ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
GRIMSARGH



OCTOBER
70p

Harvest Celebration Weekend

Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th October

Family Harvest Craft and Worship
St Michael's School

FREE

Friday 3.30pm
with refreshments

Harvest Supper with Quiz
Food for Thought - Bishop Philip
Grimsargh Village Hall

Saturday 7pm
Tickets required
Bar available

Harvest Songs of Praise
with Pilling Jubilee Silver Band
St Michael's Church

Sunday 3pm
Tickets required
with refreshments



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DAY SCHOOL	Headteacher Mr Stuart Booth	Tel: 653600
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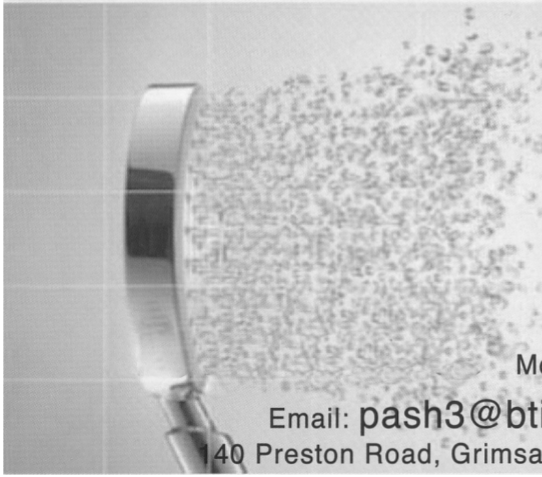
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PARISH LETTER

Building up our church – Pathways and Perseverance

We continue some of the learning journey the PCC is going on as part of the Renewal Programme. We now turn our attention to the final two P's – of the 5 P's; Pathways and Perseverance.

Pathways is not necessarily an obvious as a choice of a step in our mission in our community. It is about asking the question; what do we do if people respond to our proclamation of the good news of Jesus? When we share who Jesus is and open people up to the love of God for them, we should expect a response. We hope for a positive response and that they begin to ask questions about faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

So, what do we do with them? Inviting people to come to worship with us on a Sunday is an obvious answer – but not always the best next step for someone who is exploring faith. Don't get me wrong it is good to come and share worship with us but Sunday isn't always the easiest place to ask questions or understand what is going on. We need separate and special places for people responding to the Gospel message – we need pathways that will link their exploration, learning and growing into becoming disciples of Jesus.

Pathways can take many different forms depending on the number of people we have who are responding; one to ones over tea or coffee, small groups led by mature Christians, short (or long) courses with different themed weeks to explore the key aspects of the Christian faith. As a church we need a variety of methods, each one appropriate to those on their faith journeys.

Now, we don't really have any specific ways to help people explore their faith, ideally with others in similar place. The danger is that we don't follow up on our proclamation events so people drift away. We need to think about what approaches are suitable for us as a church, what skills we have in starting pathway groups, what resources we can use. If we think and plan for people to respond we will help them grow in faith, draw them into the kingdom, and hopefully help them become valued members of our church.

Perseverance is a simple step. We won't always see fruit from the other four steps. Some of the things we try won't work, or not first time. Some of us need to learn new skills, confidence and maturity. So, we keep going, we keep Praying for growth, being Present in our community, hold events that encourage Proclamation of our faith, link people to Pathways to growth.

As we Persevere, we will see fruit, growth and new people responding – because God is faithful.

Blessings, Andy

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MISSION WEEKEND.

We are planning a special weekend in October to share who we are and what we believe with our community. This is coinciding with our Harvest weekend, which seems an appropriate time given our rural location. There will be several events to which you can invite your family, friends and neighbours. Each event will have a distinctive character to appeal to as many people as possible.

Friday 2nd October 3.30pm Harvest activity and worship event in school for children and their families.

Saturday 3rd October 7.00pm Harvest Supper with quiz which will include a short talk by Bishop Philip. The quiz will be run by Ray who runs The Plough quiz nights – there will be prizes. The supper will be pie, peas and gravy followed by apple pie and cream. This will be at The Village Hall and the bar will be open.

Sunday 4th October 10.00am Our traditional Harvest Festival.

3.00pm An afternoon Songs of Praise with traditional Harvest hymns played by Pilling Brass Band. This may be outside if the weather allows. We hope to joined by a couple of farmers who will share what Harvest means to them in 2026. There will be a short talk by Andy.

How can you help? Firstly, be thinking and praying about people **you** could invite to an event – people who aren't regular church attenders.

Secondly you can volunteer to help – we need: helpers for crafts and refreshments on Friday afternoon; welcomers and servers at the Harvest Supper; welcomers, readers, and refreshments at the Songs of Praise.

There will be lots of ways to get involved and use your own gifts.

During the summer there will be posters and flyers available to publicise the events, a list for volunteers to sign up, and tickets to help you invite people.

Remember: 'I'm going, it's going to be really good, would you like to come with me?'

FAF – NEXT EVENT

LAST NIGHT AT THE PROMS BAND CONCERT: PILLING JUBILEE SILVER BAND

This will be held in CHURCH on SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER at 7.30pm.

TICKETS Are £ 15.00 inc. glass of wine and nibbles

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4th October – St Francis of Assisi, love for the Creation

St Francis (1181 – 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious – until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at the age of 45, and was canonised in 1228.

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life.

Two ancient, and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.

YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON!

At church recently, we stood to sing Charles Wesley's hymn 'Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire'. Except the organist was playing the tune which normally accompanies the Christmas carol 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night'. (No, not 'On Ilkley Moor bar t'aht'- the other one).

I had never sung Wesley's hymn to this tune before, and it took a bit of believing that it was possible, a bit of getting used to. Some hymn tunes are what I call

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'portmanteau tunes'- we can sing a number of hymns to the same tune, and we are usually quite happy about it. But we mess with carols at our peril! Most people know them, and they have become identified with very particular hymn tunes. Give us what we expect, please, organist!

We can all be a bit fixed like this. The Bible is full of examples of 'Who me? You've made a mistake there, God!'. Or it comes down to 'Here I am, Lord, send him!' Perhaps the most well-known example is Jonah, who was so convinced that God had made a mistake in calling him to go and tell the citizens of Nineveh to turn from their wicked ways, that he set off in entirely the opposite direction to Nineveh, and took a ship going west, until he was ambushed by God and ended up in the belly of the great fish. But once Jonah realised God was serious, and that God would be with him, he set off as God had asked him to.

Moses is another example. 'Me, tell Pharaoh to let my people go? Me? You cannot be serious, Lord!' But again, once Moses was convinced that this was the way God wanted him to go, he submitted to God's plan, and became the great leader of his people, bringing them out of slavery in Egypt to the boundary of the Promised Land.

God's plans for us are always bigger than our horizons can presently accommodate. If you have a niggling feeling God is calling you to a particular task, or to abandon a particular something, it may take time to come round to God's point of view, but it will ultimately turn out to be a better way. When God calls, He does not leave us at that point; He will always resource us for the task, often in surprising ways.

'Who, me, Lord?' Yes, YOU!

.ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

On how to baffle the church committee

My dear Nephew Darren

I was delighted to hear that you have been made chairman of the Missionary Sub-committee; it should help you to hone your skills in appearing to encourage committee members to contribute while ensuring that they only say the things you want to hear. It is a skill that needs not a little practice; democracy only works if all the important decisions have been made beforehand.

However, do remember that sub-committees are only formed in order either to kill an idea stone dead, or to give the chairman of the main committee some time to decide what he wants, since he isn't sure how to handle the issue at that moment. I formed a sub-committee in 1999 to discuss Miss Fothergill's suggestion of creating a 'water feature' on the Rector's Glebe land, as a way of celebrating the Millennium. More than 25 years later, we are still actively discussing the idea.

I noted at the time that no one wanted the thing on their *own* land. It's significant that whenever people suggest some imposing edifice, they always think it will be

most appropriate either in the Rector's Garden, or in some public place, well out of sight of their own homes.

While the Water Feature Group has been working away tirelessly, and endless masons and architects have been approached, a suitable design has yet to be presented. It looks as if a suggestion will eventually be considered by my hundredth successor as we enter the third Millennium. That is the customary rate of progress for St James the Least, which I find entirely satisfactory.

The procedure for decision-making is always the same: after enormous effort, the sub-committee will produce a carefully worded report, which will be circulated round all members of the church council. At the next meeting, they will be thanked profusely for all their hard work, and the matter will be discussed at great length. It will then be proposed that the final decision will be taken at the next meeting, after everyone has had time to consider the matter more thoroughly.

Come the next meeting, the item will somehow fail to appear on the agenda, and when it is raised in Any Other Business, it will be pointed out that it is now far too late in the evening to tackle such an important issue. From then on, you can be assured, it will sink without trace.

Always remember the golden rule: a church committee meeting consists of a body of people waiting to go home.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

SMILE LINES

Fresh ideas for doing church

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "You had a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theatre seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "And you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock 'n roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony."

" Thank you, Father," answered the young priest." I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth."

" All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest," But I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional."

" But, Father," protested the young priest," my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

" Yes," replied the elderly priest," and I appreciate that. But the flashing neon sign, 'Toot 'n Tell or Go to Hell' cannot stay on the church roof!"

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God is here

When our minister and his wife visited our neighbour, her four-year-old daughter answered the door. “Mum!” she yelled toward the living room. “God’s here, and He brought His girlfriend.”

Book the date

Our new curate was very eager to please. When I asked if I could have a church service when I eventually die, he responded with enthusiasm. “Of course,” he said, grabbing his date book. “What day do you want?”

MOTHERS’ UNION

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer break, whether you have been away on holiday or just enjoyed relaxing in sunny Grimsargh.

Marlene and I enjoyed an amazing day at the cathedral on Saturday August 8th We actually went on the bus and found it very easy! There was a wonderful display of beautiful deanery and branch banners combined with an exhibition showcasing the amazing work of Mothers Union across the Diocese of Blackburn. If made us so proud to be part of such a wonderful organisation. The afternoon culminated in a Mother’s Union Eucharist commemorating Mary Sumner Day, when at least 350 members filled the cathedral and raised the roof as we sang the hymns; We have a gospel to proclaim, In Christ alone, All for Jesus and Tell out my soul. Bishop Philip held us all spell bound as we listened to his profound message.

I hope you all remembered to light your candle and join with all members in the 150th Anniversary Provincial Prayer for the Province of York on August 9th. A prayer not just for that day but every day and focusing on the line 'may we bring glory to Jesus and hope to our communities'.

Marlene, Hazel, Saundra and I enjoyed another trip on the bus to Blackburn Cathedral to see to Parishes in Bloom exhibition on Saturday August 22nd. The cathedral was full of stunning displays created by parishes around the diocese in a special centenary exhibition. Two of our members, Maureen and Jennifer, were involved in our contribution. Maureen organised things and Jennifer spent hours buying flowers and arranging a wonderful display that was greatly admired. A big thank you to both of them for showcasing our church.



In September we were back together for our service of Evening Prayer. We say a special thank you to the Rev John Ball for leading the service for us.

October will be our Wave of Prayer service. The Wave of Prayer is a continuous year-long global chain of prayers. Each diocese across the world is assigned specific dates to pray and be prayed for. Ours in Blackburn is always in October.

Glasses

St Stephen's Mothers Union collect over- the - counter glasses for the prison and would be grateful if we could collect some for them. They can be purchased from Home Bargains for about £1.49 a pair. Marlene bought some in the pound shop at Deepdale Retail Park.

If you buy some, please leave them by the toiletries box at the back of church.

Women's Refuge

Marlene and Nellie delivered this wonderful array of items to the Women's Refuge this week . Thank you all for your continued support , which is very much appreciated .



SCHOOL REPORT

It was wonderful to welcome our children and their parents and carers back to school after the summer break. We were also delighted to welcome our new Reception children and their families as they began their journey with us. Mrs Coupe and Miss Begbie have been incredibly impressed by how confidently the children have settled into their new environment, embraced school routines, and formed positive relationships with their peers and staff.

Worship

At the start of the new academic year, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Philip, who led our worship and helped us begin the year with reflection and inspiration. Our collective worship has centred on our school vision, *'Inspiring, Believing and Achieving in our Loving Christian Community'*, encouraging everyone to consider what these values mean in our daily lives.

We have also reflected on our biblical foundation, *'Let Your Light Shine'* (Matthew 5:16). Through Jesus' teaching that a lamp should not be hidden away, children have been encouraged to recognise and celebrate their unique God-given gifts and talents. They have explored how they can use these gifts to make a

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positive difference, support others, and help everyone within our community to flourish.

We are looking forward to Reverend Andy leading our St Michael's Day and Harvest services at St Michael's Church in the coming weeks.

Roles of Responsibility

We are excited to celebrate the leadership aspirations of our pupils in the coming weeks. Our Year 6 candidates will be presenting their ideas as they run for Head Boy and Head Girl, while many other pupils are preparing applications for roles on the School Council, PE Council and Worship Council. We are proud of their enthusiasm, confidence and willingness to serve our school community.

Swimming

Our Year 4 children began their swimming lessons on Tuesday 8 September and will attend sessions every Tuesday until the end of the Autumn Term. These lessons provide pupils with the opportunity to develop essential water safety knowledge, build confidence in the water and improve their swimming skills, helping them to work towards meeting the national curriculum requirements for swimming.

At the start of the Spring Term, our Year 3 pupils will take over the swimming programme and will continue attending weekly sessions throughout the Spring and Summer Terms. We look forward to seeing all of our children grow in confidence and make excellent progress in this important life skill.

Sport

Six KS2 pupils, Erica, Eva, Eliza, Theo, Theo and Abel, proudly represented our school at the Multi Skills Event at West View Leisure Centre on Tuesday morning. Taking part in relay races, football kicking challenges, and throwing and catching activities, they demonstrated excellent resilience, teamwork and perseverance throughout. The children truly lived out our vision of 'Inspiring, Believing and Achieving in our Loving Christian Community', showing joy, taking turns, encouraging others and letting their lights shine. We are very proud of the positive attitude and sportsmanship they displayed.

Educational Visits

Our Year 6 children enjoyed an unforgettable residential visit to Borwick Hall, spending three days and two nights immersed in a wide range of exciting outdoor activities. From canoeing, climbing and traversing the high ropes to tackling team-building challenges and exploring caves, the children embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and determination.

I was fortunate to spend a full day with the children and joined one of the caving groups, which was a fantastic experience and great fun for everyone involved.

Mrs Livesey, Mrs Knight, Mr Johns, Miss Smith and Mrs Giddins were immensely proud of all the children throughout the visit. Not only did they demonstrate courage and resilience by stepping outside their comfort zones and embracing new challenges, but they also showed remarkable kindness,

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RIBBLE VALLEY
HANDYMAN

encouragement and support for one another. Their behaviour, attitudes and teamwork were exemplary, and they were a real credit to themselves, their families and our school community.

Safeguarding

We are looking forward to our forthcoming Safeguarding Audit, which will help us to further strengthen and enhance our safeguarding culture. Ensuring that all children feel safe, valued and supported remains at the heart of everything we do, and the audit will provide valuable opportunities for reflection, celebration and continuous improvement.

Show Rounds

Come and have a look around our wonderful school...our head boy and girl and their deputies are excited to show you around. We have the following dates and times available:

- Monday 12th October: 1:30pm
- Thursday 15th October: 9:30am, & 1:30pm

Please contact our school office (01772 653600) to book a time.

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



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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July 19th	£165.00	
	£90.00	Baptism
July 26th	£112.80	
Aug 2nd	£252.68	
Aug 9th	£129.00	
Aug 16th	£138.00	
Aug 20th	£30.00	
Aug 23rd	£138.70	
	£62.00	Baptism
Aug 30th	£134.00	
Sept 6th	£135.50	
Sept 13th	£158.60	

FLOWER ROTA

Oct 4th	Nellie Cowell
Oct 11th	Vacant
Oct 18th	Sheena Cartmell
Oct 25th	Vacant

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

		10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers
Oct	4th	R Woollam		S Cowell B Holt
Oct	11th	N Maudsley K Thompson	B Mackley	J Coulston-Hermann D Rusling
Oct	18th	B Mackley		L Wood B Mackley
Oct	25th	R Buckley James Cowell	S Cowell	K Billington J Lander

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

		Leader	Duty		Welcome
Oct	2nd	Marlene	Marilyn	Eileen	Vacant
Oct	9th	Kate	Sue	Maureen	Vacant
Oct	16th	Nellie	Helen	Jennifer	Vacant
Oct	23rd	Marlene	Eileen	Jean	Vacant
Oct	30th	Jean	Kate	Marilyn	Vacant

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER

2nd 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
3.30pm Family Craft and Worship event in school

3rd 9.30am Decorating church for Harvest
7.00pm Harvest Meal and Quiz

4th **Harvest Thanksgiving**
10am Harvest Festival
3.00pm Songs of Praise

5th 10.30am Distribution of Harvest Gifts
7.30pm FAF meeting at Penny,s

7th 2.00pm Craft group at the vicarage

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

10th 10.30am Prayer Group in church

11th **Trinity 19**
10.00am Holy Communion

15th 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

16th 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

16th 1.00pm Wedding - Herdson & Francis

17th 7.30pm Pilling Silver Band . 'Last Night of the Proms 'in church.

18th **Trinity 20**
10am Morning Worship
11.30am Baptism - Scarlett Morville

21st 7,30pm Wave of Prayer - in School

23rd 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

25th **Trinity 21**
10.00am Holy Communion with Rev Andy Meesson

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

DEADLINE for the October magazine is 15th September.
Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell (pandncowell@hotmail.co.uk)
and/or B Mackley (bjmackley@aol.com)



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