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JOHN 13:34

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PARISH LETTER

Building up our church – Worship

We continue some of the learning journey the PCC is going on as part of the Renewal Programme. For our last two meetings we have focused on worship. We spent two meetings on this as it is the most important part of any church, and is in many ways our 'showcase' to the wider community. Sunday worship, along with the special celebrations each year, is how many people will first experience what we are about as a Christian community.

There are two important facets of worship that are sides of the same coin – who is worship for? Primarily our worship must focus on the Lord; we worship (show Him what He is worth) in our praise, prayers and how we live our lives. He needs to be the real focus of our worship – not our own desires and needs being met in what we do and how we do it.

Secondly good worship will also enable us to receive; knowledge, inspiration, positive feelings, empowerment, joy, peace and fellowship to name but a few. We need to experience something in our worship that blesses us – as we give glory to the Lord.

Our worship also needs to allow new people to experience something holy and joyous as they gather with us. They need to feel part of what we do even if they aren't yet members of the Kingdom. They need to feel that the worship is for them and that they leave feeling blessed and having encountered something of God.

Our worship also needs to be fully inclusive of all ages, experiences and abilities. Do we allow space for people to experience God, are there opportunities to include children and young people (not just presenting what they've done at Jigsaw Club), how well are people welcomed well and brought into our community? There are many other aspects we could consider alongside these questions including whether our Sunday worship has enough variety in pace, emotions, volume, and content.

In the coming months there will be some questionnaires that you will be able to complete to assist the PCC in considering our worship in future so keep an eye out for them. In the meantime, why not write down what is important to you in our worship, what we could do better, and how you could contribute to the ongoing discussion.

Feel free to share them with me so that our worship may grow to be a truly joyous celebration of our faith in Jesus that all can share in

Blessings, Andy

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LIFE GROUP

Book the date. LIFE GROUP is starting on Thursday 12th November, at 7.30 pm in the vicarage.

LIFE GROUP is for everyone. An opportunity to explore the Bible and how it is relevant to our daily lives. This season we will be exploring Romans; a letter that makes sense of life. Together we will be looking at how the letter to the Romans echoes the larger plot line of the Bible. Then take time to look through Romans in order to grasp the relevance for today.

Plenty of room for everyone. For more information have a chat with Diane and Joss Daune.

FAF

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the band concert such a wonderful evening. An amazing £1,165 raised.

The Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday December 5th. We are looking for helpers for the stalls. Please watch out for the list on the church notice board. We would welcome items: -cakes for the stall and refreshments, bottles, sweets / chocolate, raffle prizes, bargain gifts.

HARVEST



Thank you to all who suppoerted the Harvest Festival with their very generous gifts. Parcels of fruit and vegitables were given out to the elderly and the sick in the village plus 2 car boot loads of tinned foods plus some fresh veg and fruit were sent to the Salvation Army in Preston for distribution to the needy.

A big thank you to Jean and Marlene for keeping the MU window updated and for the display they created for Harvest.

A SPECIAL CELEBRATION SERVICE

After two years of studying with the Diocese, James Cowell is delighted to announce that he has successfully completed his course to become an Authorised Lay Minister under Pastoral Care.

James would like to warmly invite the congregation and wider community to join him for a special celebration service on Sunday 22nd November at 10.00 am at Grimsargh Church.

The service will be followed by tea, coffee and cake in church.

James would be delighted to see you there as he celebrates this important milestone and begins this new chapter in his ministry.

Thank you

James

22rd November – The excitement of the Sunday of Christ the King

The last Sunday in November is the last Sunday of the church year, and in some ways the most important. Why? Because everything else in the Christian year looks BACK on what happened 2000 years ago. The Sunday of Christ the King looks FORWARD

to what we can expect next…. the return one day of Jesus Christ to this earth, as King of Kings.

Does the idea of Jesus of Nazareth literally returning to earth seem a bit quaint to accept, in our computerised world of e-mails and the internet? Well, that is what the Bible says will happen – *it is promised more than 250 times*!

The Bible is quite clear: the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings will take place personally, powerfully, bodily, visibly, publicly – and INSTANTLY. (Read Matthew 24:30,31, or I Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:3.) Here are words of Jesus Himself:

For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. (Luke 17:24)

This will be no local story for a BBC TV reporter to cover if he gets time. That day he won't be interviewing the Carpenter of Nazareth, wearing Galilean homespun. Jesus will be in His incandescent brilliance as the 'Son of Man' – a bit of a challenge even for TV reporters! Certainly when Peter, James and John were witness to their familiar Master 'transfigured', as the same irradiated Person – in a dramatic preview of Christ's triumphant final rule (Luke 9:28-36), they did not feel very confident.

The martyred Stephen, about to die, had a similar glimpse: "Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7:56). The exiled apostle John on the island of Patmos saw the same figure: '…His face was like the sun shining in full strength' (Revelation 1:16.)

When Christ one day returns, the whole world will finally witness this same spectacle (Revelation 1:7). His return will mark the end of history, as we know it. It will inaugurate the final Judgment. It will re-unite the Lord with His Church on earth.

Jesus' return to us will bring about the new heaven and the new earth. Pain, death, persecution, privation and sorrow will all be banished. The entire edifice of evil that has raised itself against the rule of God will be dismantled in a moment.

We have been warned all along not to place a date or a time upon the Second Coming of Christ. (Matthew 24:42-44) Sadly, many people ignore this warning and waste endless time in calculations. The way in which we should be spending our days before the end is to work, watch and witness to our Lord Jesus – whether or not ours is a world of computers, e-mail and all the rest!

In the meantime, where is Jesus now? The Bible writers tells us that Jesus has returned to the place of privilege and power, and is 'seated at the right hand' of the Father (Ephesians 1:20-21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3), and is waiting for the Father's timing for Him to return to earth in glory (Mark 13:26-27,32), to raise the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and give them their resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-44).

Jesus will never be a baby again. He is now Christ the King – today, tomorrow, forever.

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.ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

On working with young people

My dear Nephew Darren

It is quite natural for you curates to enjoy working with young people in your parishes; church youth clubs were created in order to keep the newly ordained off the streets in the evenings. But be assured you will grow out of it. I consent to baptise babies and prepare teenagers for confirmation, but beyond that my contact with this alien life form is kept to an absolute minimum.

Dear Miss Thrush runs our weekly Pram Service – whose sole purpose seems to be to give young mothers an opportunity to discuss the ever-changing liaisons within the village, while their offspring shred hymn books and destroy the flower arrangements. I drop in from time to time in order to check that the more mobile haven't found where we hide the matches. An infant equipped with that knowledge can so easily become a teenage pyromaniac.

I can give you little advice on your youth group. When I was a curate, the major activity seemed to be to teach them how to wear gas masks, although today I imagine there is more concern about protecting them from other sorts of exotic chemicals. Also, I suspect you are kept busy keeping the young out of the darker corners of the churchyard as they develop their anatomical knowledge – a past-time still enthusiastically pursued by each new generation.

You clearly find your monthly Youth Service a deeply enriching experience. As far as I am concerned, if such a liturgy had been necessary, then Cranmer would have provided us with one. Endlessly repeated choruses accompanied by a guitar would make me warm to the Quakers. I am sure St Paul's services would have been much enriched with Hymns Ancient and Modern. The disciples in hiding in Jerusalem were not even able to sing accompanied by an organ, which must have greatly dispirited them. I also feel that our Verger would be unable to cope with organising the strobe lighting and dry ice effects. It takes him all his time to remember to light the candles on the altar.

On this matter we must differ. You must worship God in your way, and I in His.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

SMILE LINES

Like God

My grandson was visiting one day when he said, "Grandma, I always think of how you and God are alike."

Mentally polishing my halo, I asked, "How is that, then?"

"You're both just SO old," he replied.

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and they seemed to fascinate the youngster. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"

Can't scare me

My wife and I were watching the gorillas at the zoo when several of them charged at the enclosure fence, yelling terribly, rolling their eyes around, and clenching their fists. They looked quite terrifying. The crowd scattered except for one frail, elderly lady, who did not bat an eye. Later, my wife asked how she had kept her composure. "Oh, easy," she said cheerfully. "You see, I used to run the youth group at my local church."

MOTHERS' UNION

I am afraid the weather has suddenly turned very autumnal and we are now having to turn our thoughts to putting the heating on. It is going to be expensive this year but above all please make sure you all keep warm and safe this wintertime.

The committee are very much aware that as the colder nights draw in it is difficult for some members who don't have a car or who don't drive in the dark to get to meetings. We urge you please to talk to Marlene or me and we will sort out a lift for you.



As you are all probably aware by now, we were awarded the silver award for the RISE UP campaign recently. Marlene received the certificate on our behalf from Louise, our Deanery Presiding member, at a service in church.

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, and it is our goal as Mothers Union members and churches to work together to be a part of change.

RISE UP stands for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray and we do urge you to remember these headings as we work towards the gold award.

Our October meeting is always our Wave of Prayer Service, when we gather together to give thanks for our links across the world and for the prayerful support we both give and receive. This will have taken place before you read this magazine, so we say a big thank you to Liz and Jean who always go to a lot of trouble to organise this service for us.

Of course we are looking forward to our meal together in November. Hazel has everything in hand. If you haven't already completed your form please get it filled in and returned with your money in a named envelope. Just a reminder!! The meal, £24, is at The Cross Keys, Whitechapel 12 noon for 12.30pm on Wednesday November 18th.

Thank you for donations already received of toiletries for the Women's Refuge and glasses for the prison. Please keep them coming in. They are very gratefully received and we as a committee are very aware that we have some very generous

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members and some non-members, but who are church members. Thank you one and all.

Very sad news to report that Josie Ainsworth, I think our oldest member, passed away today, October 12th. Josie has struggled for some time with heart failure, and we must say a big thank you to Kate who has done a brilliant job in helping her as a neighbour and a friend. Josie was a very quiet private person. A regular at coffee morning. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

God Bless you all

Nellie

SCHOOL REPORT

It has been another incredibly busy and successful month at Grimsargh St Michael's, with children continuing to embrace every opportunity to live out our vision of *'Inspiring, Believing and Achieving in our Loving Christian Community'*. Throughout the month, pupils have demonstrated courage, kindness, perseverance and service, both within school and beyond, truly letting their lights shine in all that they do.

SIAMS INSPECTION

A significant highlight of the month was our recent SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. We were delighted that the inspection was an incredibly positive and successful experience for the school and provided an opportunity for us to showcase the vision, values and culture that have been carefully developed and embedded across our community over many years. The inspector was able to see first-hand the lived reality of our Christian vision, the strength of relationships across the school and the many opportunities provided for children to flourish academically, spiritually, socially and emotionally.

Whilst the inspection itself took place over a single day, it reflected the dedication, commitment and hard work of our entire school community over a much longer period of time. We are extremely grateful to our staff, governors, church representatives, parents, carers and children for the part they played in helping us share the story of our school so successfully. A particular thank you must go to Miss Smith, whose leadership of Religious Education and Collective Worship has been instrumental in ensuring that our Christian vision is lived out meaningfully throughout school life. Through her passion, expertise and commitment to continual improvement, she has helped ensure that we are in a very strong position as a church school.

We are now awaiting publication of the final inspection report and look forward to sharing its findings with our community in the coming weeks. However, whatever the outcome, we are immensely proud of what the inspection recognised: a school community where children are known, valued and loved, and where our vision of *'Inspiring, Believing and Achieving in our Loving Christian Community'* is evident in daily life.

WORSHIP



Our worship this month has focused on helping children understand how they can use their God-given gifts to serve others and make a positive difference in the world around them. Through our celebrations of St Michael's Day, Harvest Festival and Hello Yellow, pupils have reflected on themes of courage, gratitude, kindness, service and wellbeing. Parents and carers joined us for our Harvest Festival at St Michael's Church, where children shared prayers, poems, artwork and songs, helping to create a joyful and uplifting celebration of God's provision and generosity.

In recent worships, children have explored the stories of Rahab and the spies, considering how God can use ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things, and reflected on Jesus' words, *"I am the vine; you are the branches"*, learning about the importance of remaining connected to God through prayer, worship and acts of kindness. These reflections have helped pupils consider how they can demonstrate courage, compassion and faith in their daily lives.

PUPIL VOICE AND LEADERSHIP

This term has seen the appointment of our School Council, Eco Council and Sports Council. We are incredibly proud of all the children who put themselves forward for these important roles and are grateful for their willingness to serve our school community. These leadership opportunities enable pupils to actively contribute to school life, develop valuable leadership skills and ensure that pupil voice continues to play a central role in shaping the future of our school.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

Educational visits provide invaluable opportunities to bring classroom learning to life, and our Year 5 children recently enjoyed a wonderful visit to Tatton Park as part of their Anglo-Saxon studies. During the visit, pupils experienced a range of hands-on activities, including warrior training, food preparation and traditional crafts, helping them develop a deeper understanding of life during Anglo-Saxon times. The children represented the school exceptionally well through their enthusiasm, behaviour and engagement throughout the day.







SPORT

Sporting opportunities continue to play a significant role in school life, providing children with opportunities to develop resilience, teamwork and confidence.

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Our hockey team demonstrated excellent determination and sportsmanship in a series of fixtures against strong opposition, while our football teams enjoyed success in the recent Kids' Cup competition. One team progressed to the quarter-finals, whilst another finished runners-up in their league after a series of excellent performances.

The boys' football team also made an outstanding start to their Harold Slater Shield campaign with an impressive victory over St Clare's, progressing confidently to the next round of the competition. Meanwhile, our girls' football team represented the school brilliantly at the Preston Girls' Football Tournament, narrowly missing out on qualification for the knockout stages after a number of strong and determined performances.

More recently, six Year 4 pupils represented the school at the local Mini Skills Competition, competing against eleven other schools across a range of challenges involving speed, coordination, teamwork and accuracy. Their positive attitude and determination helped the team secure an excellent sixth-place finish and they were superb ambassadors for our school throughout the event.

SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

Keeping children safe remains at the heart of everything we do. This month, we have continued to work closely with families to promote both online safety and healthy wellbeing habits. Information has been shared with parents regarding emerging technologies and online platforms, helping families to support children in using technology safely and responsibly.

We have also focused on supporting healthy lifestyles through guidance on sleep, screen use and healthy eating. Through our safeguarding communications, we have encouraged families to consider small changes that can make a significant difference to children's wellbeing, concentration and emotional health. By working together, we can help our children develop lifelong habits that support both their learning and happiness.

COMMUNITY

A particular highlight of the month was our PTFA Colour Run, which brought together pupils, families, staff and former pupils in a wonderful celebration of community spirit. The event perfectly reflected the warm and supportive atmosphere that exists within our school community and successfully raised £1,484.99 to further enrich opportunities for our children. We remain extremely grateful to our PTFA and all those who generously support the school throughout the year.

As always, I would like to thank our staff, governors, families, parish community and, most importantly, our wonderful children for their continued support and commitment. Together, we continue to ensure that Grimsargh St Michael's is a place where every child is encouraged to flourish, achieve their very best and let their light shine

Mr Stuart Booth

Headteacher

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Mouse Makes

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Remember
the words Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Colossians 3:25

Jesus said:
"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."
John 15:13

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

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RESPECT • THANKFUL • MEMORIAL • TRIBUTE • COMMEND • ARMISTICE • PEACE



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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.

For more information please contact the vicar.



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CHURCH COLLECTIONS

Sept	20th	£148.30	
Sept	24th	£10.00	
Sept	27th	£168.00	
Oct	4th	£124.000 £68.00	Songs of Praise
Oct	11th	£285.00	
Oct	15th	£40.00	
Oct	16th	£15.50	Wedding
Oct	18th	£130.00	

FLOWER ROTA

Nov	1st	Vacant
Nov	8th	Vacant
Nov	15th	Nellie Cowell
Nov	22nd	Vacant
Nov	29th	Vacant

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

		10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers
Nov	1st	R Woollam S Fillingham	L Williams	D Rusling N Cowell
Nov	8th	John Cowell B Mackley James Cowell R Buckley		Guide Scout
Nov	15th	K Thompson N Maudsley	B Mackley	B Holt J Lander
Nov	22nd	B Mackley		K Billington S Cowel
Nov	29th	R Buckley S Fillingham	N Cowell	J Coulston-Hermann L Woodl

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

		Leader	Duty		Welcome
Nov	6th	Nellie	Helen	Sue	Vacant
Nov	13th	Jean	Maureen	Kate	Vacant
Nov	20th	Marlene	Jennifer	Eileen	Vacant
Nov	27th	Nellie	Marilyn	Jean	Vacant

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

1st **4th Sunday before Advent - All Saints Day**
10am Morning Worship
11.45am Baptism of Jack McCreadie
4.00pm Service of Light

4th 2.00pm Craft group at the vicarage

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

8th **3rd Sunday before Advent -Rembrance Sunday**
10.00am Remembrance Parade Service
11.45am Village Remembrance at the Cross

12th 7.30pm Life Group at the vicarage

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

14th 10.30am Prayer Group in church

15th **2nd Sunday before Advent**
10am Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club

18th 12noon for 12.30pm MU Christmas Meal at the Cross Keys, Whitechapel

19th 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

22nd **Sunday next before Advent**
10.00am Morning Worship - Special service to celebrate James Cowell completing his Authorised Lay Minister under pastoral care course

23rd 7.30pm PCC in school

28th 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

29th **Advent Sunday**
10.00am Holy Communion & Jigsaw Club

DEC

5th **Christmas Fair**
9.30am Setting up for the Christmas Fair in School
1.00pm Christmas Fair in School

DEADLINE for the December/January magazine is 15th November.

Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell (pandncowell@hotmail.co.uk) and/or B Mackley (bjmackley@aol.com)



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