

## VICAR'S LETTER

### *The view from the study.*

At the Thursday communion service, I enjoy the opportunity to remember in the sermon one of the many saints of history whose names feature in the church calendar. One of the more well-known saints celebrated in July is James the Apostle: the fisherman who, with his brother John, left his father Zebedee and ran after Jesus. James took a huge leap of faith in completely changing direction on the strength of a charismatic teacher's word.

Nowadays, James is associated with the concept of pilgrimage, his symbol being the scallop shell often worn by those making the pilgrimage to his shrine at Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. Whether James ever visited Spain is uncertain, yet he is revered as the patron saint of that land and tradition maintains that he preached there at some point before his martyrdom in Jerusalem in 44AD.

Many of you reading this will have been to places of pilgrimage – perhaps to the Holy Land, Lourdes, Rome, Iona, Holy Island, Walsingham, Canterbury or one of countless other places of Christian pilgrimage. Many may have travelled far and wide across the world: many others may have travelled very little, never straying far from Preston and maybe never having set foot in a great site of pilgrimage.

The important thing about pilgrimage, however, is not how far we have travelled by land, sea and air, but rather how far we have moved in our inner selves. Going on pilgrimage is a wonderful experience, but its real value is measured in the strengthening of our faith. Whether James travelled to Spain or not is of little importance. The point is that he journeyed within: starting as a fisherman, he then followed the call of Jesus. This led him on a remarkable 3 year journey of inner growth: he made many mistakes, but he went on to become a solid disciple of Christ, standing firm under persecution and paying the price with his life. From fisherman on Lake Galilee to martyr in Jerusalem – not a long journey in terms of miles covered, but quite a remarkable inner journey.

With summer holidays in view for many people, take a moment to reflect: where have you travelled, literally, in your life - and what have you gained from those travels? Where have you travelled, metaphorically, in your hearts and minds with God - and what have you gained from that journey?

Remember James on 25<sup>th</sup> July and ponder your own pilgrimage: your journey through life, both with God and closer towards God.

*Every blessing, Neil.*

## **Restoring the Chalice**

It is almost unbelievable to think that we have not shared the chalice in church for over 2 years. Thankfully, the chalice is now restored in worship and is once again being offered to all at Holy Communion.

Whilst many will greet this with tremendous enthusiasm, others will remain hesitant about taking the cup to receive the wine. This is perfectly understandable, especially as we know Covid has not gone away and there remains anxiety about close physical contact and the use of shared items. Therefore, nobody should feel under any obligation to receive the wine. The principle remains that if you have received Christ in one kind (ie, the bread) then he is fully received. However, there also remains the powerful symbolism of the one cup that we share together as members of the body of Christ.

You are invited to make the decision that feels right for you, taking into account your own health and any sense of vulnerability. I do not have access to all the evidence, but there is certainly no evidence I am aware of that suggests the chalice is a likely route of Covid infection.

### **The procedure for administering the wine is as follows:**

At BCP services (Sunday 8.30 and Thursday 11.00):

Come to the altar rail and kneel or stand to receive the wine. If you are not receiving the wine, please return to your seat once you have received the bread.

At the 10.00 service we shall continue to receive standing at the step: Please come forward to take the bread as normal, then move to your left where the chalice will be available, or simply continue back to your seat.

To maintain hygiene, those administering the chalice will wear face coverings and are asked to ensure that (i) the purificator (linen cloth) is moved to a clean section of cloth each time the rim of the cup is wiped; (ii) both the inner and outer edges of the rim are wiped and (iii) the chalice is rotated a quarter turn between each communicant.

Antiseptic wipes will be used to clean the chalice before and after services.

Please speak with me if you have any questions or concerns.  
*Thank you, Neil*

## **Jubilee Thanksgiving**

What a fabulous long weekend we had in Grimsargh during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Thank you to all who were able to take part in the activities around the village, and for all the support offered in so many ways to mark this historic occasion.

Those who were able to go to the Cowell family's Beacon party were treated to a wonderful evening of entertainment and community fun. The Brindle brass band were in excellent form and the 'Last night of the proms' singalong was entered into with great gusto. The lighting of the beacon was a moving experience, joining with the celebration taking place in communities large and small across the country at the same time, knowing that Her Majesty herself was initiating the process from her home in Windsor. A huge thank you to Anthony, Sally along with the whole Cowell family and team of helpers for your hard work and generous hospitality.

We were fortunate, too, on the Sunday afternoon, when the rain held off and many from the village were able to enjoy a happy gathering on the Green. Again, a lot of hard work went into organising this from the willing members of our Parish Council, who do such a lot throughout the year to help maintain the village and the community life which makes Grimsargh such a pleasant place to live.

Thank you for all the support given to our worship and community events over the Jubilee weekend.

## **Refreshments in Church**

We have now started offering refreshments again after the 10am service. Thank you to all those who are already helping on the rota, but more helpers would make it an easier task for all concerned.

If you would like to assist on the rota, please speak to Penny Thompson: 01772 651850.

## **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.

## **Available in church...**

Holding crosses, made of olive wood in the Holy Land, designed to

hold in the palm of your hand as an aid to prayer and contemplation. Requested minimum donation of £5 per cross.

Also:

Platinum Jubilee souvenir pens, £2 Books of parish walks , £5  
Plus some mugs and history booklets from the tercentenary celebrations.

*On the table at the back of church. All proceeds in aid of church funds.*

### **Family Picnic, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 11am, following the Family Service**

Following the Family Service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July, FAF has organised a Family Picnic. Please bring your own picnics and drinks. There will be games for the children and we hope to have a lot of fun!

During the event, the draw for the “Big Summer Raffle” will take place.

There are lots of prizes, including, a £100 cash prize, a ride in a Ferrari, a family ticket for a “Birds of Prey Experience”, a bumper hamper and lots more brilliant prizes. Tickets are £1 or £5 a book.

If you would like tickets, please contact any FAF member.

Hope to see you there!

### **It's all Greek to me! (cont)**

Before moving on to deal with the supreme and classic period of Greek literature and the high point of its civilisation from c 500 to 350 BC, there is one other poet between the age of Homer and that period who merits attention, and of whom you will have heard at least by repute, because the person has given a word to the English language. And to those to whom the poet's name is unfamiliar, you almost certainly will have heard of their island of birth, and by extension, their characteristic, one may even say, their notoriety; both in the classical period and today in the modern world. The poet is Sappho, of the island of Lesbos. She wrote love poetry and flourished around 600 BC. Her poetry was much admired in classical times though might today be characterised as “over the top”; as with much of Greek literature her work influenced her Roman successors. Another name to rate a mention before dealing with the Greek classics, is Pindar, who actually did live in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. He was as it

happens recently quoted in the TV production “Life after Life”, a programme series which I personally did not admire, or consider had much to say. The quote, via the philosopher Nietzsche, was: “Learn what you are, and be such”. As with most aphorisms, you can either regard that as deeply profound, or as a banal statement of the obvious. It is a version of another well-known Greek saying (Gno-ee Se-auton) “Know yourself”.

Mark

## MOTHERS' UNION

I make no excuses for writing my article about our recent speaker. The subject was Fraud and the speaker was Mark Aldridge ( husband of Jennifer, one of our new members.) Mark is a retired policeman, who used to work on the Fraud team with Lancashire police so is very well qualified to help us all avoid fraud. From the beginning he stressed the fact that fraudsters are professional people who are extremely clever at seeing an opportunity and then cunningly making you give your bank details & part with your money.

So , Mark said, if you have been subject to fraud then do not feel stupid or embarrassed, but share the experience with your friends as this will hopefully prevent others suffering the same fate as well as keep-ing you contacted with people.. To illustrate this he give us the amounts of money lost in Lanca-shire....£10 million , in UK.... 130 Billion and in the world .....£3.89 Trillion which is £3.89,000,000,000,000 !

The largest amount lost by one lady in UK is £20 Million!

Fraudsters fall into 2 categories ..the vultures who sit high and watch what is going on, select a victim, then swoop in to commit fraud. The second type is the fisherman who lobs bait out there, (like a promise of a big lottery win) he sits and waits to see what comes back to them. Mark shared the dangers we need to be aware of that the fraudsters use to their

benefit, (especially at retired people)...we are accessible, maybe feeling isolated, lonely, maybe with health or wealth worries. So a sympathetic call (by phone or on the doorstep) is sometimes the way they get into your life and consequently, your lifesavings!

At that point in the talk, though very informative, left us feeling!

vulnerable and a little depressed!

Then Mark gave us some positive information about the right places to contact .



So as much as we feel we have a great God who protects us from all the bad things the world throws at us, He also provides help for us through these organisations should we need it. Thank God for them, and I must finish with a promise from God

**'But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from evil' This is my prayer for you all.**

## SCHOOL REPORT

Our Christian Value for this half-term is **COMPASSION**.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June, Reverend Neil took the lead during our Pentecost service. Thank you to the parents, friends and family members who joined us. The children sang beautifully and enjoyed sharing their ideas during Reverend Neil's talk. A group of Year 6 pupils shared the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit from the book of Acts.

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and enjoyed a Royal Tea Party! The children wore their amazing hats that they made at home. It was great to see so many parents, grandparents and carers, having a look at the children's wonderful history work focusing on the past 70 years of the Royal Family. Thank you to Mrs Coupe who organised this fantastic day of celebration for us all.

Earlier this year, year 5 entered the STEM National Leaders Award, **'If You Were an Engineer, What Would You Do?'** The competition encourages children to look at the world around them and find engineered solutions to common problems. Our inspiration was a visit to school by one of our parents who talked to us about her job and gave us the opportunity to ask questions and listen to the experiences of one of her patients.

At the judging event, one highly commended and one winning entry were chosen from our school!

### **The Highly Commended Entry**

**Yr5 Heidi B with 'Go Bake Chrome'**

### **The Winning Entry**

**Yr5 Winner Hooriya A with  
'The Inspirational Diet'**

Our two winners have been invited to the awards ceremony at UCLAN Preston on 15th June at 5pm where they will receive a winner certificate and a trophy! We will be entering the competition again next year as part of our science and design technology work and would love to hear from you if you have a job in engineering and would be willing to visit us in school to talk to us about your job,

answer questions about it and inspire the children to become the engineer they could be.

Our excellent year of sport has culminated in us winning the league—the Champions League! One of the sporting achievements we are most proud of is that of 63 local primary schools, only 6 entered all sporting events this year and we are one of them! I would like to say a huge congratulations to all children who have put themselves forward to represent our school and to all those who were successful in being selected to do so— you have worn our school kit with pride and have been great ambassadors for our school. I would also like to thank our parents/ carers who have helped with transport to and from events and to those of you who have supported our children during the events. Finally, this would not have been possible without staff who are willing to organise and take our teams to these sports events— this includes our office staff who play a significant role in the organisation. I would like to single out Mr Fletcher and in particular Mr Brooks who have led us to these achievements.

We look forward to the Parish ‘Garden Party’ on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June and ‘Grimsargh Field Day’ on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Our school have a ‘SPACE’ themed float to parade as part of the field day so we are excited to showcase our space children and our space float that our amazing PTFA members along with other parents/ carers have spent many an hour preparing!

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

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# Garden Party

## Pictures from the Garden Party



# JUGSAW CLUB

For the children of Michael's, Grimsargh.

It is July! Hopefully we will see lots of sunshine and be able to get outside to enjoy our beautiful surroundings with friends and family.

However, just in case there is the odd rainy day, here are a few ideas from the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education for you to have a go at! Enjoy!



## Fort Building

Using various items found in your house, create your own fort. You could add lights or accessories to it. What activities might you do inside your fort?

Hiding safely within the fort, you can get an amazing sense of peace and comfort. What things would you like comforting about today? Tell God about them.



## Raid the Recycle Bin

What can you make from items that were going to be throw away? Raid the recycle bin and be as creative as you can.

Objects that seem ordinary, and even worthless, can be transformed into amazing things; things we may never have even thought of before. God repeatedly chooses people who seem incredibly ordinary to achieve incredible and amazing things.



## Lego or Toy Zipline

Tie a piece of string or ribbon so it runs from one side of your room to another to create a zipline, making sure one end is slightly higher. Have fun pushing different toys along the zipline. Do some need containers or can they go themselves? Can you construct containers from lego for the toys that need one?

Sometimes we can keep focused on God on our own, and sometimes we need help to keep going in the direction that leads us to Him. How can you keep focused on walking in God's direction?



## Do Something Thoughtful

What thoughtful thing could you do today? How could you help someone? Perhaps there's someone in your family, a neighbour or someone in your local community that you could do something for. Baking? Making? Cleaning? Shopping?

God calls us to serve others and to reflect His love in the world around us.

## CHURCH COLLECTIONS

May	22nd	£252.00
May	26th	£270.00
May	29th	£245.80
June	2nd	£63.00
June	5th	£194.45
June	9th	£56.00
June	12th	£124.80

## FLOWER ROTA

July	3rd	Vacant
July	10th	Betty Sweetman
July	17th	Vacant
July	24th	Vacant
July	31st	Chris Holding

## SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

8.30am	10.00am	Communion Readers	Coffee
		Assistant	

July	3rd	N Maudsley	J Eccles Vicar
July	10th	James Cowell	R Woollam Vicar
July	17th	B Mackley	Youth Reader
July	24th	R Woollam	D Rusling Vicar
July	31st	R Buckley	N Cowell Vicar

## FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

	Duty	Duty	Welcome & Circulate	
July 1st	Kate	Maureen	Linda	Jennifer
July 8th	Marlene	Helen	Janet	Jean
July 15th	Eileen	Nellie	Kate	Linda
July 22nd	Jennifer	Jean	Janet	Maureen
July 29th	Christine	Kate	Marlene	Nellie

### Holy Baptism

May 22nd

May 29th

June 5th

June 12th

### Jesus said "Let the children come unto me"

Samuel Wilding Mckeowen

Oliver Max McKeowen

Layne David Mott

George Steven Brown

Isla-Rae Amelia Kerr

Layne Eloise Amelia Kerr

Piper Jenae Kerr

### Funeral

May 26th

May 27th

### Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

Rosemary Dalton, 62

Julie (Barbara) Ingham, 85

## ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR JULY

- 1st** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 2nd** 10:30 Parish Vision Day for PCC (*St Cuthbert's, Fulwood*)
- 3rd** **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Morning Worship
- 7th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 8th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 10th** **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Holy Communion
- 14th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 15th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 17th** **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Family Service followed by church picnic on the grass
- 19th** 2.00pm MU Festival Service at St Margaret's Ingol
- 20th** 7.30pm MU in school - Air Ambulance
- 21st** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 22nd** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 24th** **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Holy Communion
- 28th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 29th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 31st** **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Holy Communion  
12 noon Baptism

**DEADLINE for the August/September magazine 15<sup>th</sup> July.  
Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell and/or B Mackley**