

## VICAR'S LETTER

### *The view from the study.*

We were just having tea, sitting together as a family, when it was announced on the radio that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had died. This will surely go down in history as one of those *where were you when you heard the news* moments.

Even as you read this some weeks later, the images of huge crowds in London, Edinburgh, Balmoral and so many other places around the United Kingdom may be fresh in your mind. Some images were especially striking, such as traffic parked on the busy A40 in London as drivers stopped alongside the central reservation to glimpse the Queen's coffin being brought back to Buckingham Palace, or people queuing to file past the Queen lying in state. Then there were those large crowds of people equally enthusiastic to greet His Majesty, our new King. People and pageantry joining together: folk of all ages, nationalities and races gathered in response to the momentous piece of history we have just lived through.

Equally, I have been struck by the stream of personal reminiscences from ordinary folk who had encountered the Queen during her long and glorious reign. Have you heard of Rosemary Hughes, a florist from Leicester? I hadn't, but the Queen had. Rosemary used to make nosegays (small posies of fragrant flowers) for the Queen, for which she was granted a royal warrant. Unfortunately, in July Rosie suffered a severe epileptic fit which has landed her in hospital. The Queen came to hear of this and, only a week before she died, sent a personal letter to Rosemary expressing her sadness and wishing her a good recovery, also thanking her for the beautiful nosegays she had supplied over the years.

Rosemary's experience shows that we had a Queen who cared about individuals just as much as she cared about national and international affairs of state. This compassion for a humble florist in Leicester epitomises just why Her late Majesty has been so deeply mourned, even causing many people to feel surprise at their emotional reaction to the news of her death. It speaks also of the Queen's deep faith in Christ, inspired by his example of reaching out to individuals who need him: whenever there was a crowd around Jesus in the Gospel accounts, there would also be an individual who needed his healing, or with whom he interacted to teach us something of eternal value.

As we give thanks for our late Queen, let us pray now for our new King, asking that he likewise will be inspired by the compassion of Christ, to touch those who are broken hearted or downtrodden in this world and bring them hope. Then, if we long for a better world, may we also be inspired to do the same

*Every blessing, Neil.*

## Church Development Tool survey 2022

Would you like to add your voice to the process of discerning our way forward as a parish? We began the process on 2<sup>nd</sup> July at the PCC ‘Vision Day’, but everyone is invited to contribute to developing our understanding of who we are as a church by completing an online survey.

The survey does not ask for your name or contact details and no one at St Michael’s will be able to look at your individual response – we will only be able to see the aggregated results for the church as a whole. Your data will not be shared outside of the Church of England.

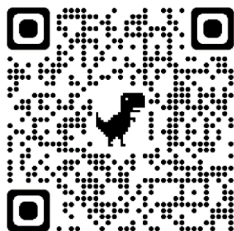
There is no right or wrong answer to any of the questions and not all of the questions might feel relevant to you, so you don’t have to answer them all.

If you would like to take part, please **follow the link or scan the QR code below**.

If anyone would like to take part but has no internet access, please ask Neil and we can provide you with a printed copy. It should only take around 5 minutes to complete the survey.

Please complete the survey before the end of October. Many thanks.

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11616/surveys/church-development-tool/survey/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11616/surveys/church-development-tool/survey/)



# **The Mothers' Union Literacy and Numeracy Project (Harvest Appeal)**



Nearly 6,000 miles away from the UK, Burundi, situated near the great Lakes in East Africa, is one of the poorest countries in the world. With a population of around 12 million, 71% live in poverty on less than £1.50 a day.

Women in particular are very poor; nearly half are illiterate and have no financial education so they can't read, write or understand maths. They are prevented from reaching their potential and fulfilling their dreams.

In total, 92% of people work in agriculture, harvesting crops like sweet potatoes, bananas, cassava and peanuts. There is a good climate but, due to the lack of education, the land isn't being used to its full potential.

## ***The Project's focus***

The Mothers' Union is raising money to fund a two-year project which aims to support 2,500 women by providing adult literacy, savings, business and agricultural skills, thereby giving women the tools to change their situations, to lift themselves and their families out of a cycle of poverty.

Money raised will pay for project training specialist volunteers - often working church leaders who already have the trust of the community - to visit different communities twice weekly across three regions and teach valuable literacy and numeracy skills. This will enable women to progress and understand new concepts such as how to start a business, different agricultural techniques and crop diversification. Once adopted, women will eventually be able to increase their household income.

Through improved education, they will also benefit from a better understanding of hygiene practices and nutrition - benefitting the whole community.

This MU project is the focus of the Bishop's Harvest Appeal, which we are supporting this year. You can donate at the Harvest Festival on 2nd October (and in church the following week) or make a personal donation as follows:

You can donate **online** using a credit card: go to the Diocese of Blackburn website and search for 'Harvest Appeal.'

Or you can simply **scan** the QR code with your smart phone which will take you to the "Give a Little" donation page, where you can also Gift Aid your payment.



You can also donate by **cheque**, payable to '*Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance Limited (Diocesan Harvest Appeal)*' and send to Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance, Diocesan Office, Clayton House, Walker Office Park, Blackburn, BB1 2QE

*Thank you for supporting the Diocesan Harvest Appeal.*

### **Refreshments in Church**

We have now started offering refreshments again after the 10am service. Thank you to all those who are already helping on the rota, but more helpers would make it an easier task for all concerned.

If you would like to assist on the rota, please speak to Penny Thompson: 01772 651850.

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## **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.

## **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.

## **News from FAF**

“Lancashire Night”, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Grimsargh Village Hall, 7.30pm.

This promises to be a “reet good do”, as they say. Tickets are £15.00 and the price includes, traditional Lancashire hotpot, delicious apple pie and fabulous good humoured Lancashire entertainment, including a few surprises! In addition, there will be a bar.

This evening has been postponed several times and we are now, at last, looking forward to enjoying an evening of fun and friendship.

If you would like a ticket, please contact Nellie or any FAF member.

## **Additional Dates for your Diaries**

Cheese and Wine – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas Fair – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Bible Study, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm.

If you would like to read and explore the Bible together, please come along to our first Bible Study Class on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 204 Preston Road, Grimsargh, 7.30pm.

We are hoping to re-start our Bible Study and everyone is very welcome. Hopefully, if enough folk come along, it will continue on a regular basis.

If you would like a little more information, please contact Jayne Woollam, on [jaynewoollam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jaynewoollam@hotmail.co.uk) or tel – 07749 934 208.

## **It's all Greek to me! (cont)**

In the last article I referred to the invasion of Greece by the Persian king Xerxes 480BC. The first of the great tragedians was Aeschylus who fought for Athens at the naval battle of Salamis, and drew on his experiences in his play "The Persians". Greek tragedy on one analysis, centred on 3 main themes, human arrogance, or in the Greek word still used in English today, "Hubris", ruin (Greek "Ate") and Nemesis, another Greek word, roughly translated, punishment by the gods.

And the Persian war gave Aeschylus the perfect vehicle for these themes. The Persian king set out on his expedition with massive forces drawn from his vast empire, and the first obstacle was to cross from Asia into Europe across the Bosphorus, the strait at modern Istanbul, formerly Constantinople. The first attempt at bridging the strait was a disaster because storms swept away the boat bridge with extensive loss of life. This was lighted on by the Greeks as an example of Hubris because the king had sought to defy the gods of nature with his human structure, as they put it, trying to bind the sea. Next of course the Greeks pointed to the battle of Salamis itself and the Persian defeat; modern analysts are apt to describe the large Asian armies such as those defeated in the next century by Alexander, as akin to hordes of milling sheep, ie without proper military training, merely conscripted and forced into military service, often reluctantly. And the outcome at Salamis was total defeat for the Persian ships by a numerically inferior enemy. Spot any modern analogy? But Aeschylus had compassion; he alluded in the play to the numerous dead bodies in the aftermath of the battle which he witnessed washing on the Greek shores, another dreadful image, which we also today have witnessed in the Mediterranean, in modern times, of refugees.

Mark

## **Birthday congratulations**



To Doris Parkinson who reached the age of 90 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August. She is seen here blowing out the candles on a cake presented to her at the Friday coffee morning in Grimsargh Club. Congratulations Doris.

## **Wedding Anniversaries**

Our congratulations go to Anthony and Sally Cowell who celebrated their Silver Wedding on the 26<sup>th</sup> July. Anthony is one of our Church Wardens and Sally assists at the 10am Sunday service on a regular basis.

Also to Linda and Jim Eccleston who celebrated their Golden Wedding on the 31<sup>st</sup> August. Linda and Jim have been attending Grimsargh Church for many years and are regular worshippers at the 10am service.

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

As I write this article we are in a time of mourning for our beloved Queen. I feel it is fitting to share with you the words from the Worldwide President of the Mothers Union, Sheran Harper.

**Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (April 1926 - September 2022)**

**May she rest in peace and rise in glory**

**A tribute about the Queen from the Mothers Union Worldwide President**

We give thanks to God for her being our Patron, for blessing her with special gifts for a life humbly dedicated to public service, her strong faith as she weathered many storms; her commitment and devotion to family life; and her great concern for communities and all people.

Her guidance and support of Mothers' Union over the decades has

enabled us to achieve so much in impacting communities and touching lives. During times of ongoing war and turmoil around the world, she reminded us of the healing power of forgiveness, peace and reconciliation. This inspired us and encouraged us to work for harmony and good relationships among all people in our communities.

Her spirit of acceptance to change and transformation through the years and her ability to take others on the journey of change is testimony to her great strength as a leader and her faith in change that is inevitable. This outlook on life strengthened Mothers' Union members to embrace all opportunities of change and transformation that truly reflect the worldwide nature of our movement.

We will always remember her intelligence and humility in making wise decisions, her charm and sense of humour, and her sincere caring and gentleness. Hers was a life born to serve God and all humanity and her legacy that will live on in so many ways and in the hearts of all Mothers' Union members for generations to come.

On behalf of the Worldwide Board of Trustees, Staff and Members all around the world, we pray for the peaceful resting of Her Majesty's soul with the sure hope of her rising in glory.

### **Other Mothers Union Matters**

- The September meeting on was held in church with a service to mark the beginning of the Mothers Union new year.
- Mothers Union Diaries for 2023 are now available. See Nellie to order one.
- Our next meeting, 16th November, will be our Christmas Meal at the White Bull Come from 7.00 pm. Meal at 7.30pm £16.95. Please see Hazel if you would like to come, Payment on booking. Thank you.

### **And to finish with A Prayer for King Charles**

Eternal Father, whose Son revealed your power made perfect in self-giving love; bless His Majesty, King Charles III, that he may rule with gentle wisdom, lead through generous service, and bear *Cont on page 15*



faithful witness to the grace that sets us free; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **SCHOOL REPORT**

It was lovely welcoming our children and their parents/ carers back into school after the summer break. 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.

Our year 4 children have been swimming every day for the first two weeks of this term. The children have made super progress and most are now able to swim 25m- the expected length all children are expected to swim by the time they leave primary school.

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- it was great fun. Miss Cross, Mrs Wane and Mrs Rutherford were incredibly proud of all our children, not only for their desire to push themselves out of their comfort zones but for their kindness in support of each other. They were and are a real credit to our school.

Reverend Neil came into school to meet with me and Miss Smith to organise our autumn term calendar. We are looking forward to Reverend Neil leading us in Worship, at St Michael's Church, for Harvest and St Michael's Day.

On behalf of our school staff, I wish everyone within our Grimsargh community well.

Mr Stuart Booth

Headteacher



For the children of Michael's, Grimsargh.

Many of us have drawn on our Faith to help us through the recent sad passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. This month, have a think about your own faith, and read about the importance of having faith, no matter how small.

Read Luke 17:5-10. The disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith. Jesus reminds them that by even having faith the size of a tiny mustard seed, they can do amazing things. We can trust that God will do great things with our faith in Him, no matter how big.

Have a think about what faith is to you, and try writing an acrostic poem using the word Faith.

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## CHURCH COLLECTIONS

Sept	1st	£12.00
Sept	4th	£141.25
Sept	8th	£31.00
Sept	11th	£214.00
Sept	15th	£56.00

## FLOWER ROTA

Oct	2nd	Vacant
Oct	9th	Vacant
Oct	16th	Sheena Cartmell
Oct	23rd	Vacant
Oct	30th	Vacant

## SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Readers Assistant	Coffee
Oct	2nd	N Maudsley	N Cowell Vicar	
Oct	9th	K Thompson I	B Mackley Vicar	
Oct	16th	James Cowell	Youth Reader	
Oct	23rd	R Buckley	M Lamberty Vicar	
Oct	30th	D Rae	D Rusling Vicar	

## FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

		Duty	Duty	Welcome & Circulate	
Oct	7th	Maureen	Nellie	Helen	Jean
Oct	14th	Jean	Eileen	Linda	Kate
Oct	21st	Jennifer	Christine	Nellie	Janet
Oct	28th	Helen	Marlene	Eileen	Maureen

### Holy Baptism

July 31st  
Aug 7th

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

Abel Edward Hall  
Cassidy Hope Hames  
George Joshua Darkins

### Holy Matrimony

July 16th

*'God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.'*

Nicholas Andrew Miller and Sarah Elizabeth Baird McDonald

## ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER

- 1st** 9.30am Decorating the church for Harvest
- 2nd** **16th Sunday after Trinity**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Harvest Festival (Morning Worship)  
4.00pm Confirmation class
- 3rd** 9.15am School Harvest service  
10.00am Distribution of Harvest Gifts - all help welcome
- 6th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 7th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club  
7.30pm Lancashire Evening (Village Hall)
- 9th** **17th Sunday after Trinity**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Holy Communion and JIGSAW club  
4.00pm Confirmation class
- 13th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
7.30pm Bible Study, 204 Preston Rd (Jayne Woollam)
- 14th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 16th** **18th Sunday after Trinity**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Family Service
- 19th** 7.30pm MU in school -Wave of Prayer - Literature Stall
- 20th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 21st** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 23rd** **19th Sunday after Trinity**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw club  
(no confirmation class today)
- 27th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 28th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 30th** **Last Sunday after Trinity: All Saints' Sunday**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Holy Communion  
4.00pm Confirmation class

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