

# LENT

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Reflection  
Giving up  
Fasting



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Hope  
New life  
Warmth



# SPRING

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MARCH 2025 70p



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VICAR:	Rev. Andy Williams	Tel: 793391 Mbl: 07472 663279 Email <a href="mailto:revandy.gsm@gmail.com">revandy.gsm@gmail.com</a>
CHURCHWARDENS:	Mr. Anthony Cowell Three Mile Cross Farm, Grimsargh Mr. Mark Lamberty Ashleigh, Preston Road, Grimsargh	Tel: 07753813758 Tel: 798017
DAY SCHOOL	Headteacher Mr Stuart Booth	Tel: 653600
VERGER	Mr Tom Jones 26 Waingate, Grimsargh	Tel: 651400
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 <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a>	
1 <sup>st</sup> GRIMSARGH SCOUTS	Group Scout Leader Nigel Holmes Email <a href="mailto:nigel.holmes@prestonscouts.org.uk">nigel.holmes@prestonscouts.org.uk</a>	

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# PARISH LETTER

## **Lent – a time for renewal.**

I am sure that we're all relieved that there are some signs of winter coming to an end given the storms and cold weather we've seen. There seem to be huge numbers of snowdrops popping up, even in our garden. I know that some of you have seen even greater signs that spring is on its way – maybe even our church building will begin to feel warmer soon!

This year Lent starts on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of March and we will begin as usual with a service of Holy Communion at 7.30pm, including the option for the Imposition of Ashes. Lent is often seen as a solemn time of reflection and preparation to celebrate Easter Day. However, in the early church this was a time of preparation for baptism for new believers.

Those who had heard the good news message of Jesus and wanted to become Christian believers had to go through a time of teaching and learning. It was important, especially in times of persecution, that the faith was understood and the commitments made could be said with integrity and certainty. The six weeks of Lent was a time of spiritual renewal for these new believers as they looked forward to joining the church on Easter Day.

Often as we journey through life our faith can become tired, stale and matter-of-fact. We can rely on old understandings of scripture or faith and not let the Lord speak new life through the Holy Spirit. So how can we change this and allow our faith to be renewed?

Using the 6 weeks of Lent to renew our faith and let the Holy Spirit speak to us afresh could be a good use of our time. Here are some ways we can do this, as well as gathering to worship on Sunday mornings;

- join the Bible Study group and explore the Bible together,

- read the Diocesan Lent booklet (either in paper form or online via the Fruitful app),

- join the Prayer Group where we'll pray for growth in the church and renewal of ourselves,

- read a passage of scripture each day (maybe a whole gospel during Lent) asking the Holy Spirit to teach you new things,

- read a Christian book to help build up your faith (there will be a selection to borrow at the back of church).

Our Lord wants us to grow in faith and understanding so that we can be renewed and live a vibrant faith in the world. Why not use Lent in the way that will help you best do that – and share the new things you've learnt come Easter Day.

Blessings, Andy





# Grimsargh Club



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## **Ash Wednesday**

Easter is quite late this year. Lent begins on Wednesday 5th of March which we will mark with a Holy Communion service at 7.30pm. There will be Imposition of Ashes for those who wish to receive it. All are welcome.

## **Prayer Group.**

We are starting a monthly prayer group. This will meet on the first Saturday of the month at 10.30am for 1 hour, We will be praying for growth and renewal in our church and parish. It is open to all at will begin on the 1st of March. Everyone is welcome and resources for prayer will be available. For more information see Andy.

## **News from FAF**

In 2024, the FAF group raised £8,773.00. While the group works hard to raise funds for Church, more importantly it aims to organise social events, focusing on the fellowship and camaraderie within our Church community. For 2025, we are planning even more events and hope that you will join us.

## **Parish Meal - "The Cross Keys", Whitechapel, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 12 for 12.30**

The Parish Meal is an opportunity for everyone to spend time with one another, while enjoying a delicious meal. The cost is £20.00 for two courses and £24.00 for three courses, including coffee. There are price reductions for children.

If you are intending to come to the meal, please could you sign your name on the list in the porch. If you require a lift to the venue, please can you indicate this too on the list. You can pay on the day.

## **Easter Events, 2025**

### **Minature Easter Garden Competition**

We are asking children to enter a competition of "Miniature Easter Gardens". The three dimensional entries, should be approximately the size of an A4 sheet of paper. Entries should be brought to Church on the morning of Easter Saturday, **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April**. There will be prizes for the best entries.

Miss Smith is organising the competition for St. Michael's School but the competition is open to all children.

### **"Good Friday Walk", Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April.**

There will be a Good Friday Walk, following the Good Friday Service, on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April. The walk will follow the same route as last year, around Cow Hill and back along the main road from Spar. We hope that you will join us for this traditional walk, a great opportunity to chat with friends and enjoy a little exercise together. The walk is flat and suitable for all ages and levels of fitness.

Please bring your own picnics; it may be advisable to wear stout boots and waterproof clothing!

## **Future Events**

In the coming months, we will have more information regarding the following events:

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 11am at Grimsargh Club, "The Big Raffle Draw"

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm in The Vllage Hall, "Lancashire Night"

This year we are also planning a "Family Quiz Night", a "Family BBQ" and a "Cheese and Wine Night" - dates to be confirmed.

### **Bible Study**

Come and join us in our Bible Study, meeting on the second Thursday of each month, 204 Preston Road, 7.30pm.

We are currently exploring Paul's letter to the Ephesians. In Paul's letter, God shows us his plan to unite everyone and everything in Jesus.

It's clear we live in a fractured world, how can we put it back together?

Come and join us as we discuss this and other thought-provoking questions.

The next meeting is Thursday 13th March 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

### **Magazine Payment**

Thank you for supporting us by taking the magazine last year. Payment of £7 is now due for the coming year. Please have the money ready when your distributor calls or if you would prefer to pay by BACS the details are: -

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### **Morning Tea**

A vicar in a small country church was looking forward to an important visit from his bishop, which would involve the bishop staying overnight at the vicarage after the service. The vicar's young son was very excited, as was had never spoken to a bishop before.

The vicar decided that his young son should be allowed to knock on the bishop's door in the morning and bring him morning tea. His father gave him instructions: "First, knock on the door of the bishop's room and then say loud and clear "It's the boy, my Lord, it's time to get up"

The young son was very excited and rehearsed his lines, repeating them over and over. Finally the bishop came and spent the night. Next morning came and the young lad went to the door and knocked. He cried loudly: "It's the Lord, my boy, and your time is up!"

### **30th March – Mothering Sunday, 4th Sunday in Lent**

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their



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families – which is how ‘Mothering Sunday’ got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and, in many ways, now resembles the American Mother’s Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

## **St James the Least of All**

### **On the perils of parking near church**

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I cannot be wholly sympathetic because your church car park is now inadequate, only having space for 100 cars. Your solution of advising members of the congregation to park in the adjoining supermarket car park may not have been wise. The maximum time people can stop there is 90 minutes, and as your services often reach that length, returning to find their cars clamped may not make you universally popular – although it may give your congregation the opportunity of practising Christian forgiveness.

Since the medieval architect who built St James the Least of All was not overly concerned with car parking, the only space we have is along the road by the church. Inevitably, it gets blocked, which causes us all immense satisfaction when those not attending church but intending to have a morning shopping, find themselves unable to get out of the village until Mattins is over.

I did once encourage people to walk to church across the fields, but after we had nearly lost the present Earl in that swampy bit near the brook, I decided the idea was best dropped.

For most, the inconvenience of parking only makes attending church more of a pleasurable challenge; we so enjoy having something to complain about. Major Hastings, however, who has complained endlessly about parking problems, made a point last Christmas by leaving his car in the middle of the vicarage lawn. I was so pleased he happened to park just where I had had a garden pond filled in only the previous week. He returned to find that the car had sunk up to the windscreen and needed a crane to remove it.

For weddings, a farmer allows us to use the field adjoining the church. While he rarely attends church on Sundays, he is always there the week before – I suspect praying for heavy rain, so he can make a fortune charging to tow out with his tractor those who have got stuck. Perhaps the greatest act of witness your church could perform would be to get everyone attending church to park on the ring road, bringing the entire town to a halt until your Sunday morning Service is over.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace.

## MOTHERS' UNION

### February Meeting

Louise opened the meeting with a new hymn 'What a faithful God we have', which mentions helping those who suffer, so fitting in with the theme of the evening.

Gemma from SAFENET Domestic Abuse Services and Refuge in the North West gave us a very informative and, at times, emotional insight of the work of the women's refuge in Preston. From the day-to-day routines of their purpose-built centre, to what happens when a new family comes to the refuge and how they help the family move on and manage to gain a new independence. A great and vital work which is sadly needed so much today. She feels privileged to be part of the team and to put some 'Magic' back into the lives of those who come to the refuge. Below is Safenet's aims which is good to know as sometimes those who need help are living near us.

Gemma said we can all help by being aware of what may be happening in our area and support those families.

**SAFENET'S BELIEVES THAT** Everyone deserves to be safe, happy and healthy in their relationships with family, friends and community. Domestic abuse affects many people, regardless of age, gender, financial status, location, religion or sexuality.

Anyone in a relationship where they feel unsafe, unhappy and unhealthy, or have ended such a relationship and are still experiencing abuse,

**SAFENET can help.**

If anyone in your family or others that you know are abusing, controlling, harassing or violating you,

**SAFENET can help.**

You don't have to deal with this alone. They offer a safe place to stay if needed, along with support, guidance and practical help to create a safer, happier and healthier future for you.

They offer inclusive, non-judgemental and respectful services to women, children and men and are part of [DASSL \(Domestic Abuse Support Service Lancashire\)](#).



**Knitters wanted !!**

Louise has patterns for

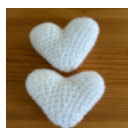
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**Grimsargh Farmers Market**

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**For further details contact James on**

**[markets@grimsarghvillehall.co.uk](mailto:markets@grimsarghvillehall.co.uk)**



## More MU Information

Our Mothers Union also supports the Mothers Unions Rise Up Campaign against domestic abuse by donating women's toiletries. Please bring donations to church.



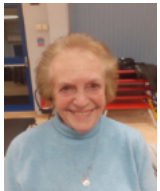
Grimsargh MU has gained the Bronze award for their work supporting this!

Next Meeting March 19th **'Walking the Lancashire Coastal Path'**

An evening of lots of photos & commentary from Dorothy Little (with Ruth Buckley chipping in!)

MU Service at Blackburn Cathedral Sunday March 2nd ...see Louise if interested  
World day of Prayer Thursday 7th March St. Wilfrid's Longridge.

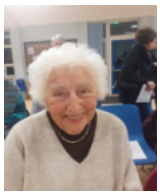
## MEET THE MU members ... or late birthday girls!



**Hazel Cliff** has lived in Grimsargh for 61 years! She has a very close, supportive family. She started work in insurance company then once her family were at school worked for Philip Cowell, and then moved onto running her own catering company 'Grimsargh Gourmet' outside caterers for 18 years, across Lancashire and even travelling up to Cumbria for the Cumbria Police. She has had many interests ranging from guiding to wine-making to travelling the World . She is an very active member of both the Mothers Union and the Faffers Group!



**Janet Wilby** moved to the village in 1976 when John started work at Whittingham Hospital. Janet worked as a nurse in many different roles over the years, from a paediatric nurse to a district nurse sister but her passion was when she studied medical herbalism and discovered the healing it can bring by looking at the whole person. She studied to become a medical herbalist and set up a clinic in Grimsargh. Janet, and John used to travel to church in Tanterton but at the end of Covid restrictions and closures they started coming to St. Michael's and have loved coming ever since!



**Josie Ainsworth** (or Giuseppina to give her her full name!) has lived in Grimsargh since 1960. She moved from Italy, where she was born, to England in 1955 to train as a nurse at Whittingham for a year! She met her husband during that year and has remained here since! They lived at the corner of Nook Glade, then downsized to her present home in 2000. She still travels a lot, returning to her family in Italy every year, as well as visiting her brother in Sweden and his Chinese wife! She has explored the world, with Fred, her husband, on many holiday travelling to many countries including America, the Caribbean and Russia

## SCHOOL REPORT

### WORSHIP

Do you enjoy action films? Why?

Action films contain twists and turns, surprising events, danger and suspense. Our most recent Worship included a Bible story that contained all of this. The children

enjoyed listening to the story of 'The Divine Prison Break', featuring Peter. During Biblical times, prisons were probably dark, damp, filthy, dungeon, rat infested places. Peter was imprisoned for being a follower of Jesus and preaching His word. King Herod demanded that Peter was imprisoned. Peter's friends thought this was very unfair so feeling helpless, they prayed to God. Their prayers were answered and an angel released Peter from prison.

Reverend Ann (from Blackburn Diocese) explained that a miracle happened. When Peter was asleep, an angel came along and tapped Peter on the shoulder. The angel helped him to escape from prison. The story illustrates the power of prayer.

This week the children used 'J' 'O' 'Y' or 'JOY' to help them pray. They prayed for to Jesus to thank Him for something, they prayed for other people and finally prayed for themselves.

### **YEAR OF PRAYER**

The most recent actions:

*Week 9 – W/C 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025*

**Make Foam** Put some warm water in a bowl with a squirt of washing up liquid. Experiment with different whisks and use them to make lots of bubbles in the water. As you stir faster, the bubbles turn into foam. Thank God for the energy which allows us to move and be active.

*"Dear God thank you that you give everyone talents. I pray that I use my talent to help others. May I keep on practicing it. And Lord there are probably tonnes of talents I haven't discovered yet. Help me to have more opportunities to have a go at new things. Whatever I do Lord, help me to do it with a loving and caring attitude. Amen."*

### **Children's Mental Health Week** (3rd - 7th February)

Theme: Know Yourself, Grow Yourself!

All classes focused on the theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' for Children's Mental Health Week. They completed a range of activities within their classes and Worship.

When we take notice of ourselves and how we feel, we are able to make better choices and be more connected with our feelings and behaviours. Noticing these things can help us recognise when we need support. Sometimes we can feel like we are in the middle of a tussle of emotions- feeling joy, then sad, angry and jealous, all at the same time! There are parts of ourselves that we may not see as easily. Sometimes we can learn more about ourselves with the help of family, friends, and teachers.

When the world around us seems chaotic, keeping our emotions together is challenging. While we can't always control our circumstances, we know who controls everything. Everyone experiences different feelings and responses to events that come our way. God is both consistent and constant as we face life's problems.

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## **INTERNATIONAL AID**

Last week we welcomed Julie from International Aid Trust and enjoyed learning about the invaluable this local charity play in supporting people around the world. Thank you for your contributions. We donated 50 shoe boxes in December 2024. Adults and children in the Ukraine and Sierra Leone benefited from the gifts– letting our lights shine globally.



## **SPORTS**

### **Football**

Our girls football team have played three league matches. We have won 1 and lost 2. The girls have played with confidence and resilience- we have been proud of them. Well done to the girls: Ellie R, Hannah R, Erin T, Matilda E, Freya W, Jocelyn B, Charlotte B and Savannah A-R.

On Tuesday, our school football team played their last 16 Harold Slater Shield Cup match against Sherwood. Despite Sherwood being in the top football league division, we could not be separated in this cup tie. After finished 1-1 after normal time and extra-time, we went to penalties. Unfortunately for us, we couldn't get over the line and lost 3-2 on penalties. Well done to: Zsolt H, Malachy W, Finley H, Charlie B, Aryan C, Fred C, Thomas G and Rory B.

### **Mini-skills**

Our year 2 mini-skills team competed in the local competition at West View Leisure Centre. After 6 events, testing their throwing for accuracy skills, kicking for accuracy skills, throwing for speed and running speed, our team finished in 8th place. Well done to: Sam H, Oliver B, Beth Mc G, Niamh M, Felicity G and Buddy S.

### **New Age Kurling**

Congratulations to Areeb, Aamal, Rua and Joshua for coming third in our group at the Kurling Competition. Fantastic team work and some tactical moves.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

We have continued to share the very useful Safeguarding guides with our parents and carers. We have shared the 'Supporting Children to Build Emotional Resilience', 'Developing Emotional Literacy', 'Scams and Fake News' guides as well as more recently information alongside a short video about ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHgLYI9KZ-A>

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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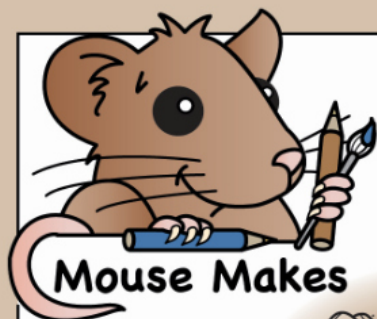
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## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

-----  
Luke 4:1

For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

-----  
Luke 4:2

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

-----  
Luke 4:8



**READ**  
the story in  
**Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

-----  
Luke 4:12

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

-----  
Luke 4:3

What happened after the temptation of Jesus?  
see Luke 4:14-15

JESUS • LED  
WILDERNESS  
DESERT  
TEMPTATIONS  
DAYS • DEVIL  
HUNGRY • SON  
STONE • ROCK  
KINGDOMS  
WORLD • GLORY  
WRITTEN  
SCRIPTURE  
WORSHIP • ONLY  
SERVE • LORD  
JERUSALEM  
HIGH • TEMPLE  
THROW • DOWN  
JUMP • ANGELS  
HANDS • HOLD  
LIFT • FOOT

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

Find the words from the questions too!



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

# JIGSAW CLUB

For the children of St Michael's, Grimsargh.



When?



2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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Jan	19th	£342.50	
Jan	19th	£57.00	Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Jan	26th	£234.50	
Feb	2nd	£138.35	
Feb	9th	£121.62	
Feb	1th	£115.30	

## FLOWER ROTA

March	2nd	Vacant
March	9th	No
March	16h	Flowers
March	23rd	During
March	30th	Lent

## SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
March 2nd		R Woollam		L Desai L Williams	
March 9th		K Thompson	M Lamberty	D Rusling L Wood	
March 16th		James Cowell		J Lander B Mackley	
March 23rd		R Buckley	N Cowell	B Holt S Cowell	
March 30th		B Mackley		J Eccles N Cowell	

## FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

	Leader	Duty		Welcome
March 7th	Marlene	Helen	Eileen	Christine
March 14th	Nellie	Maureen	Kate	Linda
March 21st	Jennifer	Marlene	Eileen	Christine
March 28th	Jean	Maureen	Kate	Janet



## ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

<b>1st</b>	10.30am	Prayer Group in church
<b>2nd</b>	<b><u>Sunday next before Lent</u></b>	
	10.00am	Morning Worship
<b>3rd</b>	7.30pm	FAF meeting 204 Preston Road
<b>5th</b>	2.00pm	Craft and Chat at the Vicarage
	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
<b>7th</b>	9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club	
	11.00am	World Day of Prayer at St Wilfred's RC Church Longridge
<b>9th</b>	<b><u>1st Sunday of Lent</u></b>	
	10.00am	Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club
<b>12th</b>	12 noon	Lent Lunch at St. Paul's Longridge
<b>14th</b>	9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club	
<b>16th</b>	<b><u>2nd Sunday of Lent</u></b>	
	10.00am	Morning Worship
<b>19th</b>	12 noon	Lent Lunch at St. Wilfred's Longridge
	7.30pm	MU - Dot Little and Ruth Buckley – Walking the Lancashire Coastal Path – Freckleton to Silverdale. <b>In School</b>
<b>20th</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>21st</b>	9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club	
<b>23rd</b>	<b><u>3rd Sunday of Lent</u></b>	
	10.00am	Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club
<b>24th</b>	7.30pm	PCC Meeting in school
<b>19th</b>	12 noon	Lent Lunch at Christ Church
<b>28th</b>	9:30am - 11.30 Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club	
<b>30th</b>	<b><u>4th Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday</u></b>	
	10.00am	Morning Worship

**DEADLINE for the April magazine is 15<sup>th</sup> March.**  
**Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell (pandncowell@hotmail.co.uk)**  
**and/or B Mackley (bjmackley@aol.com)**





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