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- CHURCHWARDENS: Mr. Anthony Cowell Tel: 07753813758
Three Mile Cross Farm, Grimsargh
Mr. Mark Lamberty Tel: 798017
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PARISH LETTER

The week that changed the world – part 1.

We are now well into Lent, and we move forward in 2026 and our church calendar. All we do in Lent, hopefully drawing closer to Jesus, has a future focus. As every year our Lent worship, thoughts and prayers culminate in the events of Holy Week – from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. In fact, we can only draw close because of what Jesus has already accomplished.

Holy Week is full of action; from Jesus riding into Jerusalem as a different kind of king, to his cleansing of the worldliness of the temple, his dramatic teaching and then re-imagining and embodying of the Passover. We will visit these events during our worship and focus our thoughts on their significance for us as Christians and our understanding of Him as God's Son.

Of course, the most significant event of the week is Good Friday. Here is the most significant event on which the course of history and every human life is changed – even if people don't acknowledge it for themselves. God acted, in Jesus, where we couldn't. Our sin is dealt with by the death of the innocent Jesus, our forgiveness is assured, all that's required is our faith in Jesus.

We need to see and understand that because Jesus acted, and died on the cross, that we don't need to work harder at being better people. Our trying to do what only God in Jesus can do is the opposite of faith and denies what Jesus accomplished. We cannot, and never could, do enough to cleanse ourselves from our sins and the shame they can cause us to feel. As we read in Isaiah 64:4 'All of us are dirty with sin. All the right things we have done are like filthy pieces of cloth.'

Our only hope is to turn with faith to Jesus, and the He can 'wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.' (Psalm 51:2) As we come to accept who Jesus is and what he has accomplished God does an amazing thing – he adopts us as His children. 'Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God (John 1: 12). We become brothers and sisters of Jesus, we receive a heavenly inheritance, the Holy Spirit is poured out on us, we are princes and princesses of the Kingdom.

The cross is God's answer to our unfaithfulness, sinfulness, working harder to gain His love and acceptance. It is the greatest act of Holy Week, it is the place where the world pivots, it is our hope of a relationship with Him. All we have to do is accept Jesus and what He has done and our lives are changed for ever. It is one of the greatest mysteries and simplest of offers.

Christmas may be important but Good Friday is decisive.

Blessings, Andy



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Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This year our annual church meeting will take place after Holy Communion on Sunday 26th of April. This is where we can review 2025 as a church membership and look forward to the remainder of this year. Please put this date in your diary and come along and take part in the meeting - it is your chance to ask any questions of the church leadership.

There will be opportunities to be part of the leadership of the church as we elect our Churchwardens, PCC members and representatives to the Deanery Synod. If you are interested in standing for one of these posts and helping shape the future of St Michael's please speak to Andy as soon as possible. This year we are also looking for people to stand as Deputy Churchwardens to learn about what the role of Churchwarden involves. Mark and Anthony are excellent Churchwardens but we need to think about the future and it would be good to have people who know the roles to safeguard our future.

If you head up a group as part of St Michael's Penny will be asking for your reports on 2025. Please get these ready and let her have them by the 22nd of March at the latest.

Confirmation.

Our confirmation service will be on Sunday 17th of May at 10.00am. This year candidates will be confirmed by Bishop Philip.

What is confirmation? It is when we repeat the promises made for us at our baptism and make them our own. We say that we believe in them, who Jesus is, and what he has done for us. We declare ourselves to be Christian believers and promise to live following Jesus and His teaching.

After confirmation those confirmed are also permitted to receive communion.

How does someone become confirmed? The first step is to talk to Andy. If you are still interested there will then be a few meetings together to help you understand what it means, what the promises are, and how it will affect your life.

Please speak to Andy to explore this and have your questions answered.

Book of remembrance

The church keeps a Book of Remembrance containing the names of those whose ashes are interred in the Garden of Remembrance. We are looking for someone to maintain the book with new entries in the form as shown below.

James Louisa Born March 31st 1954 Died February 19th, 1992.

If you are interested please contact either the vicar or a church warden.

New 15th March – Mothers and children

Whatever our childhood was like, it was formational. We learned from our earthly parents, good things ideally, although not everyone's childhood is great.

In the Bible, St Paul refers to the importance of up-bringing and of spiritual heritage. When he greets Timothy in his second letter to him, he calls him his 'Dear Son', praises his 'genuine faith' and then goes on:

"You share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice.

And I know that same faith continues strong in you.”

Timothy’s childhood had been rooted in the Old Testament scriptures that he had been taught by his mother and grandmother. Their example had set him on the right path, until he was old enough to choose for himself to follow Jesus.

Physically, we when we are young, we need nurturing by mothers and fathers. Spiritually it is the same. When we come to faith, we need spiritual mothers and father to help us grow into maturity as God’s adopted children.

We also need spiritual sustenance: regularly reading the Bible, spending time in God’s presence in prayer, and worshipping with the family of the Church.

God – our heavenly parent provides our personal nurturing through prayer and the Bible, but He also gives us each other, to encourage and share our experiences of his faithfulness.

However imperfect our earthly upbringing was, *God is a good, good Father*, a perfect parent who will only teach us *good* things. And gradually, as the fruit of the Holy Spirit ripens in us, we will become more like Jesus. We will gain more of the family likeness!

Is there someone in your life who has helped you to grow spiritually? This Mothering Sunday, thank God for them.

Is there someone your life whom you have ‘mothered’ or ‘fathered’ along the way? This Mothering Sunday, pray for them.

18th February – Ash Wednesday, a good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

‘Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.’ (Joel 2:12-13)

St James the Least of All

On how to run a church council meeting

My dear Nephew Darren

Clearly, the sight of your vicar running out of the room halfway through your last church council meeting, saying he should have stayed as a traffic warden, where he was universally liked, has unnerved you. It would have unnerved me too, since a universally popular traffic warden is an exceptional creature.

But perhaps it is necessary to give you some advice for the day when you do have to chair your first church council meeting.

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1. Consider every agenda issue carefully beforehand and decide what you would like to do. Then, at the meeting, consult widely, listen to every opinion, weigh all the arguments, and then do precisely what you had decided before the meeting ever took place.

2. Never, ever, let council members discuss hymns, which avoids getting blood on the carpets.

3. Arrange the seating in rows, all facing the front, so that everyone must respond directly to you. The last thing you want is for council members to be able to discuss matters freely with one another.

4. Start smoking a pipe. At those times when you are faced with an issue when you really are unsure of how to respond, taking out your pipe, dismantling it, searching for a pipe cleaner, squinting down the stem to see if it is clean, mopping out the goo in the bowl, searching for your tobacco pouch, filling the pipe, tamping it down, asking if you can borrow matches and attempting to light it several times over, will give you more than sufficient time to formulate a reply. Once you have perfected the routine, the silence will have been so protracted, that most of the committee will have long forgotten what the question was anyway.

5. If someone is talking too long, consult your diary, noisily and obsessively, about next month's appointments, or write a note to a committee member who is at the back of the room and get it passed to him. The speaker should soon get the message.

These are the simpler techniques of committee management. The advanced procedures must wait until you are strong enough to bear them.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Church Humour

Politicians welcome

At the pearly gates, St Peter greeted a church minister and member of Parliament and gave them their room keys. "Vicar, here are the keys to one of our nice single rooms. And for you, Mr MP, the keys to our finest penthouse suite."

"This is unfair!" cried the minister.

"Listen," St Peter said, "ministers are a ten a penny up here, but this is the first MP we've ever seen."

How God works

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring Day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left-handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, He must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at church last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

MOTHERS' UNION

Another month gone already and here we are almost in March!!!

As our February meeting was on Ash Wednesday we went to the service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes. The service gave us much food for thought as we were encouraged to think of how we can use Lent to change. Can I share the challenge we were given at Bilsborrow church last Sunday evening

Give up anger take on gentleness and patience.

Give up pessimism.... take on hope and optimism

Give up worrying take up trust in God

Give up complaining.... value what you have

Give up stress... take up prayer

Give up judging others discover Jesus within them

Give up sorrow and bitterness... fill your heart with joy

Give up selfishness.... take up compassion for others

Give up being unforgiving learn reconciliation

Give up words ... fill yourself with silence and listen to others.

Our next meeting is on March 18th when we look forward to welcoming our own Liz Emmott with her husband Peter. Liz will be telling us about their holiday to America in 2025. Peter will no doubt be in charge of the slides. They will just be back from their recent trip to New Zealand (a talk for 2027 ?!!!)

As I told you in the last magazine, this year will be a busy year in the life of Mothers Union as we celebrate our 150th anniversary.

Last month I mentioned a Provincial Time Capsule travelling round the Dioceses in the UK and Ireland as part of the 150th celebrations. It contains prayers, aims and special letters and will be in our diocese from April 27th to May 2nd arriving in Preston Deanery on Tuesday April 28th. As Andy is our chaplain it will be coming to our church on the 28th for a service at 2pm. We have been asked to provide light refreshments after the service. I hope as many members as are able will support that service and would you please contact Nellie or Marlene if you can help with refreshments.

Churches Together

The World Day of Prayer service is on March 6th and is at Christ Church in Berry Lane this year. It has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria. As we take part in this service, we join a great wave of prayer which encircles the globe, beginning in Samoa and ending 146 countries later in American Samoa. Written in response to 'I will give you rest, come (Matthew 11: 28 - 30) the story shares the stories of four Nigerian women who inspire us to work towards a world without injustice, insecurity, marginalisation, religious persecution, poverty and despair. Louise and Jean are taking part. Do try to come along if you possibly can.

The Lent Lunches are taking place as usual 12 noon to 1pm:-

Feb 25th St Paul's Centenary Room

March 4th St Wilfrid's Parish Room

March 11th Christ Church - we are helping to run it

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March 18th St Wilfrid's Parish Room Alston Lane running it.

March 25th St Paul's Centenary Room

We ask for a suggested donation of £5 and the proceeds go CAFOD and Christian Aid.

Nellie

SCHOOL REPORT

WORSHIP

SHROVE TUESDAY
What is Shrove Tuesday?
Shrove Tuesday (also known as Pancake Day) is the last day before the period that Christians call Lent. It is traditional on this day to eat pancakes.

Ash Wednesday

G

Are you planning to eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday?
Why?
Shrove Tuesday is the day before the start of Lent. The first day of Lent is called Ash Wednesday.

Reading
Matthew 4:1-11
Cartoon version

The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus said NO	Jesus said NO	Jesus said NO
Jesus said NO	Jesus said NO	Jesus said NO
Jesus said NO	Jesus said NO	Jesus said NO

40 Days
Create a clean heart in me, O God; give me a new and steadfast spirit. --

How Can We Grow Closer to God in Lent?

- We can try to be closer to God by giving something up. Like a favourite food or treat.
- We might choose to give up things that take up our time, such as TV or computer games, so we have more time to think, pray or be still.
- We can give God our time by being quiet, listening, or helping others.
- Some people choose to start something new. Like being kinder, helping at home, or spending more time praying or reading a Bible story.

So what?

Design a poster to raise awareness of our Lent challenge, include as many people as possible in our parish/ school community... let's make a difference to our planet during Lent 2025

Dear God,
Thank you for the pancakes we enjoy on Shrove Tuesday. Help us to remember that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Please guide us to think about you and to make good choices during Lent.
We pray for everyone in the world who is struggling, especially those who have little power, little money, no food, or who feel lost.
Amen

40 Days



Panathlon Team Shine at the Sir Tom Finney Sports Centre

Last Friday afternoon, a fantastic group of pupils – Noah, Theo, Oliver, William, Anaiyah, Theo, Erica and Mimi – proudly represented our school at the Panathlon competition held at the Sir Tom Finney Sports Centre in Preston.

The team worked brilliantly together, showing great teamwork, determination and plenty of smiles throughout the afternoon. They approached every activity with enthusiasm, kindness towards others and impressive resilience – truly letting their lights shine.

Pupils took part in a variety of exciting activities, including Harlem Hoops, Parachute Popcorn, Boccia Blast, Table Cricket and Bowling. Whether they were scoring points, cheering each other on, or trying something new, each member of the team gave their very best.

We are incredibly proud of our Panathlon competitors for representing our school with such positivity and spirit. Well done, team!

Mini-skills

Our year 1/2 team competed in the inter-school Mini-Skills competition at West View. Our team competed in 6 different events, testing their running, throwing for speed and accuracy and kicking for accuracy skills. Well done to Sienna B, Livie S, Eli G, Charlie S, Archie M and Martha C for representing school superbly, with confidence and for showing great sportsmanship. After all points were calculated, we finished in joint 4 place.



Girls' Football

On the 5th February, our girls' football team played their final league matches in difficult weather conditions. Throughout the games, the girls made progress in their football. Listening well to instructions and battling well in each match, the girls were a credit to our school. We have finished our league season in 5th place and will be relegated but the girls have shown much development throughout their games, and I have thoroughly enjoyed taking the team. Well done to: Savannah A-R, Charlotte B, Matilda B, Rua E-A, Emilia E, Elise T, Sophie J, Amelia A, Sarah H-K

KURLING

Four year 3 children competed in the KS2 Kurling competition at West View Leisure Centre. We were the youngest team entered into the competition, with some schools entering children from a range of KS2 year groups. After successfully topping our group, with two wins and a defeat, we progressed into the Quarter Finals as group winners. In our Quarter Final match, we played Ingol. After the opening end, we were 2-0 down. However, a great second end saw us win by 3 stones, and thus 3-2 overall, progressing through to the semi-finals. In our semi-final match, we faced the same

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Kennington team we defeated in the group stage. We were 1-0 down after the first end, but another strong second end, saw us equalise with a 1-0 win, and thus take the match into an additional end. We won this additional end 1-0 and progressed through to the FINAL. In the FINAL we came up against Blessed Sacrament. This match followed a very similar pattern. We were 2-0 down after the first end. Again, our team showed tremendous perseverance, and played with great composure and skill to win the second end 3-0, and thus take the match and 1st place with a 3-2 victory! A great performance from Beth McG, Esther H, Bella W and Sam H.



Children's Mental Health Week 2026

Children's Mental Health Week 2026 was celebrated across our school with a focus on creativity, connection, and wellbeing. Every class embraced daily doodling sessions, giving pupils a fun and relaxing way to express their thoughts and feelings. As part of this year's theme of 'Belonging', children also took part in the Belonging Map activity, exploring the people, places, and moments that help them feel safe and included. It has been a wonderful week of reflection, creativity, and strengthening the sense of community within our school

NATIONAL MATHS QUIZ

Our year 6 mathematics team took part in the 'Quiz Club Maths Championship'. They were faced with 3 rounds of extremely tricky questions. It was amazing to see them drawing on their knowledge and working as a team. We were extremely proud of Fraser, Elijah, Lily and Olivia. At the end of the competition, they came very respectable 28 out of 60. Well done team.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

We celebrated Safer Internet Day. Our amazing Digital Leaders- Bella W, Sam H, Theo B, Charley T-C, Oliver C, Teddy G, Ben W and Lily H- kickstarted our day with an assembly about AI. The theme this year was 'Smart tech, safe choices- Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI' which led us to discussion and activities based on technology we use at school and at home every day such as Alexa voice assistants. Our KS2 classes joined a live lesson and KS1 thought about voice assistants and how to stay safe when using AI technology.

SAFEGUARDING

We have continued to share the very useful Safeguarding guides with our parents and carers. We have shared the 'Mental Health- Misinformation Online' and the 'Supporting Children with Self-Regulation' guides. We also shared information from the NSPCC on 'Talk PANTS and help keep children safe'.

Search '**grimsarghstmichaels**' on Instagram and '**Grimstargh 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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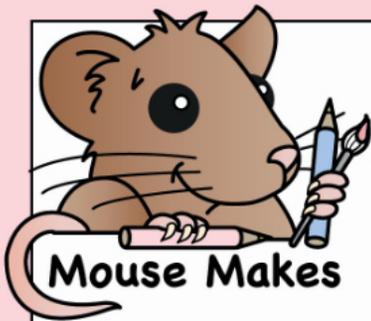
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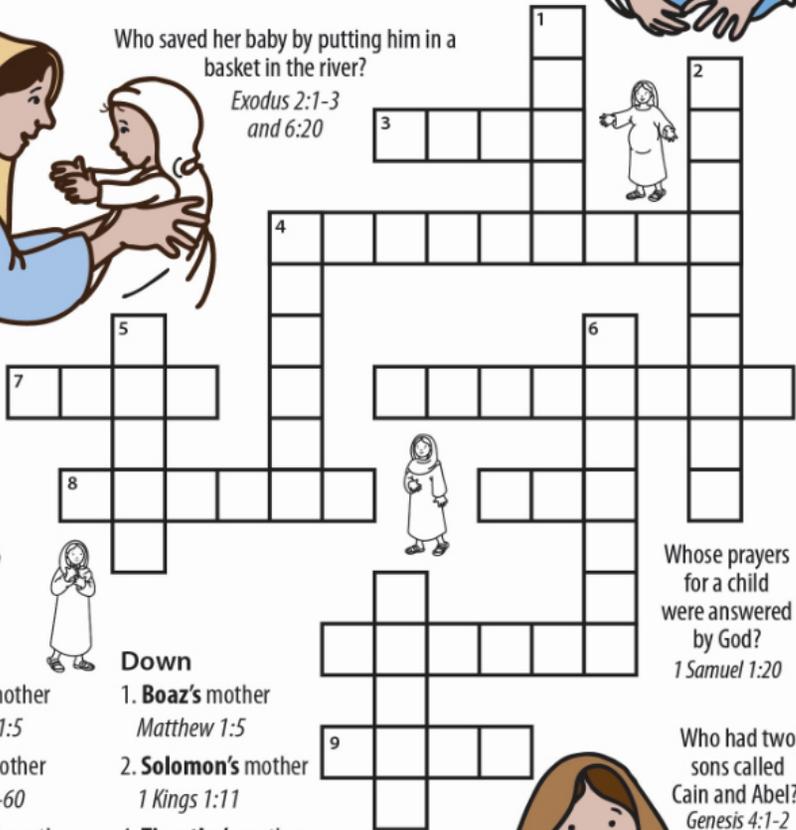
Mouse Makes

The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

*Exodus 2:1-3
and 6:20*



Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19



Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2

Across

- 3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60
- 7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32
- 8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24
- 9. **Jesus'** mother
Acts 1:14

Down

- 1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11
- 4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26



Answer the questions then put them into the crossword

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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.

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		£53.00	Ecumenical Service
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Feb	8th	£387.80	
Feb	15th	£128.71	

FLOWER ROTA

March	1st]
March	8th]
March	15th] NO FLOWERS IN LENT
March	22nd]
March	29th]

SIDESPERSIONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
March 1st	R Buckley		J Eccles N Cowell	
March 8th	K Thompson B Mackley	S Cowell	L Wood B Holt	
March 15th	S Fillingham		M Lamberty D Rusling	
March 22nd	R Woollam K Thompson	L Williams	L Williams B Mackley	
March 22nd	R Buckley		K Billington J Coulston-Hermann	

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

	Leader	Duty		Welcome
March 6th	Marlene	Jean	Eileen	Linda
March 13th	Nellie	Maureen	Kate	Janet
March 20th	Jennifer	Marlene	Eileen	Linda
March 27th	Jean	Helen	Kate	Janet

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

- 1st** **2nd Sunday of Lent**
10.00am Morning Worship
- 4th** 2.00pm Craft and Chat Group at the Vicarage
12noon Lent Lunch at St Wilfred's
- 6th** 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
11.00am World Wide Day of Prayer at Christ Church, Longridge
- 8th** **3rd Sunday of Lent**
10.00am Holy Communion with Jigsaw Club
11.45am Baptisms
6.30pm Joint Lent service at Alston Lane
- 11th** 12noon Lent Lunch at Christ Church (Grimsargh Church helping)
- 12th** 7.30pm Bible Study at the Vicarage
- 13th** 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 14th** 10.30am Prayer Group in church
 Sharing our Faith Day at St Margaret's Ingol
- 15th** **4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday**
10.00am Mothering Sunday Morning Worship
- 18th** 12noon Lent Lunch at St Wilfred's - Alston Lane running it
7.30pm MU - Liz Emmott America 2025 - in School
- 19th** 11.00am Holy Communion BCP
- 20th** 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 22nd** **5th Sunday of Lent**
10.00am Holy Communion with Jigsaw Club
- 23rd** 7.30pm PCC in school (Y6 room)
- 26th** 9.30am School Easter service
- 25th** 12noon Lent Lunch at St Paul's, Longridge
- 27th** 9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 29th** **Palm Sunday**
10.00am Palm Sunday Worship

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



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