

VICAR'S LETTER

The view from the study.

We are Easter people and 'Alleluia' is our song. So declared St. Augustine of Hippo in the uncertain times in which he lived (his life straddling the 4th and 5th centuries AD). He added, *Let us sing here and now in this life, even though we are oppressed by various worries, so that we may sing it one day in the world to come, when we are set free from all anxiety.* Powerful words in this ongoing Easter season.

We know from experience, however, that the resurrection does not exempt us from the harsh realities of life and the many trials we may all be subject to. Just think of the ongoing pandemic: this year was the first time we have been able to sing together our Easter hymns since 2019, reminding us of the restrictions we lived under for so long, as well as the suffering of so many that precipitated those strange times. And now we continue to look in horror at the tragic suffering of so many in Ukraine - and numerous other places where people still suffer though the news lens has moved on.

So, if we truly are an 'Easter People', what does that mean to us? The reality of the cross will always be present in the world and in our own lives. But let us not forget that there is no glory without a cross, no victory without sacrifice. Despite the agonies of this world, we are still called to celebrate that death has been defeated and no tomb can hold us forever; not the tomb of despair, nor discouragement, nor lack of faith nor the stresses of life. We can learn from St. Peter: he trusted in the love of Jesus and, despite having denied him, knew that he must run towards the empty tomb. After this, his whole life was focused on serving God and proclaiming the resurrection of Christ, in the face of frequent opposition and persecution.

We too can be encouraged by the hope that the resurrection brings us, living as people who have been renewed in Christ; people who know how to find, even amid the darkness of the world and of our own hearts, the light that overcomes darkness.

As an Easter People we also should be celebrating what is positive in this life, not remaining fixed on the negative. If there seems to be no good news around we might have to create it ourselves, by *being* good news for the world in showing that darkness does not win. Let's pray that God will help us to discover how we can bring life to that call to be Easter People.

Every blessing, Neil.

Annual Meetings

Sunday 15th May, 11.00am.

The **Annual Meeting of Parishioners** (for the election of churchwardens) and the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** (APCM) will take place after the main service on Sunday 15th May, starting at around 11.00am.

Nomination forms will be available in church for those wishing to stand for election as Churchwardens or Parochial Church Council (PCC) members. To attend and vote at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, you must be on the church or civil electoral roll for Grimsargh. To participate in the APCM or stand for office as a PCC member, you must be on the *church* electoral roll.

At the APCM we can elect up to 9 members of PCC.

We will also appoint sidespersons to assist the churchwardens, with a special focus on the ministry of welcome on Sunday mornings.

PCC members will need to complete a declaration that they are 'fit and proper persons' to serve as trustees of a charity (which is the status of the PCC, even though we are not registered as a separate charity). New members will also be required to complete a basic introduction to safeguarding.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all those who have, in any way, served the parish over the last year. Thank you for being prepared to offer your time and skills in the service of Christ through his church here in Grimsargh.

Neil.

First Aid

As a small church community, we do not have our own cohort of trained first aiders. However, it would be helpful to know of people amongst the congregation who hold current first aid qualifications – some may, for example, be trained in the workplace, or through another organisation you they are working with.

If you hold an up-to-date qualification and are happy to be called upon to assist if needed during services or activities at church, please could you let me know? If we are severely lacking in suitably qualified people, it may be time to arrange some first aid training for willing volunteers.

Ideally, please contact me via email or drop me a note.

Many thanks, Neil.

Available in church

Holding 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. Requested minimum donation of £5 per cross.

Also:

Platinum Jubilee souvenir pens, £2

Books of parish walks , £5

Plus some mugs from the tercentenary celebrations.

On the table at the back of church. All proceeds 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.

Food Bank

Thanks to all who have supported the food bank over the past few weeks. Apart from pasta, the Salvation Army is in need of all other food items as well as toiletries.

It's all Greek to me! (cont)

All Greek to me...

I mentioned in the last article that the ancient author used the word "sing" to describe the poem, the Iliad. This is as I said, because poetry derived from singing, and poetry was, and is, delivered in a metrical way. The Homeric poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey, are indeed metric. Every one of the lines in the poems conforms to a strict metric, summarised in the jokey line, "Down in a deep dark dell, sat an old cow munching a beanstalk". It is a 6 beat metre ("Hexameter", Greek word for 6 is Hex). Some variation was allowed in the first 4 beats, but every single one of the last 2 beats, in all 28,000 lines of the epic poems, conformed to "munching a beanstalk", tum titty tum tum, long short short long long. And so it is that when people ask, how can you tell how an extinct ancient language was pronounced, then one can reply that we know from the above with a near scientific certainty at least whether the sounds were long or short.

So the first line of the Iliad, see March edition of the Church Magazine, scans:

Mahnin a eide Thea, Pe leid e o A chil ah os

(- u u) (- u u) (-, -) (- u u) (- u u) (- -)

Tum titty tum titty tum , tum tum titty tum titty tum tum

Footnote on Latin: some Roman poets, Horace and Ovid, used a 5 beat metre (Pentameter). This is summarised by the equally jokey addition to the above, "When out of its mouth came forth, yesterday's dinner and tea".

Mark

MOTHERS' UNION

This month we will celebrate St. Michael's Mothers Union 91st birthday. This will take place at the Ascension Day Service in church at **6.30 on Thursday 26th May**, followed by a party, refreshments and entertainment in the **school hall**.

On May 8th our new members:-

Joan Buxton	Joan Moon	Carol Rae	Pam Taylor
Christine Yates	Janet Wilby	Margery Baxenden	
Glenice Bradley	Jennifer Alridge	Jean Burr	

will be enrolled at the morning service.

Please pray for them and come along to the service to support them.

Sheena Cartmell and **Saundra Loxham** will receive Long Service Certificates Please pray for Julie Ingham, in hospital after suffering a stroke.

Looking back ...

Easter gifts were taken to our Indoor members –Shirley Brown, Ruth Davis, Doris Parkinson and Julie Ingham.

Our April meeting was held on the 20th, John Baron told us about the Benefits of Reflexology.

Food for Thought

Do we sometimes under estimate what God might create out of ordinary things we do?



When I was thinking about something to write I heard of a poet & composer Enoch Sontonga.

In 1897 the 24 year old teacher wrote a hymn for his school as their school anthem—the first line was Nkosi Sikelul IAfrika— God bless Africa. As far as he knew when he died suddenly in 1905, just aged 32, it was one of many unknown songs written by an unknown poet and destined to be forgotten. *God bless Africa*

May her strength rise high up,

Hear our prayers and bless us

Descend, O Spirit

Descend, O Holy Spirit

But the song wasn't forgotten. By 1925 it had been adopted by the anthem of the African National Congress and at the time, also adopted as the national anthems of Zambia, Tanzania, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Let us pray that we may do or make something in our lives today which God can use and maybe will impact on the coming generations and even outlive us!



The Motherss' Union Easter window in Church

SCHOOL REPORT

Our Christian Value for this half-term is **THRUTHFULNESS**. We are looking forward to exploring this value and challenging the thoughts of our children.

We were excited to welcome our children and their families back on Tuesday 19th April after enjoying our Easter break. We have an exciting half-term ahead with many exciting events and opportunities for our children, both in school and in our local community. During this half-term our year 2 and 6 children *Cont on page 15*

will sit their SATs tests; we have classes looking forward to educational visits; we again have entered all sporting opportunities available; we will celebrate St George's Day and have the Queen's Jubilee Party and the Picnic on the Park to look forward to.

Before we finished for Easter, our children enjoyed learning about Holy Week during RE lessons and through gathering to worship together. On Wednesday 30th March, Reverend Neil kindly took the lead during our church service. He shared the story of Easter with the children. We were delighted that our children sang beautifully and enjoyed participating in a variety of ways.

The PTFA Easter Bingo, in the last week before we finished for Easter, was a huge success. The evening was enjoyed by many of our children and families. We were extremely thankful for the generosity of local businesses for donating some amazing prizes. The total money raised has not yet been confirmed but it is thought that it will be close to £2,000 which is a fantastic amount of money- all of which will be spent on our children.

On the morning of Saturday 26th March, some of our staff and parents met at school and spent the morning gardening, landscaping and tidying the back of school. We also managed to skip the old planters and replace with our new ones. Because of the time given up and hard work put in, our teachers can now make good use of the outside space, during the summer term, at the back of their classrooms. Thank you to Mrs Todd for organising and to everyone who gave up their valuable time to support 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



The School Easter window in Church

JIGSAW CLUB

For the children of Michael's, Grimsargh.

Jesus wants US to listen to Him and He promised that we would know His voice. Jesus is always loving and kind, so what he says will be too. He speaks to us in many ways, such as through pictures or stories in our heads, thoughts, through the bible, feelings, memories, colours and through other people.

Make yourself a pair of listening ears and spend time having a go at this activity where you have an adventure with Jesus! Use a piece of paper to make a simple band to go round your head, then design some ears to stick on the side!



Imagine you are in your favourite place, where you feel safe and happy. What can you see, hear or sense around you? Then, Jesus comes to find you! He loves to be with you so much. He says he wants to show you how big his love is for you... Can you see his love? What is it like? How high, wide, deep or long is it? What is Jesus saying about his love for you? Ask him to show you more... How do you feel? Spend time listening and exploring God's great, big, wonderful love for you.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

March	17th	£87.50	
March	20th	£177.90	
March	24th	£65.00	
March	27th	£379.50	
March	31st	£79.00	Funeral
April	3rd	£143.63	
April	7th	£58.00	
April	10th	£328.00	Palm Sunday
April	14th	£90.00	
April	17th	£292.75	Easter Day

FLOWER ROTA

May	1st	Vacant
May	8th	Ron & Jane Woollam
May	15th	Vacant
May	22nd	Penny & Kevan Thompson
May	29th	Vacant

SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Readers Assistant	Coffee Assistant
May 1st	R Buckley		N Cowell Vicar	
May 8th	B Mackley		B Holt Vicar	
May 15th	K Thompson		Youth Reader	
May 22nd	James Cowell		J Eccles Vicar	
May 29th	N Maudsley		B Mackley Vicar	

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

	Duty	Duty	Welcome & Circulate
May 6th	Jean	Maureen	Marlene/Nellie
May 13th	Nellie	Eileen	Janet
May 20th	Marlene	Helen	Linda/Ros
May 27th	Kate	Maureen	Jean/Nellie

Holy Baptism

April 3rd

Jesus said "Let the children come unto me"

Eliza Autumn Rose Horsfall

Funeral

March 31st

Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

Anthony Pickering, 47

Burial of Ashes

April 7th

Evelyn May Hayhurst, 89

ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR MAY

- 1st** **3rd Sunday of Easter**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Morning Worship
12 noon Baptism
- 5th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 6th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 8th** **4th Sunday of Easter**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Holy Communion with Enrolment of Mothers' Union members
12 noon Baptism
- 12th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 13th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 15th** **5th Sunday of Easter**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Family Service
11.00am Annual Meetings
- 19th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 20th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 22nd** **6th Sunday of Easter**
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Holy Communion
12 noon Baptism
- 26th** **Ascension Day**
11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
6.30pm MU Holy Communion in Church followed by
 the 91st birthday party in school
- 27th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 29th** **7th Sunday of Easter** (Sunday after Ascension Day)
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Holy Communion

*Please note that we have reinstated **Morning Worship** at 10am on the first Sunday of the month.*

DEADLINE for the June magazine 15th May.
Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell and/or B Mackley