

VICAR'S LETTER

The view from the study.

Listening to the radio while washing up one evening, I heard Alan Titchmarsh speaking on an episode of 'A Good Read'. I thought to myself that the voice didn't sound quite right. It then dawned on me that I hadn't heard him for a while, although I had listened to an impressionist playing him on a radio comedy sketch show a few times. It dawned on me that I had become so familiar with the audio caricature of his voice that I no longer recognised the real Mr Titchmarsh!

So, what about us trying to get to the authentic voice of Jesus? Whenever we seek Jesus, his voice is mediated through the transmission and translation of the Scriptures, through the teaching of the Church, through the vicar's last sermon, and maybe even through whichever film, theatre and TV portrayals of Jesus we have seen.

Surely Lent is a good time to try listening to Jesus, to try and hear his authentic voice. The paradox is that the only way we can do that is to rely on the kind of understandings, interpretations and portrayals of Jesus that I have just alluded to, all of which risk somehow tweaking, diminishing or misrepresenting his voice!

Maybe, then, we need to keep our minds wide open as we approach Jesus. If we rely ONLY on our favourite scenes from films about Jesus, we hear only a fraction of his voice, presented in a way that may even be deliberately provocative or controversial. If we rely ONLY on the formal teaching of the Church, we might miss out on some of the human face of Jesus. If we rely ONLY on the scriptures, we still need to process what we read in our own fallible minds, and may end up with an understanding of Jesus that is far too similar to ourselves!

During Lent, try to take a balanced approach to discerning the authentic voice of Jesus (as far as anyone can). If you have not watched a film of his life in recent years, give it a go. How long is it since you read a Gospel? Why not turn to the diocesan Lent reflection, *Signs of Life*, which takes us on a journey through Lent with John? Take time to get to church, if you can. Take time to pray at home and read your bible. Take time to show the care and compassion of Christ to others in need. Take time to be still, to ponder and to pray.

We may never hear the genuine voice of Christ this side of Glory, but our experience of him in this life can still be an authentic one - if we take time to seek him in the right places and attune our hearts to the prompting of the Spirit.

With my prayers, Neil.

Giving to Church.

The current economic situation is bringing anxiety to many in our community. This is not the time to ask people to give more, when budgets are often stretched to the limit.

However, St Michael's is subject to the same financial pressures, especially when you consider the painfully large increase in the cost of gas and electricity. This is why it helps the church council if you give regularly by standing order, if you possibly can. We greatly appreciate all the generous giving of regular worshippers, visitors and other kind benefactors, however and whenever it is offered, but you will appreciate that a reliable monthly income is a tremendous benefit to the church.

If you have not yet done so, and feel able to give by standing order, please consider this. Using the following details, you can set up a standing order with your bank:

Name: Grimsargh Parochial Church Council

Sort code: 77-26-03

Account #: 00017133

Reference: Your name

Please also make use of Gift Aid if you are eligible. Speak with the vicar if you would like to know more about this

'Holding Crosses'

These are small 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. A supply is available at church for a requested minimum donation of £5 per cross (in aid of church funds.)

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.

We are very sorry to report that, unfortunately, *The Sign* insert is no longer being printed. We hope you enjoyed the few editions that we were able to bring you.

News from FAF

Last year FAF raised ££5,744.59 in total - an unbelievable amount, given the pandemic! However, we are not resting on our laurels; we are planning a programme of exciting events for everyone this year. If you could spare a couple of hours to help us, please come along to the next meeting on Monday 14th March.

Ferraris – Parish Meal, Saturday 23rd April, 12.30pm.

Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to hold the Parish Meal for two years. Fortunately, this year, we have booked Ferraris Restaurant for Saturday 23rd April, St. George's Day, and we really hope that you will be able to join us.

If you would like to attend the meal, please sign the list at the back of church or

contact Jayne on 01772 – 704112. Prices are as follows:

2 courses, £15.00

3 course, £19.50

Children, half price or the children's menu

Coffee, £2.50

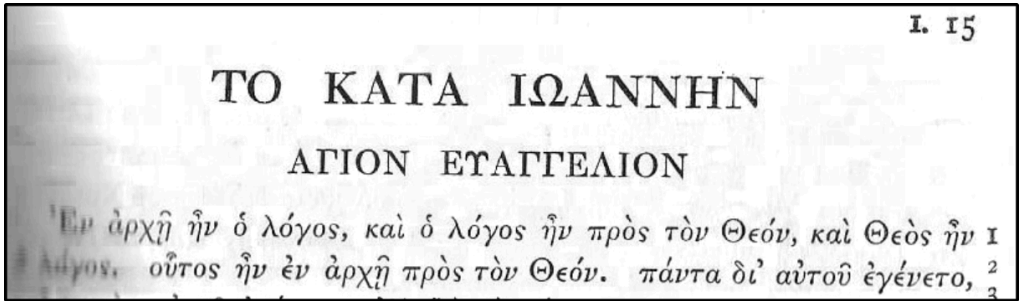
If you need a lift, please indicate this on the list.

There will be a raffle on the day. It will be so lovely to be able to meet, chat and share a delicious meal again.

Date for your Diary

Garden Party, Saturday 18th June – more details to follow

IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME! (cont)



I had not realised that last month's original Greek text would come out looking quite so obscure, enough to tax the most dedicated Greekist, so here are the title and the first 2 lines of the passage again, which is of course, as you all already undoubtedly know, is (TO KATA IOANNEN AGION ENANGELION), literally, the according to John holy gospel. IOANNEN, John; AGION, pronounced hagian, holy, the word brought across to English in eg hagiography, a book about a saint, usually used in a critical sense of someone who has written a book, hero worshipping their subject. ENANGELION, gospel – or, message, English word angel derives from this word.

Then, the text; EN ARCHE, in the beginning; the word ARCHE comes to us in our word “archetype”, beginning or start-up model. Next word, EEN, long e, pronounced ayn, was. Next word, o with a small letter c above it; I lied last month in saying you could ignore the squiggles above the Greek words, but only in respect of this one. The “c” above imports an “H” sound, so the word is ho, short o as in rock, the word for “the”. Greek like English and most other European languages has a word for the definite article, “the”; unlike Latin, or for that matter, Lancastrian, both of which dispense with the definite article. The next word is LOGOS, word; English transposition, logic. So, in the beginning was the word; KAI, meaning, and: “and the word was to (literally) God” THEON (“theological”, English derivation), and God was the word. The same was in the beginning to God. Everything (PANTA), PAN – “all” was made (EGENETO), or, generated or born (Genesis), through him.

And there you have it, so it's no longer all Greek to you. And you can also see how many of our English words directly derive from Greek.

Mark

MOTHERS' UNION

On Sunday March 20th at St Michael's morning service the Mother's Union will be welcoming nine new members and one returning member!


Joan Buxton, Joan Moon, Carol Rae, Pam Taylor, Christine Yates, Janet Wilby, Margery Baxenden, Glenice Bramley, Jennifer Aldridge and Jean Burr.

Also Long-service awards will be presented to Sheena Cartmell and Sandra Loxham





We give thanks for all the work of the Mothers Union, here in Grimsargh, in the UK and the world. We pray that those joining today may know and experience the true meaning of the Mothers Union.




 World Day of Prayer
March 4th 11.00 am
at Christ Church Longridge
Followed by a Lenten Lunch


Don't forget the Prison Toy Appeal
Any donations please give to Nellie by March 20th
Suitable toys for 5-8 years old
Also Easter Eggs,
or any unwanted Christmas gifts of chocolate



AGM is to be held at the Plough Pub
on March 16th. 12.00
Fish & Chip lunch can be ordered.
Contact Hazel if interested



The MU caravan at Morecambe is now available for any family desperate for a holiday.
Please see Nellie or Marlene if you know of a family.



SCHOOL REPORT

Our Christian Value for this half-term is Respect. In addition to participating in the retelling of 'The Roman Centurion' by Bob Hartman, responding to an image of the 'Golden Rule' by Norman Rockwell, enjoying being led in worship by Reverend Neil and responding to a video showing 'the cleansing of the temple', listening to Aretha Franklin's, 'Respect' and learning about the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, planned for 3rd June 2022, the children have been posed plenty of

questions to consider. These include:

Do you follow the golden rule?

What helps you to pray?

What helps you to focus your mind on God?

How does it feel when you are close to God?

Why do you respect and value your special place?

Do you celebrate uniqueness and respect others?

On Wednesday 19th January, children in reception, year 1 and year 2 enjoyed national 'Winnie the Pooh Day'! They learnt about the history of Winnie the Pooh, read stories, watched episodes, talked about each of the characters and created character profiles. They all enjoyed the Winnie the Pooh exercise video and there was even some honey tasting too!

On Thursday 3rd of February, we celebrated the globally anticipated event, Harry Potter Book Night! 2022 marks the 25th anniversary of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and the theme reflected the magical journey that Harry Potter books have taken so many millions of people on since the first book published in 1997.

Tuesday 8TH February was Safer Internet Day, which is a nationwide celebration organised by The UK Safer Internet Centre, looking at all we do to address staying safe online. All classes took part in activities to celebrate the day and reinforce their regular curriculum work on Internet Safety. This year's theme also ties in nicely with our Christian Value, **RESPECT**.

On Thursday 10th February, our KS2 children got their party clothes on and had plenty fun during their disco. The DJ entertained the children, playing plenty games and taking many song/ artist requests.

We have continued to enter all sporting competitions in the school calendar and are proud to sit in 1st place in the league table. We have participated in the year 3/4 gymnastics competition, finishing in 2nd place; the year 5/6 girls' football tournament; the KS1 mini-skills; the tag rugby league in which we finished in 1st place and thus achieve promotion to the league above for the next academic year; KS2 Festival in which our team were proud to finish in 1st place and the year 3/4 Sir Tom Finney Football Trophy in which our team finished in 3rd place. More importantly, Mr Brooks, who organises the sporting events and generally leads our teams, always reports back about how well behaved our children are and how well they support each other during the events. This pleases us as much as the victories and trophies. Well done to all children who have represented our school. 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 we celebrate Mothering Sunday alongside the start of British Summer Time on Sunday March 27th.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to the start of Spring with its warmer days and the chance to spend more time outdoors in our gardens or exploring parks and countryside. Here is a lovely idea for a Mothers Day gift from the Mothers Union for you to try,



Why not plant a few seeds in an old teacup! Choose the seeds you think your recipient would love, add compost and then write a gift tag with a message. If they are a keen cook, why not plant some herbs so they will have fresh herbs to garnish a summer recipe. Alternatively, choose a flower that is their favourite colour as a lovely surprise when it starts to bloom

Colour this bible memory verse using your favourite colours



CHURCH COLLECTIONS

| | | | |
|----------|------|---------|--------------------|
| January | 20th | £189.70 | |
| January | 23rd | £115.25 | |
| January | 23rd | £87.00 | Ecumenical Service |
| January | 30th | £393.93 | |
| February | 2nd | £59.00 | |
| February | 6th | £267.70 | |
| February | 13th | £98.00 | |

FLOWER ROTA

| | | | |
|-------|------|---------|--|
| March | 6th | No | |
| March | 13th | Flowers | |
| March | 20th | In | |
| March | 27th | Lent | |

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

| | 8.30am | 10.00am | Communion Readers Assistant | Coffee |
|----------|--------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Mar 6th | | N Maudsley | | N Cowell Vicar |
| Mar 13th | | James Cowell | | D Rusling Vicar |
| Mar 20th | | B Mackley | | B Holt Vicar |
| Mar 27th | | R Woollam | | Youth Reader |

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

| | Duty | Duty | Welcome & Circulate |
|----------|---------|-----------|---------------------|
| Mar 4th | Kate | Maureen | Jean/Nellie |
| Mar 11th | Nellie | Christine | Janet |
| Mar 18th | Jean | Helen | Linda/Ros |
| Mar 25th | Marlene | Eileen | Jean/Nellie |

Holy Baptism

January 23rd

Jesus said "Let the children come unto me"

Freya Elanor June Tomlinson

Funeral

January 28th

Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

Kevin Smith, 68

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

2nd Ash Wednesday

- 9.30am School Service
- 1.30pm Year 6 in church
- 7.00pm Holy Communion

3rd 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

4th 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

11.00am World Day of Prayer service, Christ Church, Longridge

12 noon Lent Lunch, Christ Church Hall

6th 1st Sunday of Lent

8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am Morning Worship

12 noon Baptism

4.00pm Confirmation Course (Adults)

7th 7.30pm Parochial Church Council (in school)

10th 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

11th 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

12 noon Lent Lunch, St Wilfrid's Parish Room

13th 2nd Sunday of Lent

8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am Holy Communion

4.00pm Confirmation

14th 7:30pm FAF meeting 204 Preston Road

16th 12:30pm MU - Fish and Chips at The Plough

17th 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

18th 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

12 noon Lent Lunch, Christ Church Hall

20th 3rd Sunday of Lent

8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am Holy Communion - MU members to be enrolled

24th 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

25th 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

12 noon Lent Lunch, Christ Church Hall

27th 4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am Family Service

30th School Easter service

31st 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Please note that the Family Service is on 4th Sunday of March, not 3rd Sunday, to take account of Mothering Sunday

DEADLINE for the April magazine 15th March.

Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell and/or B Mackley