

## VICAR'S LETTER

### *The view from the study.*

Looking at our church calendar, you will see that a cheese and wine evening is taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Many of you will have heard me talk about the significance of an earlier cheese and wine evening, which took place on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1982 at the Anglican Chaplaincy at Bangor University. Why do I recall that date so clearly, 40 years on? Simply because this was the occasion that introduced me to a lively and loving student Christian community and drew me into the life of the Church. It led to me being where I am today.

My diary records that I enjoyed the evening and declared my intention to go to a chapel service (which I did two weeks later) but I also asserted that I 'won't get too involved'. How God must have chuckled as I wrote those words!

We often think we know where life is heading, and sometimes our plans or even our dreams do work out. How many of us, though, have also found that life has other ideas in store for us? Maybe you too have had the experience of going to an event that changes the course of your life, or have met someone who ends up leading you in totally new directions?

I could not possibly have predicted the course my life was going to take as I ventured out on that dark October night in 1982. None of us knows what any new day may bring: mostly our days and weeks pass quite uneventfully, but punctuating the course of life are those moments when things change, maybe dramatically, but often quietly and imperceptibly. Often it is only with hindsight that a given moment gains significance in your life story.

One of the Bible verses that sticks in my mind from my early days in the Church is Psalm 31.14-15: '*But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hand*'. I still have a bookmark I bought with that text on. Now the faith that I share with my wife Susan is taking me on a new stage of the journey, as we prepare to leave for pastures new in Lydiate and Halsall, over in West Lancs. I realise that this change of direction affects all of you too, as the parish will enter a period of vacancy and, in due course, you will get used to the face of a new cleric who takes on the role of incumbent at St Michael's Grimsargh.

I pray that as we move towards this time of change early in the new year, we can all confidently declare that our times are in God's hands, and be ready to trust Him for the road ahead. And, if you go to the Cheese and Wine evening, just be careful, as God might want to have a word in your ear as He did with me!

*Every blessing, Neil.*

## **Neil's Announcement.**

*Read in church on 2<sup>nd</sup> October*

I am pleased to announce that the Bishop of Warrington (acting Bishop of Liverpool) has appointed my wife, Rev Dr Susan Salt, Rector of Lydiate & Downholland, St Thomas and Halsall, Saint Cuthbert, in the Deanery of Ormskirk.

Susan will remain on the team at Lancaster Priory until the end of December 2022. As yet, no date has been set for her licensing in Liverpool diocese.

It will therefore be no surprise to hear that, with regret, I also must announce my retirement from the post of half-time Vicar of Grimsargh. Provisionally, my final Sunday in the parish and effective leaving date will be 8<sup>th</sup> January.

There is never a good time to leave a parish, as there is always more to be done and many loose ends to deal with, but I will endeavour to do all I can in the time I have left here to make the transition into a period of vacancy as smooth as possible.

I humbly ask your prayers for Susan, me and the family as we look to a fresh start in the new year, and I will be offering my prayers for all who I leave behind at Grimsargh, especially our churchwardens, PCC and all who serve so faithfully in many different ways at St Michael's.

But I've not gone yet, and together we have much to look forward to in the coming months leading up to Christmas.

Thank you and God bless.

## **JIGSAW Club**

It's been a while, but we have now relaunched the famous Grimsargh St Michael's JIGSAW Club. Many thanks to all the volunteers who have come forward to lead or assist with the sessions and thanks to those who have been helping to get the cabin fit for use again.

But, for those who don't know, what exactly is JIGSAW Club? And why does the vicar keep spelling it with capital letters?!

Well, if you're unfamiliar, think 'Sunday School', but with less of the 'school' about it. The name stands for '*Jesus is great, special and wonderful*', and our twice-monthly sessions are all about exploring what that means. Each session includes a bible story, usually followed by a time of thinking what the story means and some activities designed to help the children explore the message in meaningful and enjoyable ways. Often there are craft activities, but also we might put together a little drama, or play some games relevant to the theme.

JIGSAW Club is about children *enjoying* the opportunity to learn about God

and grow as young Christians. Everyone else in church also enjoys hearing about what the children have been doing when they stand at the front at the end of the service to tell us all about what they have been learning. It's always enlightening for us, and sometimes members of the congregation have been known to say, 'so *that's* what the vicar was talking about!'

JIGSAW Club takes place usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, when it is Communion in Church. Everyone starts together for the first 10 minutes before the children go to the JIGSAW Club, returning after around half an hour in time for the Communion prayer. Parents / carers are asked to join the congregation in church – we are unable to look after unaccompanied children.

New members always welcome. 10am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (though in December there is only one session and it is on the first Sunday of the month... just to confuse everyone!)

### **Thank You!**

Thank you very much to all who helped make Harvest such a special time. The church looked splendid with the harvest flowers, window decorations and display of artwork from school. These things require a lot of planning and preparation, so huge thanks to all. Thank you also for the harvest gifts and thanks to those who helped sort them afterwards and get them distributed.

And then we had the Lancashire Evening – raising over £1200, and giving around 120 people a fabulous evening of eating and entertainment. This was a big undertaking by the FAF team, but they certainly fulfilled their remit as the 'fundraising and fun' group. Thank you to all who helped in any way and thanks to all who were able to be there to help make it such a lively and enjoyable evening.

### **Refreshments in church**

We are offering refreshments 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

### **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.

### “Bible Study Class, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm

We had our first Bible Study meeting in October. If you would like to come along and learn more about the Word together, please come along on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm, 204 Preston Road, Grimsargh. For more information, call Jayne 07749 934 208. A warm welcome to everyone!

## News from FAF

### Quiz Night

We enjoyed a very enjoyable evening and £123 was raised for Church funds.

### The Lancashire Night

Oh what a night!

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening – a real triumph. The hotpot was delicious, Rob Mason, our singer/comedian was fantastic but, moreover, the camaraderie and atmosphere of the packed Village Hall made it a night to remember for many years to come. Furthermore, £1,259.00 was raised for Church funds. Special thanks must go to Nellie for all her hard work and the FAF team who pulled together to ensure that the evening went without a hitch.

### Cheese and Wine Tasting - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm. School Hall.



We are all very much looking forward to the “Cheese and Wine Evening” on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm**. Hazel, a long time Secretary of “Preston Wine Circle”, has asked her friend Mick, former Chairman of “Preston Wine Circle”, to entertain us with his love for and expertise in a range of fine wines, regaling us with details of the quality and provenance of a range of wines. We will enjoy a tippie, accompanied by delicious cheeses and breads. What is not to like? Mick will also provide a non-alcoholic alternative.

The event is being held in Grimsargh St. Michael’s School and tickets are **£12.50**. All money raised will go towards Church funds. If you would like to buy a ticket, please see Hazel or any FAF member asap.

## **Christmas Fair, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1pm – 4pm - Grimsargh St. Michael's School Hall.**

If you have any ideas about stalls for the Christmas Fair, please see any FAF member asap. We need new ideas for games and new stalls; if you would like to run a stall, that would be wonderful, and we would love to hear from you. There will be the usual sign-up list at the back of Church.

Of course, there will be the usual stalls, but this year we are also going to be serving hotdogs and burgers, as well as mince pies, seasonal Mulled Wine, tea and coffee.

### **WANTED.....**

In addition, we desperately need donations for the **raffle, chocolate for the chocolate-bola, bottles for the bottle stall**, mince pies for refreshments, bric-a-brac, **cakes for the cake stall**, and **wrapped gifts** for the Lucky Dip. All donations for the stalls are very welcome! There will be a box at the back of church for your donations. A small bar of chocolate, or a bottle of something, would be very gratefully received.

Furthermore, we need **more helpers to run the stalls**, to decorate the school hall, and to set up and tidy away. We will be setting up in the school hall from 9.30am on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December and all help is very welcome.

On the day, Father Christmas will be in his grotto, and the children from Grimsargh School will be singing a few carols.

Neil will be officially opening the Christmas Fair at 1pm, sadly his last Christmas Fair in Grimsargh as our vicar. Although tinged with sadness because of Neil's departure, we hope that the Christmas Fair will be a lovely start to the festive season. Come and share a mince "Night", Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Grimsargh Village Hall, 7.30pm.

### **Christmas is coming...**

So, what will be happening at St Michael's? Here is a draft programme of special services through Advent and Christmas:

#### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec**

6.00pm            Carols around the crib and Christmas lights switch-on  
(On the Green)

#### **Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Dec**

10.00am        Confirmation Service (within the main Sunday service)  
6.00pm            Ecumenical Service for Advent at Alston Lane

## **Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Dec**

6.00pm Carol Service

## **Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Eve**

4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service

## **Sun 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day**

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Family Communion

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

The second of the Greek tragedians is Sophocles. He lived in Athens in the latter 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, at the high point of Athenian supremacy following the Persian wars, when Athens was secure from outside attack, and at the head of an empire round the Aegean sea, deriving from the alliance of states and islands made to counter Persia, the Delian league. His best known work is Oedipus, the King. The story is of Oedipus, abandoned by his parents as a baby to die of exposure, because of a prophecy that the boy would cause tragedy. However, like Moses, he was rescued and brought up, unbeknown to him, by adoptive parents. In youth he became aware that he was somehow cursed, and so left his home, as he supposed to avoid trouble, and went to Thebes. On the way he met an older man, who was in fact his father; they quarrelled violently on the road, both being of the same hotheaded temperament, and Oedipus killed his father. He went on to Thebes, solved the riddle of the Sphinx, and became king, and married an older woman, unknown to him, his mother. The city came under a curse, again unknown to him at that time, because of his act of parricide and his unnatural marriage. As king he vowed to find the curse's cause, and sent to the oracle at Delphi where he received the usual ambiguous pronouncements, and set about unmasking the culprit, it gradually dawning on him as he learned more of his past, that it was himself. He then, with a violence characteristic of Greek tragedy, mutilated himself by blinding his eyes with the pin of a broach, and went into exile, ending up as a sort of prophet of doom: so as you see, an everyday story of country folk. Whether or not you accept the myth, with Freud, as insightful exposure of the hidden male psyche, or as psycho-babble tosh, is for you to say.

If you want to read the similar plot in English, read Thomas Hardy's Mayor of Caster bridge.

Mark

# MOTHERS' UNION

## October Meeting

This was an opportunity to take part in the Worldwide Wave of Prayer, to support each other and members across the world, remembering particularly members in :-

Bhopal, India  
Bourne Valley, Guinea, West Africa  
High Veld, Nambale, Kenya  
Niger Delta in Nigeria  
and  
Blackburn !

Next meeting is the Christmas Meal—November 16th at the White Bull 7.00pm

Reflection All Saints Sunday 30th October.

As we celebrate and remember those who we have loved and no longer see on All Saints Sunday, I would like to mention Frances (a faithful member of the Mothers Union at St. Michael's) who sadly passed away this month. I have happy memories of her smile and laugh, (as I am sure everyone will have) as she tried out my bike when I called on her. She was always ready for a laugh and a joke. She often teased my husband, Michael, with 'Where is she now?' and equally would question me with 'Where is he ?' I'm sure they will be joking and laughing together now!



Cutting the cake  
at the MU Party



Enjoying the sunshine with her friend Margaret  
in her back garden

I finish with a reminder that the Holy Spirit is also called the Comforter, there, 'as one who comes alongside' in our sorrows. So, as we remember

those we have loved and see no longer. We also pray that the Holy Spirit will draw near to those who struggling with disappointments, confusion and sorrow. Show us how we can offer some support and encouragement today. Amen

## **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.

Rev Neil led 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 Athletics 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 'Making Mental Health and Wellbeing a Global Priority for all'. In our worship, we began by discussing what mental health is and compared it to our physical health. We then thought about some of the small feelings that come and go each day but that, sometimes, we can experience big feelings that go on for a long time and stop us from doing what we want in life. The children shared ideas about who they could talk to about these 'big feelings'.

We have also recently appointed our new head boy and girl and their deputies. We were delighted to announce Scarlett B as our head girl and Violet E as our deputy head girl; Jenson P as our head boy and Noah L and Noah E as our deputy head boys. 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 a two separate tours 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 'greener' and 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- Challenge 2022- is well under way. Taking place throughout October (3rd-31st), this is a chance for our pupils and their families to raise £20.22 for school through a sponsored activity. One of our year 6 pupils, Heidi B, has already raised a whopping £162.50 by baking and selling cakes.

Although we are fortunate to have the path that runs under the bridge and along the railway line, it remains vital that we teach our children about road safety. Staff in reception and year 1 recently received 'Right Start' training as we look to re-engage, post Covid-19, with the Right Start foundation and KS1 programmes.

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.

Mr Stuart Booth

Headteacher



For the children of Michael's, Grimsargh.

**J**esus

**I**s

**G**reat

**S**pecial

**A**nd

**W**onderful

For children of Primary School age.

For more information

Or to register

Please contact the Vicar

[Vicar.grimsargh@gmail.com](mailto:Vicar.grimsargh@gmail.com)

## CHURCH COLLECTIONS

Sept	18th	£240.50	Commemoration for the Queen
Sept	18th	£80.55	
Sept	22nd	£247.00	
Sept	25th	£136.50	
Oct	2nd	£288.60	
Oct	6th	£37.00	
Oct	9th	£595.75	
Oct	13th	£61.00	
Oct	16th	£108.50	
Oct	20th	£52.00	

## FLOWER ROTA

Nov	6th	Vacant
Nov	13th	N Cowell
Nov	20th	Vacant
Nov	27th	Vacant

## SIDESPERSONS, READERS AND COFFEE ROTAS

	8.30am	10.00am	Communion Readers Assistant	Coffee
Nov 6th		B Mackley		J Lander S Cowell
Nov 13th		R Woollam		L Woods Vicar
Nov 20th		R Buckley		Youth Reader
Nov 27th		N Maudsley		B Holt Vicar

## FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

	Duty	Duty	Welcome & Circulate	
Nov 4th	Nellie	Kate	Christine	Jennifer
Nov 11th	Eileen	Maureen	Janet	Jean
Nov 18th	Jennifer	Jean	Linda	Marlene
Nov 25th	Christine	Helen	Nellie	Janet

### Holy Baptism

Sept 18th

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

Margot Olive Fairey

### Holy Matrimony

Sept 23rd

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

Jose Luis Goncalves Rodrigues and Jade Marie Burns

## ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

- 3rd** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 4th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 6th** **3rd Sunday before Advent**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Morning Worship  
4.00pm Confirmation class
- 10th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
7.30pm Bible Study, 204 Preston Rd (Jayne Woollam)
- 11th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 13th** **2nd Sunday before Advent REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Holy Communion (with Act of Remembrance) and JIGSAW club  
11.45am Act of Remembrance at the war memorial
- 14th** 7.30pm PCC meeting in school
- 16th** 7.30pm MU Christmas Meal at the White Bull
- 17th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 18th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club  
7.30pm Cheese and Wine evening (School hall)
- 20th** **Christ the King (Sunday next before Advent)**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Family Service  
4.00pm Confirmation class
- 24th** 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 25th** 9:30 - 11.30am Coffee Morning in Grimsargh Club
- 27th** **Advent Sunday**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Holy Communion and Jigsaw club  
4.00pm Confirmation class)

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