

PARISH LETTER

Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am writing during your time of interregnum: the time when you are “between Vicars”. There are parallels between God’s people in exile and a church in interregnum, with feelings of disorientation and uncertainty about timescale coming to mind, and who, (if anyone), will be coming.

It is a time when feeling and anxieties surface and the parish profile sometimes gives the impression that no-one, short of the Angel Gabriel, will do!

Here are 3 principles that hopefully will offer inspiration for the parish.

Make the interregnum a time to

- **1 – Sustain progress**
- **2 – Scrutinize Plans**
- **3 – Seriously Pursue**

Sustaining progress: An interregnum is not a time for doing nothing and saying – “*let’s wait until we get a new incumbent.*” Rather, it is a time for people to “step up to the plate” and take up the slack” by getting involved in ministry via the recognition and release of spiritual gifts. Momentum is built in the form of sustained progress.

Scrutinizing Plans: An interregnum is a time when all sorts of ideas, dreams and visions will be uncorked from the bottle, and where great wisdom is needed when scrutinizing to be able to discern what is of God. “*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him.*” (1 Corinthians 2 v 9.) This is a time for fervent and frequent prayer by the whole congregation and those in leadership.

Seriously Pursue

Because of God’s wise plans for his people’s future, we are to confidently turn to him knowing that he would hear and answer our prayers. We are also to seek after him, not in a half-hearted manner, but with all our heart, mind, soul and strength in serious pursuit of God’s will for the future of the parish.

An interregnum is a time when the church seriously pursues God in prayer, safe in the knowledge that he will hear and answer (*Matthew 7 v 7 & John 14 v 14.*) But the church must not be satisfied with the gifts of God: it must also wholeheartedly pursue the giver, God Himself. (*Psalms 42 v 1 – 2.*) For it is through such a growing relationship of intimacy that his plans for the church will become clearer (*Jeremiah 33 v 3*) and can be grasped and acted upon.

Challenge

Will you use this interregnum to make sustainable progress; to scrutinize various plans; and to seriously pursue God in prayer and worship?

Love in Christ,

Revd. Gill Mack.

(Associate Priest St Paul’s Longridge and retired Vicar of Hurst Green and Mitton).

Churches Together - Lent Lunches

The Lent Lunches have moved from Friday to Wednesday. The first one is on Wednesday March 1st at St. Paul's Centenary Room.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer service is to be held at St Wilfrid's Church , Longridge on Friday March 3rd at 11am. Three of our own parishioners will be involved and we hope that you will support.

This years service is written by the women of Taiwan, a country that has, for many years, been caught in a superpower struggle.

News from FAF

Looking back on 2022, the FAF team was delighted that during the course of the year the team had raised £11,300 for Church funds.

This year we have planned a varied programme of fundraising, fun and fellowship events and we hope that you will enjoy the events, as much as we have enjoyed planning them!

Easter Egg Hunt – Easter Sunday, Sunday 9th April

Following the Service on Sunday 9th April, Easter Sunday, we will be holding our annual Easter Egg Hunt around the Church grounds for the children. In addition, there will be coffee and refreshments for the parents. It was great fun last year, so why not come along and celebrate the risen Jesus, enjoy the beautifully decorated Church and enjoy some chocolate too? If anyone could kindly donate chocolate Easter Eggs, please contact Ruth, Nellie or Jayne or any FAF member. There will be a basket at the back of Church for chocolate egg donations.

Big Raffle

We will be holding another "BIG RAFFLE" this year and we will be drawing the prizes on Sunday 16th July, following the Family Service. If you have any "special" prizes that you are willing to donate, please see Nellie.

Parish Meal

We will be having a Parish Meal on Saturday 22nd April at Ferraris Country Restaurant, 12.30pm. The cost is £16.00 for two courses, £20.50 for three courses and coffee is an additional £2.50. There will also be a children's meal. Please sign your name on the list at the back of Church if you would like to attend. We hope that this will be a lovely opportunity to come together as a church family. If you need transport, please see any FAF member. We will be holding a raffle during the course of the meal.

Bible Study – "We Love the Word"

Come along and join our Bible Study House Group, Thursday 23rd March, 204 Preston Road, 7.30pm. It is a very informal and welcoming group. If you would like more information, please contact Jayne -07749 934 208

Mothering Sunday request. MU

This Mothering Sunday Mothers Union are asking us to think of women in Burundi, where civil war has left deep scars and where poverty is a daily reality.

We are asked to give a gift of perseverance to enable women like Aquiline, whose story is below, to sow the seeds which can help them to grow a new and better life - for themselves, their family, community and church.

Aquiline didn't go to school, since daughters were not sent to school, but stayed at home to help her Mum take care of the younger children.

When she grew up she married and both she and her husband were illiterate. They depended on selling their harvest of beans at the market, but her husband was cheated of money because he was illiterate.

Aquiline heard of the Mothers Union project from her church. She learned literacy and numeracy, how to read the bible out loud in church, how to read the scales so that she couldn't be cheated at the market and how to manage the family money.

She saw a woman selling sweet potatoes and making a profit, and it gave her an idea. From the Mothers Union project, she took out a loan to buy sweet potatoes and sell them for a profit and she

started her own business. Her business was successful and she was able to send all her six children to school and buy books, food and a goat.

Her life started to change with the seed of managing money, and through perseverance she was soon leading the way for her family and helping them to flourish.

You can make a gift of perseverance by visiting - www.makeamothersday.org or speak to any Mothers Union committee member.

Your Magazine

The money for the magazine is due and will be collected by your distributor in April. Due to rising costs it will now be £7 for the year. Please have the money ready when your distributor calls. If you are out when they call they will put an envelope through your door with a return address on it. Thank you for your cooperation and your continued support of the 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.

Grimsargh Club Request

We are very grateful to Grimsargh Club for allowing us to hold our Friday Coffee Mornings there. The Coffee Mornings are going from strength to strength.

The room is always lovely and warm and Linda Moran, who is very involved with the club, makes us delicious scones and cakes every week.

The club is in need of refurbishment and they are holding a function in the near future, date to be announced, to raise money for this project. Linda has asked if people from the church would be willing to donate some prizes for a raffle. I am sure that there are parishioners who would be willing to do so, to show our appreciation. Could you please give any donation to Jean H, Marlene or myself.

Thank you Nellie

It's all Greek to me! (cont)

The Greek philosophers most well-known today are Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. But, so far as we know, Socrates never wrote out his philosophy, which we only know through the works of his student, Plato. The work which brings Socrates to life for posterity is Plato's "Symposium", literal translation, drinking together, and a word sometimes used today to indicate an academic discussion group. . However, although good wine no doubt loosened the tongue and contributed to an air of good will, the discussions reported in Plato were far from alcohol fuelled rambling; they were, on the part of Socrates, carefully constructed demolitions of opponents' arguments. Specifically in one discourse, he systematically reduced to absurdity an argument called "the advantage of the stronger", a sort of proto fascist argument that the powerful would and therefore should inherit the earth. Socrates' strict observance of Reason and Logic led to his condemnation by a jury of Athenian citizens for misleading the youth of the city not to believe in the city's gods; thence to his sentence to death, by drinking the poison hemlock. Plato records the moving scene as Socrates, cheerfully, for he believed in the immortality of the soul, drinks the poison in prison with his sorrowful friends about him and lapses into coma. His wife Xanthippe, reported by Plato in their married life together as a shrew, could not bear to remain and had left the room.

Plato himself became a prominent philosopher, writing "the Republic", an idealised perfect city state. Aristotle wrote of a scheme for Logic, and some 2000 years, both influenced the "modern" western philosophers, starting with Descartes in the 17th century. Said Descartes, I look out on the world and see it as I do see it. But my perception may be false, it could all be illusion. But what is the one, true, fact that I can indisputably say; well, it is, that I am having this thought – I may be deceived, it may be illusion, but no-one can gainsay, I am having this thought, wrong though it may be. Hence, "cogito, ergo sum" I think, therefore I am, the strict logical starting point for all western philosophy.

Mark

MOTHERS' UNION



This month's meeting was a very informative & entertaining talk given by Mark Aldridge, (Jenny's husband) from the Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team. He has 32 years in the Mountain Rescue service and 5 years of international experience.

Did you know that the Mountain Rescue was formed after a tragic incident in 1962 when 3 siblings got lost on their local hills behind Chipping when the mist came down, sadly 2 of them lost their lives.

Did you know that the M.R. are on call every day of the year, even Christmas Day!

Did you know they are all volunteers?

Did you know they need £40k to each year to run the service and they depend mainly on public donations to raise it?

On their logo they state they are 'much more than mountains' and Mark told us of the many areas they specialize in, from the mountains to farmlands, on crags and fells, in rivers and waterways, with dogs, working alongside the Police and Air Ambulances in searches whenever necessary, like the recent sad incident in St. Michael's on Wyre and the train crash in Grayrigg. Thank you Mark for enlightening us on the many facets of the Mountain Rescue's work. I shall certainly be happily donating, (as you never know when you may need to call on their services!) but also as it is a charity well-worth supporting.

Next meeting March 15th in school. Visiting speaker—Kieran Spencer from Nightsafe (do you know what it is? I don't...) come along, visitors always welcome! 7.30pm in school.

Other Mothers Union notices

Lenten Lunches begin on Wednesday March 1st at St. Paul's Longridge. 12.noon to 1 pm.

World Day of Prayer is on March 3rd at St. Wilfrid's church, Longridge 11.00am

June Deanery Festival is at St. Margaret's church, Ingol on June 6th. 2.00pm

Please see Nellie, or any committee member, if you need a lift to any of these events

Reflection—from the February meeting, Jean's introduction to the hymn —'I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship'. There are so many questions, problems and disasters in the world today that we can't understand but this, we can know, that the Saviour of the World is come and we can trust in Him in all things. May you know His presence with you.

SCHOOL REPORT

During Worship we have looked at why Forgiveness is important. We challenged ourselves to make a resolution that we would keep. We thought about how we could see the New Year as an opportunity to let go of grudges that we may hold and to forgive people. We have also spent time thinking about what makes a place holy- we focused on the story of The Burning Bush from the book of Exodus in the Bible. We also spent time focusing on an extract from the book, 'The boy, the mole, the fox and the mouse.' The children discussed their understanding of the phrase, 'feeling lost,' and they shared their ideas. Some children talked about being physically lost, in a supermarket or turning the wrong way on a car journey. Others discussed being lost feeling like being overwhelmed or lacking direction.

School was buzzing with excitement in the build up to Thursday 2nd of February as we celebrated our second 'Harry Potter' book night! We first celebrated Harry Potter book night last year as

2022 marked the 25th anniversary of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. This year, over 70 of our key stage 2 children enjoyed the much-anticipated Harry Potter Book Night! We played games like Quidditch pong, pin the scar on Harry and help free Dobby. We were also sorted into houses, learnt the Harry Potter theme tune on glockenspiels, tasted Bertie Botts Every-Flavour Beans, took a potions class and made wands to practice our spells. We hope all the children enjoyed this memorable event and that it has sparked a magical love of reading for all.

The week beginning Monday 6th February was Children's Mental Health Week. The theme was 'Let's Connect'. We decided to centre our learning around the book 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy. Each class completed a range of activities linking to the book and mental health. Each class also enjoyed a session to support focus, mindfulness and relaxation. Tuesday 7th February was Safer Internet Day. All classes from reception through to year 6 got involved in activities to highlight the importance of staying safe when on the internet in line with the focus of the day which was, '*Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online*'. Activities involved books and stories which gave scenarios of online situations, quizzes and discussion around what to do if something doesn't feel right when online.

We are passionate about celebrating diversity. Therefore, we jumped at the chance to welcome Reece Taylor into our school. Reece has Cerebral Palsy and is a full-time wheelchair user. Since May 2019, he has conducted Disability Awareness Courses throughout the Rossendale valley, at local schools. Reece wanted to reach out to schools outside of his local area to share his story. Reece's session looked at, what Cerebral Palsy is, how he came to be diagnosed with it, the different types and severity of the disability, the positive aspects of living a disability, the more challenging aspects of his life and his achievements with the idea that this would encourage children to think that they can achieve anything regardless their circumstances.

We have vacancies for three foundation governors to join our Governing Body. Interested parties are to contact Mr Anthony Cowell (info@cowells.co.uk), St Michael's Church Warden. Alongside other roles, Foundation Governors should have a particular concern for religious education and collective worship in the school and in making financial decisions should recognise that religious education deserves full resourcing support. They should also seek to maintain and develop the links with the local church. Foundation governors also have a special responsibility for securing that the character of the school as a Church of England voluntary school is preserved and developed and that the school is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the school's ethos statement.

Our children thoroughly enjoyed the PTFA 'Breaking the Rules' day on the Friday before we finished for half-term! They all broke plenty of rules...as did some of the school staff! The PTFA will very soon be advertising a VERY exciting event that our school families, and possibly people within our Grimsargh community, will be able to experience! We have the Easter Bingo coming up later this term- Thursday 30th March.

We continue to enter all sporting competitions in the school calendar. Since my last report, we have competed/ participated in the year 3/4 gymnastics competition, finishing in 4th place; the year 3/4 football tournament in which we reached the semi-finals, finishing in 3rd place; tag rugby league in which we won 3 of our 5 matches; tag rugby tournament; a KS2 multi-skills event; the year 1/2 mini-skills in which we 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 successes, 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



For the children of Michael's, Grimsargh.

Jesus

Is

Great

Special

And

Wonderful

For children of Primary School age.

For more information

Or to register

Please contact Joanne Lander

joannelander@hotmail.co.uk

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

Jan	29th	£175.40
Feb	5th	£154.63
Feb	12th	£144.70
Feb	16th	£67.00
Feb	19th	£97.75

FLOWER ROTA

March	5th	NO
March	12th	FLOWERS
March	19th	DURING
March	26th	LENT

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
March 5th		D Rae		J Lander D Rusling	
March 12th		N Maudsley	N Cowell	M Lamberty Vicar	
March 19th		K Thompson		Youth Reader	
March 26th		R Woollam	S Cowell	L Wood Vicar	

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

	Leader	Duty		Welcome
March 3rd	Nellie	Christine	Helen	Janet
March 10th	Nellie	Eileen	Maureen	Jenifer
March 17th	Jean	Kate	Christine	Linda
March 24th	Jenifer	Helen	Eileen	Jean

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

- 1st** 12 noon to 1.00 pm - Lent Lunch - St Paul's Centenary Room
- 3rd** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
11.00am World Day of Prayer Service - St Wilfrid's Church, Longridge
- 5th** **2nd Sunday of Lent**
10.00am Morning Worship
- 8th** 12 noon to 1.00 pm - Lent Lunch - St Wilfrid's Church , Longridge
- 10th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 12th** **3rd Sunday of Lent**
10.00am Holy Communion and JIGSAW club
- 13th** 7.30pm PCC Meeting in School
- 15th** 12 noon to 1.00 pm - Lent Lunch - Church Hall - We are helping
7.30pm Mothers' Union - Kieran Spencer from Nightsafe
in **School**
- 16th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 17th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 19th** **4th Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday**
10.00am Family Service
- 22nd** 12 noon to 1.00 pm - Lent Lunch - St Wilfrid's Church , Longridge
- 23rd** 7.30pm Bible Study, 204 Preston Rd (Jayne Woollam)
- 24th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 26th** **5th Sunday of Lent - Summer Time begins**
10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw club
- 29th** 12 noon to 1.00 pm - Lent Lunch - St Paul's Centenary Room
- 31st** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club

**DEADLINE for the April magazine is 15th March.
Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell and/or B Mackley**