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Email [revandy.gsm@gmail.com](mailto:revandy.gsm@gmail.com)
- CHURCHWARDENS: Mr. Anthony Cowell  
Three Mile Cross Farm, Grimsargh Tel: 07753813758  
Mr. Mark Lamberty  
Ashleigh, Preston Road, Grimsargh Tel: 798017
- DAY SCHOOL Headteacher  
Mr Stuart Booth Tel: 653600
- VERGER Mr Tom Jones  
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- SERVICES 10:00am Morning Worship every 1st, 3rd and 5th  
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Family Service - occasional by announcement  
11:00am Holy Communion every 3rd Thursday of the  
month
- MOTHERS' UNION Every third Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm  
In the school. Contact N Cowell Tel: 651772  
or M Mackley Tel: 653940
- GUIDES 1st Grimsargh Every Monday at 7.00pm In the Village Hall
- BROWNIES 2nd Grimsargh Every Wednesday at 5.30pm in the Village Hall
- RAINBOWS 1st Grimsargh Every Monday at 5.45pm in the Village Hall  
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# PARISH LETTER

## All you need is love?

So goes the hit song by The Beatles in 1967. According to them everything is possible with love - whatever you're attempting, whoever you want to become, it's easy - all you need is love, love is all you need. And though it might have been a popular song at the time it isn't really a helpful way of living. There's no indication of how this works, what they mean by love, and how life is so easy with some kind of love motivating our lives.

Of course, February is the month when we celebrate Valentine's Day, or more properly St Valentine's Day, when we think of those we love. It has become commercialised over the years by card and chocolate companies, and of course the price of flowers - especially roses - and even meals out rise dramatically. The day and the man himself are shrouded in myth and uncertainty but has retained a link with love since the Middle Ages.

It is likely the Valentine we refer to was a priest or bishop in Tierna near Rome in the 3rd century, a time when it was still risky being known as a Christian. He spent his time passing messages to Christian prisoners from their loved ones before they went to the lions, sharing his love of Jesus by proclaiming the good news of Jesus, and marrying Christians. For these 'crimes' he was martyred by beheading.

Somehow, he has ended up being the patron saint of bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travellers, and young people. He certainly put his own life on the line for his faith in Jesus.

So, what kind of love 'is all we need'? Romantic love helps us draw close to others and enables us to enjoy close and lifelong relationships. Friendship love enables us to enjoy the company and to be honest and open with others. The love which enables us to reach our full potential though is surely the love of God as shown in Jesus - the self-sacrificial love.

This is how John puts it in chapter 4 of his first letter; 'This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.'

It is this love that draws us close to God through Christ Jesus, allows us to reach for God and Him to help guys grow into maturity - where all things are possible. This Valentine's Day let us remember and celebrate God's love for us in Christ, given freely that we might live His risen life day by day and love others as He loves us.

Blessings, Andy



# Grimsargh Club



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see our Facebook page for all the latest events

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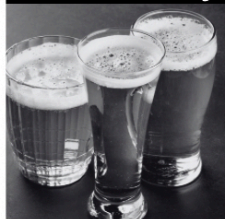
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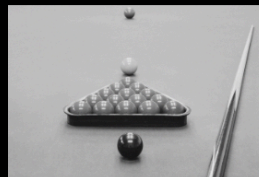


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## **Ash Wednesday**

Easter is quite late this year. Lent begins on Wednesday 5th of March which we will mark with a Holy Communion service at 7.30pm. There will be Imposition of Ashes for those who wish to receive it. All are welcome.

## **Confirmation**

Andy is planning a series of classes to help prepare people for confirmation. If you have not yet been confirmed, or even baptised, and would like to explore this more please speak to him. There is no obligation to be confirmed but it may help your growth in faith. Even if you have been confirmed it may be a useful way of refreshing your faith. This is open to all children, Year 6 and above, and adults. The confirmation service will hopefully take place before summer.

## **2nd February – Candlemas**

### ***the Presentation of Christ in the Temple***

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first ‘public appearance’. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to ‘present Him to the Lord’. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was ‘purified’. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year’s supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon’s great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

## **Prayer for February 2025**

Dear Lord,

February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025. Lord – as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us

most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

### **Tearfund in action in the Middle East**

As conflict in the Middle East continues, millions of people across Gaza, Lebanon and the wider region are still in urgent need of food, shelter and medical care.

One British Christian charity in the region is Tearfund, working through a variety of local churches and partners.

In Gaza, Tearfund International Health Partners provide medicine and healthcare. In Lebanon, Tearfund provides food, mattresses and other essentials through local churches. In the West Bank, Tearfund works with the Diocese of Jerusalem in healthcare and education.

But Tearfund says: "This is only possible with your support. Please, join us in prayer and give if you can, to help us respond to the growing need."

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/middle-east-emergency-appeal>

### **'My First Sermon' by John Everett Millais**

There is a story of two men talking about their new vicar. One says to the other, "This new one's not a patch on the old vicar. With the old one preaching I was asleep in five minutes. With the new one it takes all of ten." Some churches in times past employed 'sluggard-walkers' who had long rods and walked down the aisles, ready to wake up the faithful if they had nodded off during the sermon.

Sluggard-walkers are not needed for this month's painting, My First Sermon by John Everett Millais. It hangs in the Guildhall Art Gallery in London, which houses the art collection of our capital city. The Gallery is built on the site of an amphitheatre and was only completed in 1999, having replaced a building that was destroyed in the blitz of 1941. It has over 4000 works, many of them from the Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite period. Among them is this painting by Millais which depicts Effie, his 5-year-old daughter sitting in Kingston Church. She is dressed properly and sensibly for the occasion with feathered hat, muff and a cloak of vivid red. Her mother's prayer book and gloves are by her side. Effie is listening with great concentration.

When the painting was exhibited in 1863, it was a great success. In the following year Millais produced My Second Sermon – a very different occasion, for Effie has now fallen asleep with her hat by her side. Millais was often criticised for his sentimental portraits of children as in Cherry Ripe and Bubbles. But in 1864 the





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Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Longley, praised this second painting for reminding us of ‘the evil of lengthy sermons and drowsy discourses.’

As we look at Effie alert one Sunday, asleep the next, we can smile. But we might also ask how we respond to the Word that comes to us through the medium of words in the weekly sermon. The preacher has the daunting task of using this everyday coinage of words to draw us into that mysterious, life-giving realm of the Word, Jesus. The words spoken must make a straight path for the Lord to reach each human heart.

The two paintings of Millais depict the reality and fragility of this endeavour. Sometimes our attention is engaged; at others, drowsiness closes our eyes and even our hearts to the good news of salvation. On occasions the sermon sows seeds, which can bear fruit. At other times, all kinds of factors mitigate against the sermon’s success. Let us pray that as listener or as preacher, we may be aware of the dynamic power of the Word, which, as Karl Rahner wrote, calls us ‘out of the little house of our homely, close-hugged truths into the strangeness of the mystery of God that is our real home.’

## **St James the Least of All**

### **On the peculiarities of ordination candidates**

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was quite happy to see the young person from your church whom you are encouraging to get ordained – even though we did not entirely see eye to eye.

When I answered the door to someone dressed in T-shirt, jeans and trainers, I naturally assumed he was the gardener; it was only after I had given him the wheelbarrow and shown him where the spades were, that I found out who he really was. His assurance that this is how Jesus would dress, were He to visit in person again, jarred somewhat. I think that a three-piece suit and stout pair of brogues would be far more likely. We agreed to differ.

I was interested to hear that he was a church musician. Wanting to know if he sang tenor or bass, or even played the organ, he told me that he was the drummer in the worship band and provided backing vocals. I felt obliged to comment that I was not sure how that would fit in with Mattins, but he told me that he had never heard of that Service, and only attended Mega Rock Praise. Since I suspected it would not have been written by Cranmer, we moved on.

I had hoped we may have been on safer ground when I asked him whether he preferred early perpendicular or Victorian Gothic, but as he had apparently only ever worshipped in your converted cinema, he was unable to offer any opinion. His reaction to my offer to show him round our late Norman church, prompted him to tell me that he believed all churches should be closed and people should gather in each other’s homes, like the early Christians.

In a last despairing attempt to find common ground I asked him if he had ever preached. He was slightly apologetic to admit that he had done so very rarely, as he found it took such a long time to write an hour-long sermon. When I mentioned that I did not think I had ever exceeded eight minutes in my entire life, he gave me such a look of withering astonishment that, with heroic Christian charity, I did not beat him over the head with the Bible he was carrying.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace.

## MOTHERS' UNION



### **Doris Parkinson aged 92**

It was with sad hearts that we heard of Doris's passing on New Years Day. Doris has been a stalwart member of our Mothers Union for many years. She received her 45-year certificate in September (she has actually done 48) and looked well on that occasion, walking up to receive her certificate with that usual lovely smile on her face and a jaunt in her step.

We will always remember her very strong faith and the positive attitude that has kept her going to live a long and fruitful life. She was always one you could rely on for advice, support and comfort and we have all had our share of that.

She was a very active member of the committee and when she couldn't come to meetings, we always passed things by her before we made decisions as we appreciated her wisdom. She was our link in the Deanery Prayer Circle up to the last few weeks of her life. Doris was our enrolling member for six years from 1998 to 2004

She will be very sadly missed.

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**It is my great privilege to introduce some more M.U. Birthday Girls (still catching up!!)**



**Pam Taylor** (August 19th) Though she has lived in Longridge for many years was introduced St. Michael's church through her grand-children attending Jigsaw club. She became a grandma again in December to Bernadette (a little sister to Cuthbert) down in Surrey and spent December down there with her son & daughter-in-law being an invaluable hands-on grandma!



**Betty Blacklock** (September 28th) has lived in Grimsargh for 50 years. Been married for 70 years to Terry. She is very active, enjoying walking most days & Terry still enjoys getting on his bike. They have a close family with grandchildren & great grandchildren. But what is the most fascinating is Betty's long list of jobs she has had! Starting by running a newsagent in Preston, then moving onto working in Courtaulds on the housewife shift, then to Asda then to Whittingham to help with the students to working in the Occupation Therapy moving onto working in the Doctor's residence and Sharoe Green maternity dept! What a range of skills!



**Joan Moon** (October 6th) has lived in Grimsargh since the 1980s when she moved here with Stan, from Much Hoole. They fell in love with the view of the hills from the plot of land where their bungalow was to be built! She still enjoys the view especially when bad weather conditions prevent her getting out. She is very involved with her family on a daily basis, from her great-grandchildren to her own brother and sister by phone calls to What's App photos! Joan has been very involved with both church and the school for many years.



**Kate Billington** (October 10th) has been married to Tony for 57 years! They have been big supporters of Manchester United & Preston, attending matches at PNE during the Tom Finney days! She, and Tony worked together in their electrical shops, one in Ribbleton & one in Garstang, doing repairs on small electrical items for Argos and Currys. She was a keen hockey player, only giving up when she was 52! Her granddaughter is following in her footsteps playing for Longridge Hockey Club and Lancashire Under 14s. Kate enjoys watching her play.

**January Meeting** was the AGM and fish & chips lunch at the Plough. The reports from the Committee were then given. Thank you, ladies, for your hard work.

We are the largest Mothers Union branch in the Preston Deanery!

### **Next meetings**

#### **February 19th Safenet**

A Women's Refuge—a vital support organisation, come and find out more about their work.

#### **March 19th**

**Walking the Lancashire Coastal Path** with Dot Little (accompanied by Ruth Buckley!)

Explore our beautiful and very varied coast through photos taken on their 66-mile hike!

## **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.

### **WORSHIP**

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, we celebrated the Epiphany. In worship we shared a Bible story, Flight to Egypt'- the story comes from the very beginning of the Gospels. Bishop Jill explained that this story involves quite a nasty character- King Herod. He built a massive palace in Judea called Masada. Lots of nasty things happened there. He was so power crazy that he killed members of his own family! King Herod was afraid of anyone being more powerful than him so he killed anyone who was a threat to him. King Herod heard about Jesus from the Wise Men and he saw Jesus as a threat to him. He sent a message to Joseph in a dream that he had to get out of King Herod's way. So, Joseph packed and moved baby Jesus and Mary to Egypt to safety. The family stayed there until Joseph had another dream when God told him it was safe to return home.

### **YEAR OF PRAYER**

The children were encouraged to make 'Prayerairplanes.' They made paper aeroplanes, wrote prayers on them and flew them whilst sharing their thoughts with God.

### **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



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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, including the year 3/4 mini-skills (report below). 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, along with knockout cup football matches for both the boys and girls' teams.

### **Mini-skills**

Six of our year four children represented our school at a mini skills competition. We competed against twelve other teams and took part in six different events throughout the competition testing speed, accuracy and team work. After a strong performance from our team- we finished in a fantastic 4th position! Very well deserved and we are very proud of our team! Well done to Ruby C, Sophie J, Elyse T, Henry B, Oliver C and Oliver B



## **SAFEGUARDING**

We have continued to share the very useful Safeguarding guides with our parents and carers. We have shared the 'Justalk kids' and 'TikTok' guides.

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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## Mouse Makes

"Love is

love is \_\_\_\_\_  
 It does not, \_\_\_\_\_  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_  
 it is not \_\_\_\_\_  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_

others, it is not self-

it is not easily \_\_\_\_\_  
 it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_

Love delights in \_\_\_\_\_  
 it always \_\_\_\_\_

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never \_\_\_\_\_;  
 His \_\_\_\_\_ never come to an end;  
 they are new every \_\_\_\_\_

Lamentations 3:20-23



I pray... you will understand...  
 the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how \_\_\_\_\_  
 and how \_\_\_\_\_  
 and how \_\_\_\_\_  
 that **love** is.  
 Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.  
 whoever \_\_\_\_\_  
 in **love** \_\_\_\_\_  
 in God, and God \_\_\_\_\_  
 in them.

1 John 4:16

Give \_\_\_\_\_  
 to the Lord, for He is

his steadfast **love**  
 endures \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 136:1

HOW DOES  
 GOD **LOVE** ME?

**God sent me a saviour:**

He sent His one and only  
 Son into the world so  
 that we might have  
 eternal life through Him.  
 1 John 4:9

**God gave me His spirit:**

He has given you the  
 Holy Spirit to fill our hearts  
 with His **love**.  
 Romans 5:5

**God called me His child:**

See what great **love** the  
 Father has for us that He  
 would call us His children.  
 1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:  
**LOVE** the Lord your God with  
 all your **heart**, all your **soul**  
 and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

**LOVE** your neighbour the  
 same as you **love** yourself.

Matthew 22:39

GOD • **LOVE**

PATIENT • KIND

GRACIOUS • PEACE

JUST • TRUTHFUL

TRUSTING • LOYAL

HOPEFUL

PERSEVERES

ENDURES

HUMBLE

SELFLESS

PROTECTS • DEFENDS

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



With God, all things are possible. Mathew 19:26

# JIGSAW CLUB

For the children of St Michael's, Grimsargh.



When?



2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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For more information please contact the vicar.

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Dec 8th	£140.60	Dec 25th	£184.30	Christmas Day
Dec 15th	£126.00	Dec 29th	£244.00	
Dec 18th	£45.71	Mothers' Union	Jan 5th	£60.00
Dec 19th	£47.50	Jan 12th	£189.14	
Dec 22nd	£134.40	Jan 16th	£25.00	

## FLOWER ROTA

Feb 2nd	Vacant
Feb 9th	Vacant
Feb 16h	Vacant
Feb 23rd	Vacant

## SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
Feb 2nd		R Woollam		D Rusling K Billington	
Feb 9th		James Cowell	B Mackley	J Lander S Cowell	
Feb 16th		N Maudsley		B Holt B Mackley	
Feb 23rd		John Cowell	S Cowell	N Cowell M Lamberty	

## FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

	Leader		Duty		Welcome
Feb 7th	Marlene	Jean	Maureen		Janet
Feb 14th	Nellie	Kate	Eileen		Christine
Feb 21st	Jean	Helen	Jennifer		Linda
Feb 28th	Nellie	Maureen	Kate		Christine

## ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

- 2nd**    **4th Sunday after Epiphany**  
10.00am    Morning Worship
- 5th**    2.00pm    Craft and Chat at the Vicarage
- 7th**    9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 9th**    **4th Sunday before Lent**  
10.00am    Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club
- 14th**    9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 16th**    **3rd Sunday before Lent**  
10.00am    Morning Worship
- 19th**    7.30pm    MU - Women's Refuge "Safenet" in **School**
- 20th**    11.00am    Holy Communion (BCP)
- 21st**    9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 23rd**    **2nd Sunday before Lent**  
10.00am    Holy Communion
- 28th**    9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

**DEADLINE for the March magazine is 15<sup>th</sup> February.  
Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell ([pandncowell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pandncowell@hotmail.co.uk))  
and/or B Mackley ([bjmackley@aol.com](mailto:bjmackley@aol.com))**



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