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November 2023 70p



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VICAR: Rev. Andy Williams Tel: 793391

.. Mbl: 07472 663279

Email revandy.gsm@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS: Mr. Anthony Cowell

Three Mile Cross Farm, Grimsargh Tel: 654509

Mr. Mark Lamberty

Ashleigh, Preston Road, GrimsarghTel: 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

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email: joannelander@hotmail.co.uk

SERVICES 10:00am Morning Worship every 1st and 5th Sunday

Holy Communion every 2nd and 4th Sunday

Family Service every 3rd Sunday

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

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#### VICAR'S LETTER

#### **Coming Home**

It is good to be back in our native Lancashire. Depending how you draw county boundaries Louise and I have been away for around 20 years before moving to Grimsargh. Most of our rooms are now empty of removal boxes although the garage can only be accessed with care! I wonder what it is about coming back to Lancashire, and the Diocese of Blackburn where I was ordained 25 years ago, that stirs the soul and brings feelings of warmth and peace?

No doubt part of it is about being much closer to my parents and our grandchildren, but there seems more to it than that. It seems to me that our God is the God of bringing people home, and is one of His key characteristics throughout the Bible.

In Genesis we read the story of Abram, later Abraham, who journeys to a new home of prosperity guided by God. The second book of the Bible, Exodus, is all about the journey home of the Hebrew people held captive in Egypt for many years. God brings the people of Israel and Judah home after 70 years of exile. In all these stories the people have to learn to trust in their Lord God, follow His ways, and then enter into a land of beauty and bounty.

In the New Testament Jesus talks often about the lost being welcomed home by a loving God. This is perhaps seen most clearly in the parable if the Prodigal Son, or more accurately the Loving Father. Here the Father is waiting, daily, for signs of his lost son returning home. He is welcomed back into the family with joy and celebration.

Jesus' tales and actions are all about bringing people back into a family relationship with God and one another. It doesn't matter how, when or where, we got lost from our Heavenly Father He welcomes us home as his children. In a world that seems increasingly chaotic, divisive and hopeless here is hope for everyone. Trust in Jesus and the faithfulness of God and we can find a home that lasts for all eternity, it doesn't matter who we are there is a place for us that will take us as we are, heal and restore us.

And then we can take our place as part of His Christian family and be assured of His love for ever. St Paul reminds us that although we live on earth as part of his family our ultimate home is in heaven, for that is where our citizenship belongs. So thank you for the wonderful welcome Louise and I have received so far. May St Michael's be a place where all are welcome to find a spiritual home and a place to belong as we work out how to be home as Jesus' family together.

Blessings, Andy.



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#### Harvest

Grateful thanks to all who helped decorate the church for our Harvest Festival, for all the contributions of tins, fruit, vegetables etc. to those who helped distribute gifts around the village and to those who took items to the Salvation Army in Preston. A Special thank you to all the school children who came to church on the Monday afternoon for their Harvest service and contributed many more items for distribution.















#### Saturday 18th November,

On Saturday 18th November, we are holding an evening of entertainment with John Bowdler in church at 7.30 pm. John brings his own organ and you will be able to listen to his variety of popular tunes and be fascinated by his agility as you watch him perform on screens For many years John has played the mighty Wurlitzer organ at Blackpool Tower Ballroom.

Born and educated in Wigan, John has been playing the organ since the age of eight. He has been one of the team of resident organists at the famous Tower Ballroom since 1987, a position he took up at the age of 16.

Grimsargh Parish Church

Present

An Evening of entertainment with

"John Bowdler"

The Blackpool Tower Ballroom organist.

Saturday 18th November at 7:30 pm at St Michaels Church.

Light refreshments included

Tickets £10.00 per person.

Tickets are £10.00 and will include light refreshments.

Please see Nellie or any FAF member for tickets.



#### Christmas Fair – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1pm.

Our Christmas Fair will soon be upon us. If you can help on a stall, please sign the list at the back of Church. If you can donate cakes, bottles, bric-a-brac or any items for the raffle, please see any FAF member.

#### Come and sing carols with us!

Get into the Christmas spirit by joining us to sing carols on several occasions in the run up to Christmas.

Friday 1st December, 6pm - Grimsargh Green.

Saturday 16th December, 10.30am, Grimsargh Farmers' Market

Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd December, 6.30pm, The Plough, 7pm, Grimsargh Club, 7.30pm, Haighton Manor

#### Remenmbrance

In the season of Remembrance, we consider those who have heroically given their lives in war. However, Jesus calls all of us to a radical heroism in our daily lives: 'You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.' (Matt 5:43-45).

Our Remembrance service is at 10am on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November followed by a laying of a wreath at Stone Cross War Memorial at 11.45am.



#### Thank You

I would like to thank all my Church friends for who sent me cards and gifts for my 90<sup>th</sup> birthdsy on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. I appreciate your kindness.

Joan Moon

#### A Ramble round Rome (continued)

Another of prominent Roman politician of the mid 1<sup>st</sup> century BC who also features as a prominent literary figure is Cicero, Marcus Tullius being his forenames. His younger brother Quintus was one of Caesar's lieutenant generals (or "Legatus") on his campaign of conquest in Gaul. Marcus Cicero however was quite opposed to Caesar and a believer in the old Roman Republic and its virtues and values. His original expertise was as a lawyer and orator. He both defended and prosecuted in some notable cases in the late Republican period, a leading case being against a former provincial governor called Verres, the "contra Verrem" speech. No-one could accuse him of holding back on the rhetoric; his high flown, totally over the top style if replicated by a barrister today, would simply invite ridicule. However, in his time he was highly effective as an advocate. His oratory culminated to its highest in the time when he was at the very peak of Roman political life, as one of the 2 consuls for the year 63BC. There was an attempted coup by a man called Cataline which was bungled and was scotched before it had any effect. But Cicero was the one who



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presided over the defeat of the coup, and with characteristic bombast, construed a line of poetry in the hexameter, or 6 beat, form of verse of the Iliad and Odyssey: "O fortunatam natam me consule Romam." (Oh fortunate Rome, to be born in my consulship!)

In addition to his speeches, his other contribution to literature were his letters which have luckily survived, and give an insight to ordinary life in Rome. He corresponded with his brother of course, but also with a successful businessman called Atticus who made a fortune by importing grain from Egypt to Rome. And Cicero himself was a slum landlord with property in the city. In the end however, Cicero like many of the leading figures, met a violent death. He picked the wrong side in the civil war following Caesar's murder and backed the Republicans, making some snide comments against Mark Anthony. Anthony repaid this by having Cicero named as a public enemy, and then murdered in 43BC, the year after Caesar's murder. Being on the wrong side in politics had a different meaning in those days.

#### Mark

From the Parish Pump:

#### St James the Least of All -On using Glebe land for allotments

The Rectory St James the Least of All My dear Nephew Darren



I hear you have joined the committee which wants to convert the waste land between the abandoned soap factory and canal in your parish into allotments — although I would have thought there were holier sorts of conversions you could have concentrated on. I am sure you will soon be caught up in arguments which make that little disagreement over an apple in the Garden of Eden seem quite trivial.

Some years ago, we similarly decided to let part of our Glebe land become allotments; the outcome was not wholly as may have been anticipated. Colonel Wainwright saw it as an opportunity of re-living his War years and was only just restrained from digging trenches around his plot; no doubt he would have offered to play football with neighbouring allotment holders on Christmas Day.

It caused some surprise when the Earl of Stowe applied for a plot, but it has become something of an attraction to see his daily procession, preceded by his gardener pushing the wheelbarrow, the under-gardener carrying the tools and following him, his butler with the newspaper, a deckchair, and a flask of coffee. He then settles down for a comfortable hour while occasionally supervising the work, once reports on the local hunt have been read.

Miss Simpson managed to unite everyone in communal outrage by using her plot to encourage fluffy bunnies, darling foxes, and sweet squirrels. She seemed to be particularly grateful to everyone else for providing fruit and vegetables for their happiness. Resolution was only achieved when she was convinced to grow potatoes, helping the Colonel in his War Effort. Fortunately, he did not ask her to arrive equipped with the regulation gas mask.

Our local architect seems to spend most of his time beautifying his garden shed, rather than growing produce. With its gothic arched windows, Norman tower and flying buttresses, I do wonder if he may have spent rather too much of his time renovating ancient churches. Neighbouring plot-holders look forward to the agricultural equivalent of the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

I am sure you will find you have committed yourself to many hours of unnecessary work. Just make sure you get a percentage of their produce for your Harvest Festival. Your loving uncle,

Eustace

#### **MOTHERS' UNION**

At the **October Meeting** we held the annual Wave of Prayer service.

This year we celebrated with and prayed for the Mothers Union members from

#### High Veld, South Africa Guinea, Africa Nambale, Kenya Bhopal, India Niger Delta Blackburn

We heard about their projects, the problems they face, their successes and their frustrations.

#### Thinking point

November is a month of remembering... first November 5th.. Remember, remember the fifth of November is a well-known rhyme about the gunpowder plot. Quickly followed by

Remembrance day on the 11th when we remember the great service and sacrifice of those who have defended our freedom and protected our way of life.

Remember is used **352 times** in the scriptures. When its variants are counted, that number jumps to more than 550! Why does it tell us to remember? I like Psalm 77 V11-12 which says 'I will remember the deeds of the Lord Yes, I will remember your works of old. I will ponder all your works and meditate on your mighty works'

Often we can find ourselves bombarded with information that clutters our thoughts and fuels negative emotions. If we remember and reflect on God's faithfulness, our current worries, fears and anxieties begin to fade into the background. God doesn't necessarily remove them, he gives an external perspective with which to view them. I particularly love Psalm 107 v1

'Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

His faithful love endures for ever'

May you know God's faithful love this November!

Don't forget next meeting
November Meeting 15th
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As a welcome to Rev Andy, our new vicar, the poster below was placed on the MU window in church. Thank you to Jean and Marlene.



#### SCHOOL REPORT

As I write this October report, we have just entered our final week of this, our first half term. Our children have had plenty opportunities to let their lights shine since my September report.

As we wait for Rev Andy Williams to start, we were very fortunate to have Rev Jeff lead us in both our Harvest and St Michael's Day celebrations. It was great to gather together to worship as a whole school in St Michael's Church and was also great to see some of our parents/carers and families celebrating and worshipping with us too. Some of our children took lead roles within these two celebrations and had the opportunity to speak in front of the entire school, in Church, which takes courage. The children who had this opportunity read clearly and confidently.

Our extra-curricular clubs are in full swing- we have numerous sports clubs, a choir, a bible fun club, a Mathletics club, two reading clubs and much more. All clubs are very well attended which is great to see. We have also competed in all inter-school sporting opportunities so far this school year and are competing in the highest and thus most challenging of inter-school leagues.

Last week, all children spent time thinking about the importance of being mentally healthy. Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October was World Mental Health Day; the theme was 'Mental health is a universal human right'. In our worship, we discussed how Mental health is flourishing, feeling good and functioning well day-to-day most of the time. We discussed how no one is perfect and we can't feel amazing all the time. It is

something we need to actively and constantly work at. We looked into making the day the most effective for the children and adults in our school by bringing mental health to our attention, understand our emotions and highlighting strategies we can focus on that will positively affect our mental health and can continue to use in the future.

We have also recently appointed our new head boy and girl and their deputies. We were delighted to announce Amber R as our head girl and Florence B-R as our deputy head girl; Ellis T as our head boy and Joseph F as our deputy head boy. They had to go through a rigorous process to be elected, which included a letter of application and presentation to year 5 and 6 pupils and staff. Our Pupil Leadership Team have already given actour of our school to prospective parents as part of our October 'Show Rounds'. They have made an excellent start to their important roles.

In classes, pupils voted for new representatives for our School and Eco Councils. Congratulations to those who were elected onto the councils. The children received their badges in worship. In School Council this year, we are looking forward to planning charity events and representing the views and ideas of their classes. Our Eco Council will be considering ways to make our school more sustainable and will continue to consider and plan for how we can reduce our school's carbon footprint. Both councils will become a powerful voice for their peers and will also keep parents up to date via social media and the newsletter.

Our PTFA's first fundraiser of the year- 'The Colour Run'- was a huge success and has even had local paper interest, featuring in the Lancashire Evening Post! This event raised a whopping £1,4154.70!

As well as our Instagram and Facebook pages, we now have a Twitter page to celebrate the amazing Art and Design and Design and Technology work our pupils do. This has been created and will be updated by our Art & DT leader, Miss Jewitt: our Twitter username for parents/ carers is:

#### 'GSMPrimaryArtDT'.

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

#### **FAF update:**

#### **Festive Fun in December**

On Friday December 1st, 6pm, the Revd. Andy Williams and Father Doyle will lead the village in the blessing of the Crib on Grimsargh Green. On this occasion, FAF members will sing a few carols and the school choir will also be singing Christmassy songs. If you are able to come and join us sing carols, please just turn up on the night

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or contact any FAF member. There will be mince pies and hot chocolate and even a visit from Father Christmas!

There will be other occasions to sing carols in the village this Christmas, starting with singing at the Christmas Market, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, meeting at 10am at the Village Hall.

In addition, on Thursday 21st December and Friday 22nd December, we will be singing carols at the following venues;

The Plough – 6.30pm

The Club – 7pm

Haighton Manor – 7.30pm

#### The Christmas Fair, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

The Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, starting at 1pm. We will be setting up in the school hall from 9.30am, and we need as many folk as possible to lend a hand.

We also need items for the various stalls. As always, we need covered cakes for the cake stall, bottles for the bottle stall, items for the raffle and the good as new stall, chocolate for the chocolate bola, and wrapped items for the lucky dip. The children from Grimsargh School will be singing following the opening of the Christmas Fair, opened this year by the Revd. Andy Williams. This is Andy's first Christmas in Grimsargh and we are delighted that he will be with us, leading us and sharing in our Christmas festivities.

If you would like to sign up to run a stall, or if you have a new idea for a stall, please sign the list at the back of Church.

#### **The War Memorial**

Nellie Cowell has tended Grimsargh's War Memorial for many years. Annually, Nellie has purchased beautiful plants and flowers, conscientiously tending the memorial throughout the year. This year, the War Memorial achieved third place out of twenty-four entries in the War Memorial category in Lancashire's Best Kept Village Competition. The War Memorial was awarded Highly Commended, a much-coveted prize in the competition.

We are all indebted to Nellie for her selfless devotion to our War Memorial and Grimsargh's fallen.

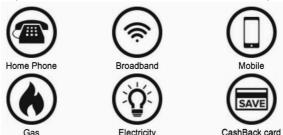
#### "We Love the Word" is back!

In the New Year, I am hoping to re-start our Bible Study sessions. Please look out for more information in the New Year!

Jayne

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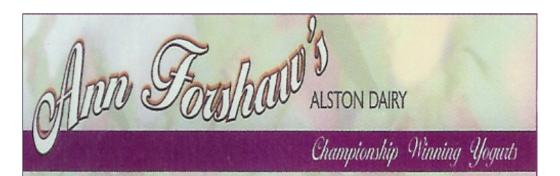




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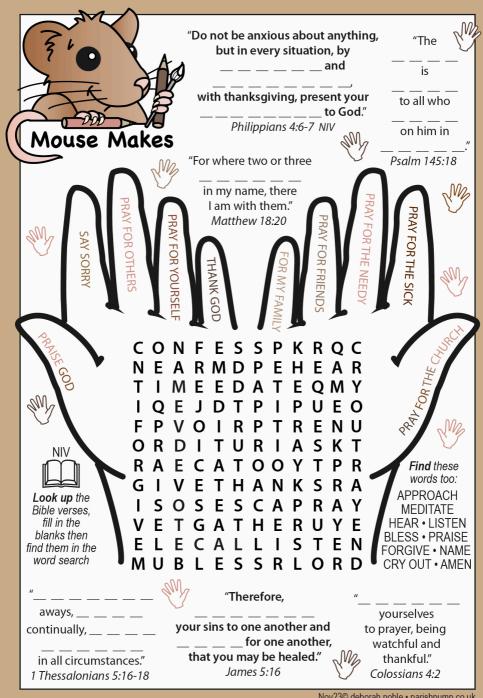
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#### **FLOWER ROTA**

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Nov	12th	Vacant
Nov	19th	Nellie Cowell

Vacant Nov 26th

#### SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
Nov	5th	B Mackley		D Rusling J Eccles	
Nov	12th	R Woollam	N Cowell	L Wood Vicar	
Nov	19th	John Cowell		Youth Reader	
Nov	26th	N Maudsley	S Cowell	B Holt Vicar	

#### FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

		Leader	Dut	:y	Welcome
Nov	3rd	Nellie	Jean	Christine	Linda
Nov	10th	Jennifer	Maureen	Eileen	Janet
Nov	17th	Jean	Nellie	Helen	Linda
Nov	24th	Christine	Jennifer	Maureen	Janet

#### **Holy Matrimony**

Sept 29th Julie Louise Cressey and Stephen Lesley Cressey

#### ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

3rd	9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
5th	4th Sunday before Advent
	10.00am Morning Worship
10th	9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
12th	3rd Sunday before Advent Remembrance Sunday
	10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club
	11.45am Act of Remembrance at the war memorial
15th	12noon Mothers Union Christmas meal Cross Keys Whitechapel
16th	11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
17th	9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
18th	7.30pm Evening of Entertainment with John Bowdler in church
19th	2nd Sunday before Advent
	10.00am Family Service
<b>24th</b>	9:30am - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
26th	Christ the King (Sunday next before Advent)

10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw Club



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















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