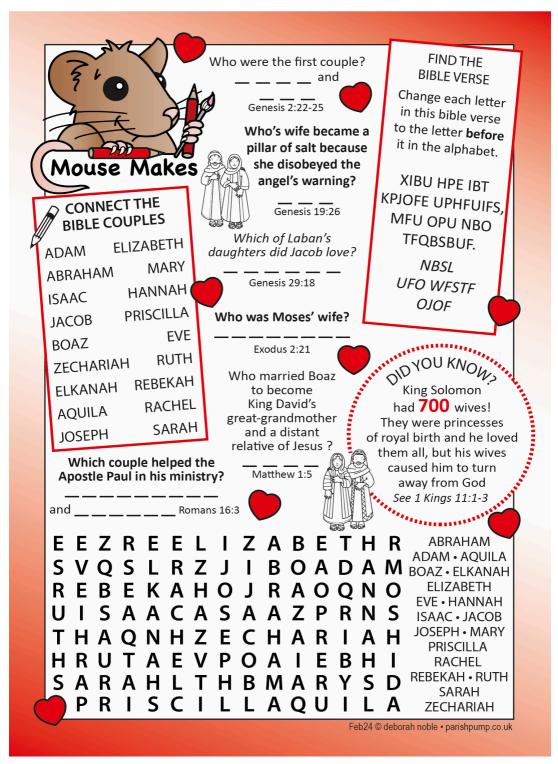
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Nov 26		aptism Dec					
-	rd £234.80	Dec					
-		aptism Jan	7th £182.50				
Dec 10		Jan	14th £481.20				
Grateful thanks to John Cowell for his £200 donation in memory of Marlene FLOWER ROTA							
	Eab		Cowell				
	Feb		Cowell				
	Feb		Vacant				
	Feb		lowers				
	Feb	25th Durir	ng Lent				
SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS							
8.30a		Communion	Readers Coffee				
		Assistant					
Feb 4th	R Woollar	n	D Rusling				
			Vicar				
Feb 11th	James Co	owell B Mackley	J Eccles B Holt				
Feb 18th	B Mackley	/	Youth				
			Reader				
Feb 25th	R Buckley	S Cowell	N Cowell M Lamberty				
FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA							
	Leader	Duty	Welcome				
Tab 2nd	Nellie						
Feb 2nd		Jean Kat					
Feb 9th	Marlene		ureen Janet				
Feb 16th	Jean	Marlene Eile					
Feb 23rd	Nellie	Kate Chr	istine Jean				
Holy BaptismJesus said "Let the children come unto me"Nov19thMabel Elizabeth Reethi CookNov26thHallie Rose PeachamDec3rdEdward Atwell Hornsby							
Funoral	il am tha racur	raction and the life	save the Lord '				
Funeral 'I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.'							
Nov 1st	James (Jim) Ward Leach, 90 years						
Nov 2nd	Nov 2nd Elizabeth (Betty) Short, 93 years						
Burial of Ashes							
Nov 12th	Elizabeth (Betty) Short						

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARYY

- 2nd 9:30am 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 4th <u>2nd Sunday before Lent</u> 10.00am Morning Worship
- 9th 9:30am 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club School closes for Half Term
- 11thSunday next before Lent10.00amHoly Communion (No Jigsaw Club)
- 14th <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 7.30pam Holy Communion
- **15th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 16th 9:30am 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 18th1st Sunday of Lent10.00amFamily Service
- 19th School re-opens
- 21st 2.00pm Informal meeting re craft group in the vicarage.
 7.30pm Mothers' Union in school The Rev. Andy Williams 'Getting to know you' plus the Literature Stall
- 23rd 9:30am 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club 6.00pm Beetle Drive in school
- 25th 2nd Sunday of Lent

10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club

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





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