

VICAR'S LETTER

The view from the study.

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to live through an historic era? Imagine being up on Hadrian's Wall 1900 years ago when it was new and imposing, and all things Roman were becoming the norm in society. Or what about witnessing the march of the Norman conquest post 1066, when the landscape was changing as William constructed his imposing castles and our great historic cathedrals were appearing? What would it have been like to be there when Victorian Britain was forging ahead with large scale industrialisation and all manner of social reform?

Of course, we mustn't romanticise the past – in all those eras, there was poverty and violent conflict and disease to contend with, way beyond what most of us could ever imagine.

But we don't need to delve into the past, for we are all living through an historic era right now. I don't just mean the Covid pandemic, although that does indeed mark us out as having experienced a remarkable time in the history of our nation and the world. Rather, let's contemplate the immense significance of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

It is hard to believe that I turn 58 in June and have never lived in the reign of another monarch. There have been plenty of Prime Ministers over the years, but only one Queen! We are all, as some commentators put it, 'New Elizabethans'. Surely having reigned for 70 years entitles the Queen to have an historical era named after her and we are all part of this significant piece of history. What a blessing and a privilege to be here.

It is not just the length of time that makes the current Jubilee so remarkable, but the level of dedication shown by the Queen throughout her long reign. In 1947, on her 21st birthday, the young Princess Elizabeth stated: *I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.*

The end of that sentence demonstrates how things have changed over the course of the last century! But the sentiment remains the same and the Queen has never wavered from the promise she made then and reaffirmed more recently.

Whatever our sympathies towards the institution of the Monarchy, may we all reflect warmly on the wonderful example of service and faith shown by Her Majesty, and share in the loyal Lancastrian toast to 'The Queen, Duke of Lancaster'. Long may she reign, and long may we follow her shining example.

Every blessing, Neil.

Annual Meetings

On Sunday 15th May we held the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (for the election of churchwardens) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (for the election of members of the Parochial Church Council and receiving the annual report).

I am pleased to report that **Anthony Cowell** and **Mark Lamberty** have been re-elected as Churchwardens.

James Cowell and David Rae were newly elected to the PCC while Hazel Cliff and Bernard Mackley were re-elected following completion of their previous 3-year terms of office. The full list of PCC members is as follows:

Rev Neil Salt (chair)

Anthony Cowell (Churchwarden)

Mark Lamberty (Churchwarden)

Hazel Cliff

James Cowell

John Cowell

Nellie Cowell (Deanery Synod)

Joanna Donnachie (Co-opted as Treasurer)

Jon Eccles

David Hindle

Bernard Mackley

Jenny Perry (Co-opted as Parish Safeguarding Officer)

David Rae

Jayne Woollam (Deanery Synod)

Liz Emmott continues to serve as Hon. PCC secretary

Vacancies remain for 5 elected members of PCC and 1 Deanery synod rep.

Thank you to all who are currently serving on PCC and all who have stood down in the last year: Simon Taylor (treasurer), Kerry Giddins, Sarah Jones and Julie Mitton.

We are blessed to have so many people engaged in various aspects of ministry at St Michael's: thank you so much to all.

Neil.

First Aid

As a small church community, we do not have our own cohort of trained first aiders. However, it would be helpful to know of people amongst the congregation

who hold current first aid qualifications – some may, for example, be trained in the workplace, or through another organisation you they are working with.

If you hold an up-to-date qualification and are happy to be called upon to assist if needed during services or activities at church, please could you let me know? If we are severely lacking in suitably qualified people, it may be time to arrange some first aid training for willing volunteers.

Ideally, please contact me via email or drop me a note.

Many thanks, Neil.

Refreshments in Church

As part of recovering some of what has been lost in the pandemic, we are starting to reintroduce refreshments after the 10am service on Sundays. We are being careful in this, particularly at this early stage of recovery, by asking people not to gather at the back of church but to allow the servers to circulate with trays around church (or outside too in fair weather).

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

Ecumenical Service

On Sunday 12th June, at 6.00pm, we are pleased to welcome once again Canon Doyle and members of the congregation of Alston Lane Catholic Church to share in worship together. Please support this service if you are able. Thank you.

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.

FAF News

After a hiatus, FAF is back and busy. Although we organised a few events last year, in future months, we have planned many more social events and activities – please watch this space!

Easter Sunday, 17th April

Following a wonderful service of hope and joy on Easter Sunday, the FAF group organised an Easter Egg Hunt in the graveyard for the children. It was a huge success and one which we hope to develop next year. The church also remained open for people to come and view the beautiful Easter flower displays, while enjoying some homemade refreshments.



Parish Meal at Ferraris, Saturday 23rd April

A wonderful time was had by all, when on the 23rd April, thirty three of us met for lunch at Ferraris Country Restaurant. It was just so nice just to meet up again and share a few hours of friendship and fellowship. £72.00 was raised following a raffle.



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Garden Party, 18th June, 1pm.

After a gap of two years the Garden Party has returned.

We will be setting up the stalls from 9.30am on the morning of Saturday 18th June and the Garden Party will be officially opened by Amber Leho, Grimsargh Rose Queen elect, at 1pm.

Following the official opening, there will be a wonderful display of dancing by the children of Grimsargh School. In addition, there will be an eclectic range of stalls including, the Plant Stall, the Cake Stall, Soft Toys, Bottle Stall, Tombola, Face Painting, Toy Stall, Book Stall, Lucky Dip, games for the children and much more. We are hoping to have a “Beat-the-Goalie” game, as well as many other games to keep the children entertained.

The popular burgers and hot-dogs will be on sale again, as well as ice-cream, cakes and cups of tea and coffee.

We hope that there will be something for everyone but, importantly, we do need more people to man the stalls. If you can help to run a stall or just help out on the day, please sign the list at the back of church or contact any FAF member.

While we have a wide range of stalls, we are open to new ideas. If you have an idea for a stall or game, again, please sign the list at the back of church.

URGENT – we need donations of plants, cakes (which must be covered), bottles and children’s toys.

Please put this date in your diaries, as this is the major fundraising event of the year for church.

The Big Raffle

In the next few weeks, we will be selling raffle tickets for a fantastic big raffle, aimed at raising money for church funds. There will be a £100.00 first prize, as well as many other fabulous prizes. If you want to purchase any raffle tickets, please contact any FAF member.

Date For Your Diary, Sunday 17th July, 11am.

Following the Family Service on Sunday 17th July, we are having a Family Picnic. You are invited to bring your own picnics and we will entertain the children with games and fun activities. See you there!

Food Bank

Thanks to all who have supported the food bank over the past few weeks. Apart from pasta, the Salvation Army is in need of all other items and they are distributing more parcels daily, over 140 a previous Friday.

Churches Together

There is a Pentecost Service on June 5th at 6.30 at St Lawrence’s Church Longridge. Please support if you are able. All welcome

It's all Greek to me! (cont)

Who was Homer? The prosaic answer is that there was no such person; that the name is as mythic as the Iliad heroes, and merely represents a collective of strolling minstrels, who gathered together a number of folk tales and recited them to an eager public, which were then set down in writing when that form of communication first reached Greece around 700 BC, some 400 years after the fall of Troy, traditionally said to be 1184 BC. If you can imagine a world where not only could you as an ordinary person not be able to read, as for the vast majority of people before or even well into the 20th century, but a world where there is no writing at all other than a few customary symbols. So that everything you ever heard or learned had to come to you by the spoken word. No wonder that it is thought the wandering poets were popular, high status figures. Their arrival in your village must have been like the first showing of the latest Bond film; you would avidly absorb the familiar, old heroic tales, but possibly spiced up with some recent additions of your poet's own creation, for both the Iliad, a tale of warriors and exploits in battle, and the Odyssey, a tale of travel adventures in exotic locations, are tailor made for additions, and their final forms reveal them as a rag bag of folk tales and diversions. The poets must have seemed like a breath of fresh air after all those boring stories from your elders about how good things were in the old days, how things recently had gone to the dogs; soap opera with a twist, a combination of the well known with exciting, new accretions.

However, the more romantic view, and sustainable by scholarship, is that there was indeed a man called Homer. First, scholars see some constant, core themes in both epics, indicating a unity of concept. He is traditionally said to have gone blind, because the Odyssey especially is laced with words referring to sound (though both epics contain vivid pictorial description as well), one example of a word sounding like its meaning being the Greek word “polyphloisbos”, literal meaning, of the sea, “of many sounds”, it being theorised that this is what the poet heard, when he became blind in old age, an additional theory being that the Iliad was the work of young Homer, and the Odyssey his work when old and blind.

Mark

MOTHERS' UNION

Looking back— it was lovely to finally be able to enrol our new members on May 8th at the morning service and to award Sandra & Sheena with their long service certificates.

The Mothers Union birthday was celebrated in style in May with a service in church then the party in the school. A big thanks to all who contributed—

especially the Christ Church Choir and Hazel for making the birthday cake.

Looking forward - June 15th is our next meeting. (in the school hall)

The speaker is Mark Aldridge speaking about how to avoid fraud. (Mark is Jennifer's husband, one of our newly enrolled members)

Tuesday July 19th is the Deanery Festival at St. Margaret's church, Ingol. As we are the largest Mothers Union group in Preston , it would be good to support this event. Please see Nellie or a committee member, if you would like a lift.

On reflection ... A thought from today's readings from Lectio 365 which I thought was worth thinking about and applying to our lives.

An Anxious Age

We live in an anxious age, its easy to worry about our health, our finances, our families, about war and conflict that seem closer than ever. The Apostle Paul wrote from prison while he was waiting the death sentence , so pretty desperate times!

'Rejoice in the Lord always,

I will say it again, rejoice.

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything

but in every situation, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God which transcends all understanding
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'

Philippians ch. 4 v.4



SCHOOL REPORT

Our Christian Value for this half-term is **TRUTHFULNESS**. We have enjoyed exploring this value and challenging the thoughts of our children. We posed and explored responses to questions such as:

- Have you ever been tempted to tell a lie to get something you want?
How did it make you feel inside?
- Do you tell the whole truth?
- Which is the best way of describing the truth?

- If you found a ten-pound note on the floor in a supermarket, would you keep it for yourself or hand it in to a member of staff?
- A boy turned twelve two days after his football team asked for players for the under elevens team. Should he volunteer for the team or allow his eleven-year-old friends the opportunity to play?
- Have you ever been tempted to make the wrong choice?

We also celebrated St George's day by wearing white/ red to school. During worship, a group of children acted out a short sketch showing when St George fought the dragon. We discussed that we may not be physically brave like St George, but that we can all be truthful, by not always following the crowd when we know that something is wrong, or by doing things that make the world a better place. Even if our deeds cannot be seen, we know in our hearts, what is the right thing to do.

We were delighted to find out and announce that we have officially been awarded with the Picture News Advocate logo. Our themes for worship are based on Christian values and alongside this, we observe the Church's year and therefore some acts of worship stand alone. In order for our children to have time to reflect on current national and international events, we use Picture News once a week. This invaluable resource provides our teachers with excellent resources to lead high quality worship, that incorporates real life examples of Christian values, reference to stories from the Old and the New Testament and prayers.

We are thankful to our PTFA for organising our new pre-loved uniform shop! The donation point is now in place at school, allowing parents/ carers to donate good-quality items of uniform for re-use all year round. This is in part a fund-raising initiative for the school, but it is also an opportunity to recycle and reuse, reducing our impact on the environment. To buy an item of pre-loved uniform, parents can message the PTFA Facebook page (@PTFAGrimsargh) with what they need, and our PTFA check for availability. Arrangements are then made for collection with payments made via ParentPay.

We were really pleased to have our new library wall graphics installed- they finish off our libraries perfectly.

We have continued to enter all sporting competitions and have had over 80 different children represent our school so far this year. We also continue to be in 1st place in the league table of point scoring competitions- we are extremely proud of our children for their sporting achievements.

Our year 6 children have just finished their SATs. They made us incredibly proud as they approached each day with positivity and in a mature manner. They all tried their best and that is all we asked of them. They can now *Cont on page 15*

look forward to the remainder of the summer term which will include a visit to the local park, a class trip, a meal at Franco's restaurant, a leavers' assembly in which their parents/ carers are welcome and their leavers' hoodies will arrive!

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

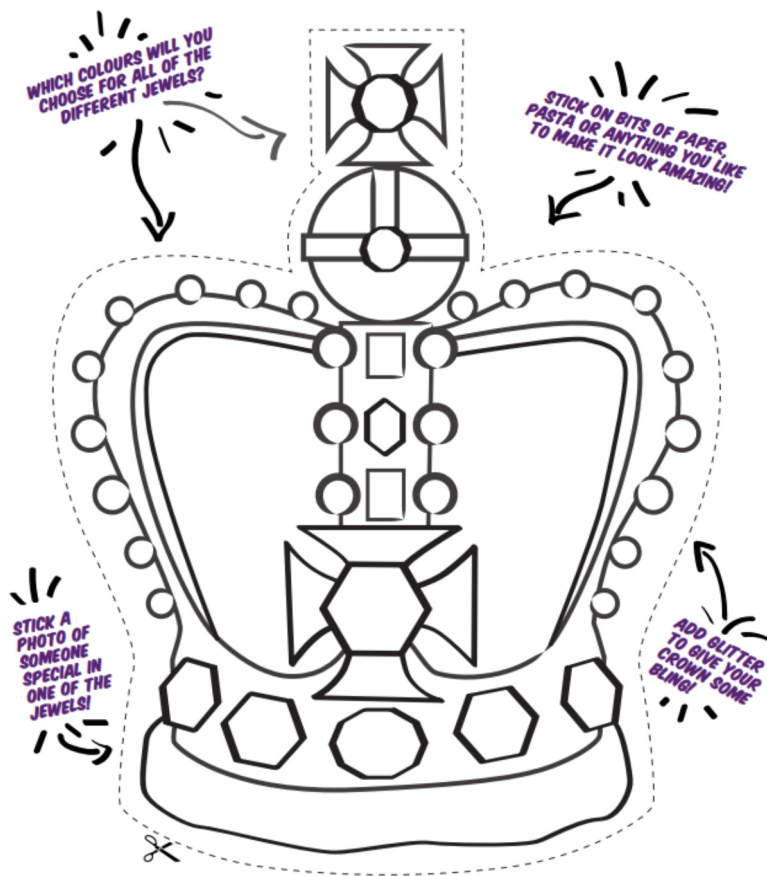
For the children of Michael's, Grimsargh.

This month families and communities across the country will be getting together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Why not have a go at making your own crown to wear for your celebrations?

Visit <https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/toolkit/> for a full size template or why not have a go at designing your own?

CROWN TEMPLATE

1. Print, colour, decorate and cut out your Jubilee crown.
2. Add a headband and wear your Royal creation.



CHURCH COLLECTIONS

April	21st	£223.60
April	24th	£103.20
April	28th	£39.00
May	1st	£94.50
May	5th	£16.00
May	8th	£149.00
May	12th	£62.00
May	15th	£451.50

FLOWER ROTA

June	5th	Vacant
June	12th	Vacant
June	19th	Vacant
June	26th	Vacant

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Readers Assistant	Coffee
June 5th		R Woollam		R Woollam Vicar
June 12th		B Mackley		D Rusling Vicar
June 19th		R Buckley		Youth Reader
June 26th		K Thompson		S Cowell Vicar

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

	Duty	Duty	Welcome & Circulate
June 3rd	Nellie	Christine	Janet
June 10th	Jean	Helen	Linda/Ros
June 17th	Marlene	Eileen	Jean/Nellie
June 24th	Jean	Christine	Janet

Holy Matrimony

May 7th *'God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.'*
Joseph Gerard McCreadie and Rebecca Joan Woollam

Holy Baptism

May 1st **Jesus said "Let the children come unto me"**
Sophia Harlow Miller
Hugo Oliver Ritchie
Benjamin Ross Ritchie

May 8th Charles John Allen

Funeral

May 12th **Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life"**
Cynthia Alice Oldfield, 79

Burial of Ashes

May 12th Maureen Threlfall, 90

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR JUNE

- 2nd** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
with special prayers for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- 5th** **Pentecost**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Morning Worship
12 noon Baptism
Jubilee picnic on the Green this afternoon: check details locally
6.30pm Churches Together Pentecost service at St Lawrence Longridge
- 8th** 7.30pm Primary Visitation, for admission of churchwardens, at Lancaster Priory (Wardens and incumbents only)
- 9th** 9.30am Whole School Pentecost service
11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 10th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 12th** **Trinity Sunday**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Holy Communion
12 noon Baptism
6.00pm Ecumenical service
- 15th** 7.30pm MU in school - Mark Aldridge – "Fraud"
- 16th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 17th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 18th** 1.00pm Church Garden Party at St Michael's School
- 19th** **1st Sunday after Trinity**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Family Service
- 20th** 7.30pm Parochial Church Council, in school
- 23rd** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 24th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 25th** 1.30pm Grimsargh Field Day
- 26th** **2nd Sunday after Trinity**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Holy Communion
- 30th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

DEADLINE for the July magazine 15th June.
Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell and/or B Mackley