

## VICAR'S LETTER

### *The view from the study.*

Sometimes simple little stories stick in the mind (which is probably why Jesus often used them to good effect in his teaching). One such little story I have long remembered relates to Robert Louis Stevenson, author of 'Treasure Island' and many other works. It is reported that when he was a child, one gloomy evening he saw the lamplighter making his way along the Edinburgh street where Stevenson lived. As he watched the man lifting up a long pole to light each gas lamp in turn, he declared to his mother: "There's a man outside making holes in the dark". Such a wonderful way of thinking about the act of turning on a light.

The Holy Bible has a lot to say about light. Jesus is the light of the world, the light that the darkness cannot overcome; and he tells us not to hide our light, but to let it shine for all to see. Jesus appeared to Saul as a blinding light on the road to Damascus. And the angels that bring God's messages of hope and peace to the world often appear veiled in dazzling light.

In our lives, we can be like the lamplighter, making holes in the dark around us. But often we ourselves need a little bit of that light pouring into our lives. There is no doubt that we continue to live with the darkness of the past 18 months, and for many people there are individual stories of pain and sorrow that make us cry out for a little light and hope.

With this in mind, on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October, at 4.00pm, there is to be a 'Service of Light' in church. What does this mean? Essentially, it is an opportunity for us to lament the losses of recent times, whether that be praying for those close to us who have died, whether or not due to Covid, or just praying about the needs of the world as the coronavirus pandemic continues to bring heartache and disruption of normal life for so many. As we lament and express our sadness and grief, so we pray that the light of Christ will pierce our darkness, giving us hope and guidance for the way ahead.

All are welcome to come along and light a candle, to symbolise that light of Christ scattering the darkness from before us. May His light shine upon you all, to bring you hope and peace.

Every blessing,  
*Neil.*

## **Covid-safe Services**

Although restrictions were eased in the summer, Covid 19 is still a real threat to health, so please follow these simple procedures when attending St Michael's Church:

- Sanitise hands on entering the building
- Continue to wear face coverings (as people are sitting in close proximity for an extended period of time). If you need to remove your face covering for any reason, please replace it when singing.
- Please respect others by not sitting too close to people outside your household/group of friends: many will appreciate a little distance for a while as we adapt.
- If you are able, please ensure you take a lateral flow test to check your Covid status. Test kits freely available from Grimsargh Pharmacy or online at: [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)
- **Please do not attend church if you are unwell or showing any signs of possible Covid infection.**

## **Single use service sheets.**

We are now using our normal orders of service and hymn books. The Bibles may also now be used again, if you like to follow the readings. As a sensible precaution, please remember to sanitise your hands before and after handling sheets and books. If you are anxious about using shared resources, please note that items are left 'in quarantine' for a week between services. You are also welcome to take away a service sheet and hymn book and bring them with you whenever you come to church – but please don't lose them!

## **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.

'The Sign' insert features a range of articles on aspects of the Christian faith and the life of the Church. We hope you find something of interest in it.

## **The Early Service**

You will see that the 8.30 service has been put back into the calendar starting on 10<sup>th</sup> October. This will be subject to any further coronavirus restrictions, such as a recommendation to limit the use of the church building. The service will continue to follow the Book of Common Prayer, but the readings will now usually be the same as for the 10am service

## **'All-age' Services**

Our pattern of services pre-Covid included a *family service* on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. As we seek to restore some of what has been lost over the last 18 months, we will be restating such a service on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, starting with an '**All-age' service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October**. The name may be different, but in essence the service will be familiar – namely, a less formal service which we hope will be more appealing to families with young children, though *all* are of course welcome, regardless of age!

## **Ecumenical Service**

A service focusing on the theme of climate change will take place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm, at Alston Lane RC Church. Please do come along to share in this act of shared witness, to show how much our environment means to us all.

## **SEEKING A TREASURER**

You may be aware that we need a new treasurer. It is over a year since Simon indicated that he needs to stand down, and I am very grateful to him for continuing to hold the fort, but now we really NEED to find a replacement.

I know it is not an easy role to fulfil, but you do not need to be a qualified accountant to perform the task, and anyone with reasonable computer skills, the ability to count, and a bit of time available would have the ability to take on the role. Simon would be able to give some guidance to a new treasurer and there is advice and training available at diocesan level.

Please consider this prayerfully – could you be our treasurer? Do you know someone else who might have the skills to do it? Also, if being the treasurer is not for you, could you *assist* the treasurer with some of the regular tasks such as banking cash? Please speak to me or one of the wardens if you would like to know more.

Thank you, Neil.

## **Sidespersons**

Sidespersons are back on duty at the Sunday 10am service only. At present only one sidesperson is required and he/she will be there to distribute service sheets and hymn books to the congregation. They will be wearing masks and will have sanitised their hands.

During lockdown several sidespersons gave up their duties for personal reasons and we are therefore looking to recruit replacements. Anyone interested in becoming a spokesperson please speak to a warden or to the vicar.

## **Coffee Morning**

The Friday coffee morning has now re-started. It is no longer held in the church kitchen area but has moved to the Grimsargh Club. It is open from 9.30am to 11.30am and co-insides with the Post Office opening. All are welcome to join us for coffee and biscuits, there is no charge though donations are gratefully accepted. There is a rota for helpers at coffee morning but more helpers would be welcomed, anyone interested please speak to Nellie Cowell.

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

At last ! We managed to meet together again on 15th September. It was lovely to be together to take communion & to see each other, even behind masks! There was a good attendance of 23, including some new members! A big welcome to them all.

### **Mothers Union Birthday girls.**

I've been busy finding out interesting facts about our birthday girls, catching up with the August and September ones. I hope I have all the details correct. Please forgive me for any mistakes!

**Pam Taylor** (August 19th) has been the mayoress of Longridge twice, alongside her late husband, Ian, in 1976 and 1980. She has a daughter, Joy Eccles, who attends Grimsargh Church and a son, Ben, in London who has a Dachshund called Bridget.

**Anne Clayton's** (23rd August) has now moved away from Grimsargh to live with her family in Elswick, on the Flyde. She enjoyed her time in Grimsargh & hopes to be in touch with Nellie & Shirley soon.

**Liz Emmott** (7th September) was born in Sarawak, Malaysia and returned to England when Malaysia went independent when she was 8. Her father was a Health Inspector there and her mother a missionary teaching in the schools. She returned to Malaysia when she was 21 to meet her Chinese godmother and stayed a month. The church has always played a big part in her family with her grandfather and two of her sisters being ordained!

**Brenda Croft** (September 27th) will be celebrating lots of family birthdays in September alongside her own. She has many happy memories of her years in the village from acting with the Grimsargh players to working in the school at dinnertime. Her most amusing story is when she got locked in the Trustee Saving Bank in Preston on a Friday night

**Wendy Hall** (October 5th) lives in Fulwood but has had links with Grimsargh since her children attended St. Michael's school. She has been very involved with the Rainbows and Guides for many years, having just retired from being their leader-in-charge in July, but they do seem to like to call on her to help still.

**Ruth Davies** (October 6th) celebrates the great age of '2 fat ladies' this year! Her father & mother were both farmers. She has a daughter in Canada. She also has an adopted a girl & a boy from the Children's Society. Her daughter also has adopted children—2 girls, whom Ruth went over to China to collect!

**Joan Moon** (October 6th) has finally joined the Mothers Union! She has been touched by the real Christian love she recently has experienced from the members, so after many years being invited, has agreed to join! She was Chair of the Governors to St. Michael's school, working alongside Nellie, who was the Head. She has a new great grandson, Jude, born in August. Please pray for him, and the family, as he is still very poorly in hospital after an operation.

**Hazel Cliff** (October 22nd) has lived in Grimsargh for 57 years. (Is she a local yet?) She has taken a very active part in village life, with Guiding, and also the church PPC secretary for 32 years and now on the Fundraising committee, the Faffers! Her experience in the catering world is still very helpful. She enjoys gardening and a good glass of wine!

**Jayne Woollam** (October 22nd) has been in Grimsargh for 25 years, so definitely not local yet! She has been very involved in setting up the Grimsargh Wetlands Trust, a haven for Wildlife—we're so lucky to have it on our doorstep. She loves to sing, having sung with Opera North, in the Palace, Manchester and taken a lead role with Opera Lirica.

Thank you to everyone who talked to me about their lives. It is a great privilege to listen and share in them.

Mike always liked to leave a little card whenever he visited, so I'll finish by sending this card and ask for God's blessing on you and your families.

Ruth



## SCHOOL REPORT

It was lovely welcoming our children and their parents/ carers back into school after the summer break- it has been great to see the children mixing between year groups, both inside and outside, worshipping together in our hall and singing hymns, in preparation for Harvest, at the tops of their voices!

We welcomed our new reception children and their families too. Miss Lemmings and Miss Begbie have been so impressed with how the reception children have settled into their new surroundings and routines. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children's smiling faces as they arrive each morning. The reception children came into our school hall for the first time on their first Monday together as a full class and sat calmly and smartly throughout Worship- Miss Lemmings and Miss Begbie were so proud of them.

Our year 4 children have been swimming every day for the first two weeks of this term. This is a change to the swimming programme in Preston as previously swimming lessons have been once each week for the term. The staff, children and parents have adapted well to this new schedule- the children have made super progress. They will swim again in January, at the start of the spring term.

Our year 6 children spent 3 days and 2 nights at Borwick Hall. They spent time canoeing, climbing, traversing the high ropes, completing team challenges, caving and much more. I spent a full day with the children and joined a group caving for the day. The instructor had his caving qualifications and it was clear caving was a real passion of his. The children rose to the challenge and were able to move through the caves with confidence. Miss Hemmings and I tried our best and managed to squeeze through most spaces! The children were a real credit to themselves, their families and our school.

We are currently, as of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, finalising our extra-curricular clubs programme. All children in all year groups will have the opportunity to join a club. We have also entered all inter- school sporting events on offer and are now preparing for the first event on the sporting calendar- the hockey league.

Reverend Neil has been into school- he received a tour which included our new wall graphics and our two new libraries. School had a make-over during the summer holiday and is looking fantastic! We also managed to organise our autumn term calendar in which Reverend Neil will be leading us in Worship for Harvest, on St Michael's Day and for our EYFS Nativity, all of which we will be attending St Michael's Church to celebrate.

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

# JIGSAW CLUB

For the children of Michael's, Grimsargh.

Hopefully all our children will have settled well into the new academic year by now. From the 4 year olds just starting primary school to the 16 year olds moving on to the next step in their education. It can be equally as daunting for all... and tiring! Perhaps now, a few weeks in, as they realise this is life for the next little while, it is a good time to remind them they are not alone. God is always with us; young and old, to help, support and guide us if we let Him.

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10 v13-17.



Colour in this picture and write words in the hearts to say what you think Jesus loves about YOU.

## CHURCH COLLECTIONS

July	25th	£94.40
July	29th	£15.00 (Thursday communion)
August	1st	£106.35
August	8th	£194.70
August	15th	£214.50
August	22nd	£202.00
August	29th	£95.75
September	5th	£178.50
September	12th	£121.00

## FLOWER ROTA

October	1st	Vacant
October	8th	Vacant
October	15th	Sheena Cartmell
October	22nd	Vacant
October	29th	Vacant

## SIDESPERSIONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Assistant	Readers	Coffee
Oct 3rd		N Maudsley		N Cowell Vicar	
Oct 10th		James Cowell		D Rusling Vicar	
Oct 17th		K Thompson		Youth Reader	
Oct 24th		R Woollam		J Eccles Vicar	
Oct 31st		B Mackley		S Cowell Vicar	

### Holy Baptism

August 1st  
August 7th  
August 8th  
August 29th  
September 11th  
September 12th

### Jesus said "Let the children come unto me"

Livie Grace Spencer  
Cassie Paige Spencer  
Mila Jorgie Carr  
Willow Rose Clarkson  
Florence Isabella Reid  
Aurora Evelyn Rose Emmott  
Reggie John Todd

### Funeral

July 12th

### Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

Gordon Robinson, 83 years

## ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER

*The coronavirus situation may change again - apologies for any sudden alterations*

- 1st** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 3rd** **18th Sunday after Trinity (Dedication Sunday)**  
10.00am Holy Communion
- 7th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 8th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 10th** **19th Sunday after Trinity (Safeguarding Sunday)**  
8.30am Holy Communion  
10.00am Holy Communion  
12 noon Baptism  
2.00pm Baptism
- 14th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 15th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 17th** **20th Sunday after Trinity**  
8.30am Holy Communion  
10.00am All-age Service (less formal act of worship)
- 21st** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 22nd** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 24th** **Last Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sunday)**  
8.30am Holy Communion  
10.00am Holy Communion  
12 noon Baptism  
6.30pm Ecumenical service at Alston Lane: Climate Change theme
- 28th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 29th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 31st** **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent (All Saints' Sunday)**  
8.30am Holy Communion  
10.00am Holy Communion  
4.00pm Service of light (a time to remember)

**DEADLINE for the November magazine 15th October .  
Articles to be sent to Mrs Cowell and/or B Mackley**