

St. MICHAEL'S CURCH

GRIMSARGH



**And many people will say:
“Come, let us go to the house of God
He will teach us His ways so that we
may walk in His paths.”**

Isaiah 2:3

FEBRUARY 2026

70p

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Mar	30th	5 days	Dam Busters & Lincolnshire's Bomber County.....	£620.00
Apr	7th	6 days	The Isle of Wight	£645.00
Apr	23rd	6 days	Holland – The Glorious Bulbfields & Keukenhof Park	£845.00
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May	11th	5 days	Norfolk Broads & Thursford steam museum	£695.00
May	17th	5 days	Highlights of Kent, Leeds Castle & Canterbury.....	£725.00
May	24th	5 Days	The Giants Causeway, Antrim Coast, Titanic & Hillsborough Castle	£865.00
June	1st	5 days	SCOTLAND – The Isle Of Arran	£820.00
June	15th	5 days	Isle of Man at the Empress Hotel, Douglas.....	£715.00
June	21st	5 days	Ilfracombe & North Devon Coast.....	£615.00
June	28th	6 days	Orkney Island & North West Scotland	£1325.00
July	13th	5 days	SCOTLAND – Perthshire Highlights	£725.00
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VICAR:	Rev. Andy Williams Email revandy.gsm@gmail.com	Tel: 07472 663279
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 26 Waingate, Grimsargh	Tel: 07933 792009
CHURCH FLOWERS	Miss Eileen Parker	Tel: 653774
BAPTISMS, THANKSGIVINGS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS	By arrangement with the Vicar	
SICKNESS and HOME COMMUNIONS	Please inform the Vicar of all cases of sickness or of anyone wishing to receive communion at home	
JIGSAW CLUB	10.00am from Church 2nd and 4th Sunday (Term time only) For more information please contact the Vicar.	
SERVICES	10:00am Morning Worship every 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday Holy Communion every 2nd and 4th Sunday 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 Please register your interest on www.girlguiding.org.uk	
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PARISH LETTER

Lent – time to prepare.

This year the church's season of Lent starts on the 18th of February – Ash Wednesday. As usual we will begin the season with a service of Holy Communion at 7.30pm when we come before the Lord in repentance for our lives and our waywardness. But in reality, Lent is a time when we need not concentrate on our failure to live up to God's standards but to think about the future. As we think about the future we need to prepare for that future, even if we can only look as far as the glorious resurrection of Jesus.

When Jesus began His ministry, and presumably throughout it, He came to the people of Israel proclaiming "The time has come, the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1: 15)

We often link repenting with being sorry for our failings, but that is only part of the meaning. Repenting truly means wanting to change how we think and act because of our sorrow and not living up to God's standards. We need to literally turn around and change our minds about how we see ourselves, Jesus and God so that we can move forward and believe in the good news that He has for us.

We need to change our minds about ourselves – God loves us as His children when we come to Him in faith and respond to His love, especially as seen in Jesus. He wants the best for us and scripture is littered with promises about how God sees us in Jesus – and it is all good. We just need to see ourselves as He sees us – it is good news.

We need to change our minds about Jesus – and see Him as a living expression of God, Immanuel - God with us. He didn't come to set us unattainable standards of living that mean we constantly fail – that was the Pharisaical system Jesus came to challenge. He came to show us His Father and help us to see how love is the fulfillment of God's standards. Not rules – love, and that is good news.

We need to change our minds about God our Father. He is not a strict authoritarian looking to slap us down at every challenge we face or mess we make. He is the loving Father of the parable of the lost son, searching for us and longing to welcome us home as His children.

This Lent let's look again at how the Kingdom of God has come near to us. Let us change our minds and move forward in hope, joy and love. All that God wants for us, even if it is challenging, sometimes costly, always gracious, is good news.

Andy



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Confirmation.

Our confirmation service will be on Sunday 17th of May at 10.00am. This year candidates will be confirmed by Bishop Philip.

What is confirmation? It is when we repeat the promises made for us at our baptism and make them our own. We say that we believe in them, who Jesus is, and what he has done for us. We declare ourselves to be Christian believers and promise to live following Jesus and His teaching.

After confirmation those confirmed are also permitted to receive communion.

How does someone become confirmed? The first step is to talk to Andy. If you are still interested there will then be a few meetings together to help you understand what it means, what the promises are, and how it will affect your life.

Please speak to Andy to explore this and have your questions answered.

TWAM (Tools with a Mission).

Tools with a Mission is a Christian charity who collect and refurbish unwanted tools and ship them to skills training centres across Africa for many trades including agriculture, tailoring, carpentry, building, electrical, workshops etc. Tool kits are frequently retained and put to good use by the trainees to help them put their poverty into the past.

Leaflets describing more about the charity's work and the type of tools they are seeking will be available in church.

Over the next couple of months Stuart Fillingham will be collecting and storing such tools and forwarding them to TWAM's refurbishment team in Rugby. If you have any surplus equipment, please consider donating them to this very worthwhile and life changing cause. They also receive and distribute modern English Bibles (not KJV)

For more information as to how and where you can donate, please contact Stuart on 01772 655730 or 07484124546

The Longest Yarn II exhibition at Blackburn Cathedral

Until the 7th February this striking, 80m exhibition of knitted and crocheted panels depicting life in Britain between the declaration of war in September 1939 to VE Day in May 1945, is on at the Cathedral..

Hundreds of volunteer knitters from across the UK have created a stunning set of 80 individual knitted panels, each depicting a scene of Britain during wartime.



Churches Together in Longridge and District
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
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‘I will give you rest, come’

Friday 6th MARCH 2026

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 Nigeria, and includes music and reflection as well as an opportunity to pray for women from all parts of the world. The theme for 2026 is ***‘I will give you rest, come’*** (Matthew 11:28-30).

In the service, our Nigerian sisters call us to come closer to God and find rest in him. When we totally trust and have faith in God, our burdens become light and we find rest. We will hear the stories of four Nigerian women who inspire us to work towards a world without injustice, insecurity, marginalisation, religious persecution, poverty and despair.

We will be joined by a group of children from Longridge CE Primary School who will be leading us in one of the hymns. The service will last for approximately one hour and will be led by women and men from all of our local churches.

We give thanks to the Christian women of Nigeria for this service and pray that this service will inspire people throughout the world to unite as one in prayer and action.

A light lunch will be served in the church after the service.

Everyone is welcome. Come and join us!



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Lent Lunches

The Churches Together in Longridge and District are holding Lent Lunches again this year . They ask for a suggested donation of £5 which includes a bowl of soup a round of sandwiches and unlimited cups of tea . The money raised is divided between Christian Aid and CAFOD . Do please try to support . They start at 12 noon .

February 25th at St Paul's

March 4th at St Wilfrid's

March 11th at Christ Church (we are helping)

March 18th at St Wilfrid's . Alston Lane running it .

March 25th at St Paul's

Preston Salvation Army

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 300 families with toy/gift hampers. We provided toys for 315 0-10 year olds, and gifts for 308 10-19 year olds. A total of 623 children. On average each child was given about 15 items making the total around 9,500 toys/gifts that were given out.

The food bank was also extremely busy in December which saw us giving out 1300 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,

Chloe Grice

Community Worker

18th February – Ash Wednesday, a good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

‘Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to

the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.’ (Joel 2:12-13)

St James the Least of All

Your first parish – beware

My dear Nephew Darren

You closed your last letter with the remark that it was time to retire to bed with a cup of cocoa. That may be all very well for the pious intensity of a theological college – although a stiff whisky was always acceptable in my day – but it is not a style to continue once in the parish. I do feel obliged to give you a few hints about what should and should not be drunk in public as a parish priest.

Morning visits are to be discouraged, but if one is unavoidable, and you are invited to have a drink, then it has to be coffee. It is the only time of day when a mug is acceptable – provided, of course, that it is bone china or porcelain. In the afternoons one changes to tea, but only from cups. Blended varieties may be all very well for Curates in their first year, but it should be Darjeeling for an incumbent. And fruit teas are for Quakers only.

If an inappropriate vessel is offered, then the drink should be accepted, but left untouched. Since the visit will be discussed in the finest detail throughout the parish the moment you have left, your host will soon learn why and not make the same error a second time. It is for the same reason that if you ever want to circulate a piece of news round the parish as quickly as possible, never put it in the parish magazine, just mention it casually during one of your visits. Everyone will know by teatime.

Alcoholic drinks must be carefully judged. A sherry – dry, naturally – is probably best if you are invited to lunch. In the early evening, a gin and tonic would be the drink of choice. To ask for whisky would indicate that you are about to go over to Rome, and a mineral water that you have your roots in non-conformity. Beer is never, ever drunk in someone’s house unless you suffer from some personal tragedy, such as being the diocesan youth chaplain.

However, an occasional beer in the pub with the bell-ringers (who will be real ale fanatics to a man) or after choir practice – which seems to be the real purpose of holding practices anyway – or as a treat for the sacristan, will show you are a man of the people. It is some years since I visited the pub.

Understanding wine should be taught at every theological college as an essential part of the ministry. Develop a taste for claret, dear boy, and you will be starting your journey towards high office.

And perhaps you should give that tin of cocoa to the verger.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

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Church Humour

It hurts

A little girl told her mother one day before lunch that her stomach was hurting. Her mother replied: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

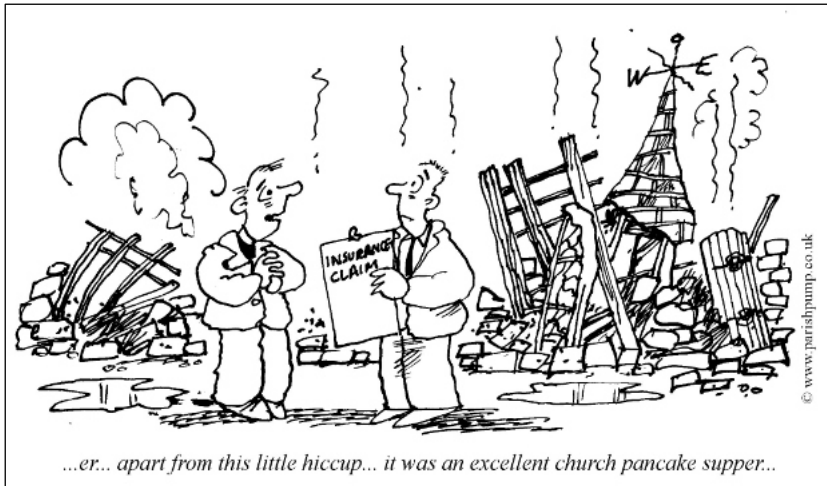
That evening the minister and his wife came for dinner. The minister looked a bit rough and explained that his head was hurting him. The little girl gave him a sweet smile and said encouragingly: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

God made us

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"



MOTHERS' UNION

It is hard to believe we are now in 2026!!! It only seems five minutes since we were worrying as to what would happen with technology when we came into 2000, the millennium. Of course nothing happened!!! I hope you all enjoy peace and joy during this year and that Grimsargh Mothers Union enjoys another successful year.

As I write this report I am sorting the programme for this year. January of course will have been our AGM at The Plough and as our February meeting falls on Ash Wednesday we will be meeting in church at 7.30 pm for the service.

This is a very special year for Mothers Union as we celebrate 150 years since it was founded by Mary Sumner. There will be lots of activities going on throughout the year. We will keep you informed.

You will already know about the plan to celebrate together as a Deanery by going on a canal trip from Barton Grange on Wednesday May 6th, 12noon returning at 2pm, with fish and chips on board at a cost of £20 per head. Initially we are limited to 12 members and so those interested will have their names put in a bag and we will draw out 12.

We are asked to celebrate as a branch and so the committee will be looking to you for suggestions.

Some dates for your diaries

March 14th Sharing our Faith Day at St Margaret's Ingol

April 26th Mothers Union Provincial Time Capsule arrives in Blackburn Diocese

May 3rd Mothers Union Provincial Time Capsule leaves the Diocese.

August 8th Mary Sumner Day Mothers Union celebrations and exhibition in Blackburn Cathedral

November 12th Diocesan Centenary Celebration Service.

Our branch will be celebrating 95 years this time. Quite an achievement !!! especially at this time when membership in some areas has been declining and some branches closing. We always welcome new members so please spread the word.

Finally, a prayer for your use:-

Gracious Lord we bring before you Mothers Union Worldwide asking that we never lose sight of upholding Christ's teaching on marriage and Christian life. We thank you that over these past 150 years members in your name have served you faithfully bringing hope and your love to their communities. Bless our President Kathleen Snow as she encourages members and as she looks to the future of Mothers Union in an increasingly secular world. May your name be hallowed throughout the world. Amen.

God bless you all

Nellie

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 Tuesday 6th 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

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Mary to Egypt to safety. The family stayed there until Joseph had another dream when God told him it was safe to return home.

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, including the year 3/4 mini-skills (report below). We look forward to the events in the coming weeks which include a new event on the sporting calendar, the Pentathlon, the year 1/2 mini-skills, Kurling, 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 Freddie W, Aiden H, Max R, Charlie T-C, Tilly B and Cerys P.



SAFEGUARDING

We have continued to share the very useful Safeguarding guides with our parents and carers. We have shared the 'Digital Devices and Well-Being' and 'AI Toys' 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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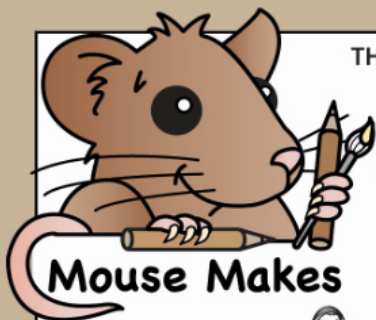
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Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE
DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible
Learn God's word.



SECOND TEMPTATION

THE
DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

Put God first
Worship only Him.

1

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

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



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

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THIRD TEMPTATION

THE
DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:

God cares, trust
Him do not test Him.





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

JIGSAW CLUB

For the children of St Michael's, Grimsargh.



When?



2nd and 4th 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

Meeting in church for the first hymn at 10.00am
before leaving for lots of activities and fun.
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Nov 27th	£20.00	Funeral			Crib Service
Nov 30th	£136.70		Dec 25th	£217.00	
Dec 7th	£287.10		Dec 28th	£125.00	
Dec 14th	£187.06		Jan 4th	£329.90	
Dec 16th	£39.81	Reception	Jan 11th	£199.22	
		Nativity	Jan 15th	10.00	
Dec 21st	£142.00		Jan 18th	£160.50	
Dec 21st	£126.72	Carol Service			

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of
 £100 from Laurence and Maureen Woods towards the Flood lights being switched on .
 £200 from John Cowell in memory of his late wife Marlene

FLOWER ROTA

Feb 1st	Vacant
Feb 8th	Holding Family
Feb 15th	Vacant
Feb 22nd	Sames/Wright - Wedding

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

		10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
Feb	1st	James Cowell		L Williams S Cowell	
Feb	8th	R Woollam B Mackley	N Cowell	D Rusling J Lander	
Feb	15th	S Fillingham		B Mackley J Coulston-Hermann	
Feb	22nd	John Cowell N Maudsley	L Williams	K Billington B Holt	

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

		Leader	Duty		Welcome
Feb	6th	Marlene	Jean	Maureen	Janet
Feb	13th	Nellie	Kate	Jennifer	Linda
Feb	20th	Jean	Helen	Eileen	Janet
Feb	27th	Nellie	Maureen	Kate	Linda

Funerals **"I am the resurrection and the life" says the Lord.**
 November 27th John Beckett 89 years

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

Jan 7th - Feb 7th The Longest Yarn 2 - Britain at War - at Blackburn Cathedral

1st **4th Sunday after Epiphany**

10.00am Morning Worship

4th 2.00pm Craft and Chat Group at 10 Tunbrook Avenue

6th 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

8th **2nd Sunday before Lent**

10.00am Holy Communion with Jigsaw Club

12th 7.30pm Bible Study at the Vicarage

13th 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

14th 10.30am Prayer Group in church

15th **Sunday next before Lent**

10.00am Morning Worship

18th 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

19th 11.00am Holy Communion BCP

20th 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

22nd **1st Sunday of Lent**

10.00am Holy Communion

25th 12noon Lent Lunch at St Paul's, Longridge

27th 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

28th 1.00pm Wedding - Emma Wright and William Sames

March

1st **2nd Sunday of Lent**

10.00am Morning Worship

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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