

A History of  
KIRK CHRIST  
RUSHEN  
Isle of Man

PRICE - SIXPENCE

**Leslie T. Peake**

**RADIO  
TELEVISION**

**Recorders  
Record Players  
Electrical Apparatus**

Our scientific knowledge  
and technical skill always  
available

**STRAND ROAD  
Port Erin Phone 2173**

**CLAGUE'S HYDRO**

— (PORT ERIN) LTD. —



This delightful hotel is situated on the Promenade, and magnificent views are obtained from the lounge, drawing rooms, etc., of the bay and headlands.

The ballroom is the finest in the South of the Island, and dances are held four nights weekly.

The hotel is fully licensed for residents and a buffet provides refreshments to midnight.

Spacious Dining Room capable of accommodating 200.

Hot and cold running water in all bedrooms. Electric Passenger Lift to all floors.

Three minutes from Railway Station.

TARIFF ON APPLICATION

J. C. CLAGUE, Manager.

Telephone	-	-	2232 PORT ERIN
Visitors	-	-	3176 PORT ERIN

Telephone: Port Erin 3263

# JOHN C. DUKE

Fruiterer, Greengrocer and Florist



1 STATION ROAD

PORT ERIN, I.O.M.



**NOTED for Home Grown Vegetables**

# KIRK CHRIST RUSHEN ISLE OF MAN

by

JOHN DUFFIELD, M.A., T.C.D., Hon. C.F.

(Vicar of Onchan)

*Sometime Vicar of Rushen*

(Third Edition)

ILLUSTRATED

*All the proceeds arising from the sale of this book go  
to the funds of the Rushen Parochial Church Council*

# The Point Hotel

*Opened 1937*

*Fully Licensed*

PORT ST. MARY

The Point Hotel is situated in an ideal position on the margin of the sea at The Point, near the Breakwater, Port St. Mary. It stands in its own grounds and faces south. Every modern convenience.

*For Terms, apply* — Miss SUMMERS CHRISTIAN  
*Phone:* 3238      *Grams:* Point Hotel, Port St. Mary

*Printed by*

QUINE & CUBBON : PRINTERS : PORT ERIN

# The Misses Taylor

ALLANDALE CAFE

HIGH - CLASS CONFECTIONERY

Morning Coffee :: Cream Ices

High-Class Chocolate

STATION ROAD :: PORT ERIN

'Phone 2258

## GEORGE COSTAIN Ltd.

*Purveyors of*

**Finest Quality Manx Beef and Lamb**



SAUSAGE - POULTRY - RABBITS



*Always pleased to MEET you—*

*Always MEAT to please you, at*

**PROMENADE BUILDINGS, Port Erin**



'Phone 2265

Deliveries throughout the District

## FOREWORD TO THE FIRST EDITION

THE following notes do not profess to give a complete and detailed account of the Parish of Rushen, but I hope that visitors to the Isle of Man will get some idea of our "ancientness," and parishioners will learn something of the splendour of their heritage. I am indebted for much of the information in these pages to a paper written by the late Canon Leece, Vicar of Rushen 1897 to 1927. The Parish Vestry Books and Registers provided much interesting matter, indeed gave an embarrassment of choice, so that it became a question of what to leave out rather than of what to put in. The files of the "Isle of Man Weekly Times" were consulted for facts relating to the District Churches.

J.D.

## FOREWORD TO THE THIRD EDITION

WE are deeply indebted to the Rev. John Duffield, M.A., now Vicar of Onchan, for permission to republish the text of this History, which he wrote in 1935, and for some minor amendments and improvements which he has made for this Edition.

G. G. GRESSWELL,

*Vicar.*

## THE PARISH OF KIRK CHRIST RUSHEN

**M**OST visitors to the Isle of Man pay a visit to the historic spot—Tynwald Hill—where the age-long ceremony of the Proclamation of the Laws takes place on July 5th each year. Preconceived ideas are a little bit upset when the visitor discovers that Tynwald Hill is in reality only an artificial mound, and as a “hill” not at all impressive. But fresh interest is aroused when he is told that this mound consists of soil brought from every one of the seventeen “ancient” parishes of the Island. What a contrast this “Holiday Island” of ours presents to the intelligent visitor! If he is fortunate enough to arrive on a fine sunny day, he sees the magnificent sweep of Douglas Bay—a noble promenade with its splendid hotels and boarding-houses, with the promise of everything that human ingenuity has contrived for his entertainment and amusement. And he sees behind this up-to-date, modern town the eternal hills, bathed in glorious sunshine—a foretaste of the beauty the Island holds in store for those with eye and soul.

You are not long in our Island before you discover that we cater for your amusement in a completely modern way, and give you the very best in accommodation and food, and can show you scenery amazing in variety and loveliness; but you also find that the word “ancient” has a significance for us. We are proud of our history. Those great mediaeval castles at Castletown and Peel speak of former grandeurs. It is customary to speak of the assembly at Westminster as “The Mother of Parliaments,” but that Manx gathering referred to in the opening paragraph is older than Westminster. For over a thousand years the free people of the Island have met together for the public proclamation and ratification of their laws. Tynwald Hill, with its soil of the ancient parishes, is a symbol of the freedom and the antiquity of this island Kingdom. The purpose of this little book is to tell you something about one of these “ancient” parishes.

### THE PARISH CHURCH

The Parish Church, familiar to us all as Kirk Christ Rushen, is actually dedicated to the Holy Trinity. A tablet above the main door reads:

“Dedicated to the Holy Trinity.  
Rushen Church, 1775.”

This double dedication we share with one other church in the Island, Kirk Christ Lezayre, near Ramsey, and with such

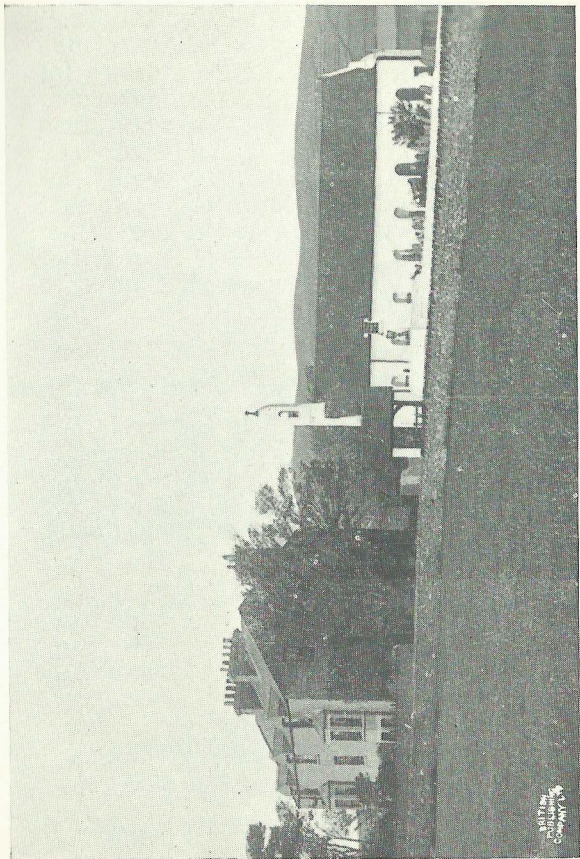


Photo by Mr. V. L. Snales

Copyright  
*Parish Church and Vicarage*

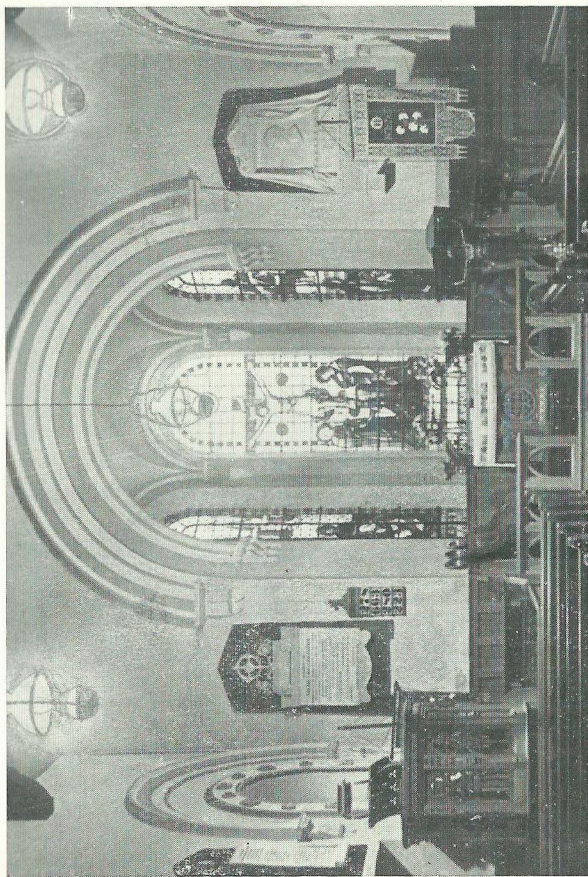


Photo by Alan Bruce

*The Interior of Rushen Parish Church*

Copyright

famous churches as Canterbury Cathedral and Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. How old the present church is, nobody knows. The tablet mentioned above was placed on the church in 1775, when a new roof was put on, and extensive rebuilding took place. We may mention here that the 1775 roof was replaced in 1935, at a cost of £1,100. It is of interest to note that practically every one of the men engaged upon the re-roofing in 1935 had been baptised in the church, and they took a great pride in the work they were doing. One of them confided to the writer that he was sure the new roof would last much longer than the one they had taken down !

The name "Rushen" is a corruption of "Russien," who was a disciple of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland. But legend would have him the Apostle of Man also. For the story goes that when on his missionary voyage to Ireland, the Saint, with a company of followers, was compelled by stress of weather to take shelter on the Island, landing on St. Patrick's Isle, the site of Peel Castle. He stayed here three years, and when he resumed his voyage to Ireland, appointed as first Bishop of the Isle of Man, Germanicus. The ruined cathedral on St. Patrick's Isle bears his name, and the parish in that area is Kirk German. Like other districts in the Island, what is now the Parish of Rushen consisted in Celtic times of seventeen tracts of land, each with its own chieftain and tribe, and it is extremely likely that with the coming of Christianity each of these, following the Celtic habit, had its own little church. The sites of many of these are still known, and are marked on the Ordnance map. In the Manorial Rent Book (1511) the Rushen treens (as these districts were known) appear under names which still survive—for example, Fyshgarth (Fistard), Glenast (Glenchass), Corvalley, Cregneash, Kentragh, Saureby (Surby), etc. The Norsemen over-ran the Island in the ninth century, and their rule lasted roughly from 850 to 1260 A.D. Under the Norwegian King of Man, Olaf I, Rushen Abbey was founded, in the year 1134. One of the signatories to the Charter was the Norse owner of the Treen of Fistard, and he gave to the new Abbey a tract of land in Port St. Mary, which is still called Abbeyland. In those days a little church stood above the shore of Chapel Bay, St. Mary's Chapel, and some years ago workmen working on road-making unearthed graves in what must have been the Churchyard of that St. Mary's Church. Another donor of land to the Abbey was Snetol, who owned the Treen of Edremony, which included the site of the present Parish Church (a house and plot of land in the Four Roads district still has the name Edremony).

When the Diocese of Sodor and Man celebrated the fifteenth centenary of the Manx Church in 1947, one of the visiting preachers was the Bishop of Nideros, in Norway, in memory of the ancient link.

At some time within fifty or sixty years of the founding of

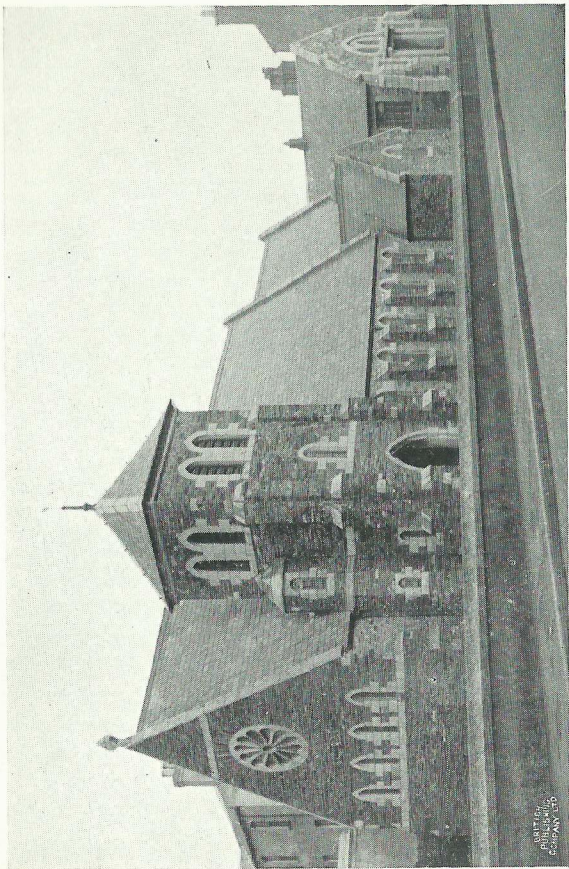


Photo by Mr. J. Ronald Bruce

Copyright  
*St. Catherine's Church, Port Erin*

Rushen Abbey the Island was divided into parishes, and the Parish of "Holy Trinity in Rushen" came into existence.

In the Chronicle of Man, which was kept by the monks of Rushen Abbey, and is now in the British Museum, it is recorded under the date of June 3rd, 1249, that "Reginald "Iind was slain by Ivar the Knight and his men in a certain "meadow near the Church of Holy Trinity in Rushen, to the "southern side of the said church." In another document the church is described as "Holy Trinity between the meadows," which is the meaning of the word "Edremony."

In A.D. 1266 the Norse power was broken by Alexander of Scotland, and the Island became a bone of contention between Scots and English, and the names of Robert Bruce and the Murrays, with English names, the Salisburys and Percys figure in the history of the Island for a hundred and fifty years, until in A.D. 1406, John Stanley, founder of the Derby family, became King of Man. When the Monasteries were dissolved by Henry VIII, the properties of Rushen Abbey passed under the control of lay hands, and the patronage of Kirk Christ, Rushen, went to the Earl of Derby, Lord of the Isle. Early in the eighteenth century the Lordship of Man passed into the hands of the Duke of Athol, whose family eventually sold their interests to the British Government, and in consequence Rushen became a Crown living. In the days when the Abbey owned the parish, the Vicar was paid £6 a year as his stipend, and this payment continued after the dissolution. In the year 1647, John Keig, Vicar of Rushen, petitioned the Earl of Derby for a "rise," and the stipend was increased to £8 Manx, the equivalent of £6 17s. 2d. British. The Vicar of Rushen still receives at Easter, from the Receiver of Crown Lands, a cheque for £6 17s. 2d., his "Crown Stipend." Fortunately for the Vicar and his family, that is not the sole source of income of the benefice.

So under Celtic chieftain and Danish Jarl, Norwegian, Scottish, and English "Kings" the church on the hillock between the meadows has ministered to the people of Rushen, and in Latin, Manx, and English, the worship of God has been maintained throughout the centuries. To-day the little white-washed church has the affectionate regard of parishioners, Churchman and Nonconformist alike, and we are glad to know that year by year those who come to spend their holidays amongst us rejoice to share our ancient heritage.

#### THE DISTRICT CHURCHES

##### ST. CATHERINE'S, PORT ERIN

In the Parish Church is a memorial window, with the inscription, "William Milner, a Lover of Fishermen." For many years Mr. Milner, head of a great English industrial concern, made his second home in Port Erin, for which he had a very



Photo by Mrs. J. Ronald Bruce

Copyright

*St. Mary's Church, Port St. Mary*

deep affection, and provided in his will for the building of a church in Port Erin, in memory of his wife. There had been a Christian church in that district in Celtic times, dedicated to St. Catherine (Keeill Catreeny), probably near the site of St. Catherine's Well. The well was covered in many years ago, but its site is marked by a stone, which can be seen near St. Catherine's Terrace, on Shore Road. It was Mr. Milner's desire that the new church should perpetuate the ancient name, and so, in the year 1880, St. Catherine's Church was consecrated by Bishop Rowley Hill.

Fourteen years later it was found necessary to enlarge the church, owing to the increasing demand for accommodation in the holiday season, and in August, 1894, an extension, so cleverly carried out that it is impossible to detect the junction of new and old, was dedicated by Bishop Norman Straton. St. Catherine's is well-furnished and equipped—much of its furniture being individual gifts from members of the congregation. Of late years it has owed much to the self-sacrificing work of the Ladies' Committee, which has raised large sums of money for improvements in Church and Hall.

ST. MARY'S, PORT ST. MARY.

The name Chapel Bay, in Port St. Mary, comes down to us from the days when, somewhere in the vicinity of the Public Hall, there stood the ancient Chapel of St. Mary. It was inevitable that any church built in Port St. Mary should revive the old title, so in 1884, when Bishop Rowley Hill consecrated

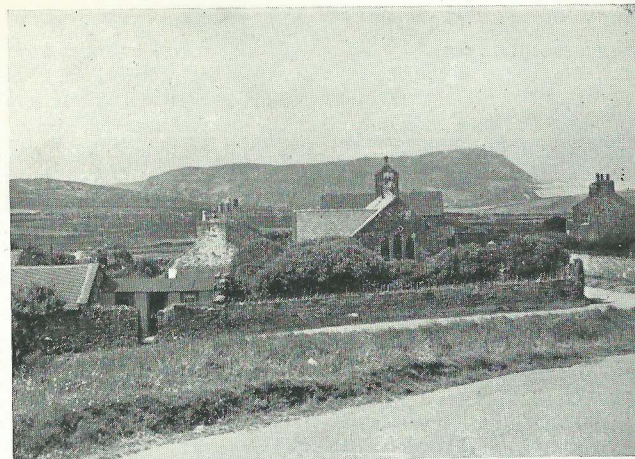


Photo by Mr. V. L. Swales

Copyright

*Cregneish Church*

the handsome church which stands in the centre of the Port, it was under the name of St. Mary's Church that the new building began its sacred function.

The petition for consecration sets forth the reason for building St. Mary's, "Whereas the Parochial Church of Rushen is situate at some distance for a considerable number of the inhabitants of the populous village of Port St. Mary and its vicinity; and it has been found very inconvenient for them, especially in the winter season, to repair to the Parish Church for the comfortable purpose of divine worship, as well as for their children and servants to be instructed in the principles of our most holy religion . . ."

St. Mary's was built by public subscription, the site being given by Mrs. Emily Maria Gawne of Kentraugh, a generous benefactor of the Parish of Rushen. In the report of the opening of the church we learn that after the Consecration, "The Lord Bishop, the Clergy, the Registrar, and the principal persons who were present partook of luncheon at Kentraugh, where Mrs. Gawne had everything ready, and had every delicacy that the season could supply for the company, consisting of forty invited guests."

Like St. Catherine's, St. Mary's has had many generous friends and supporters, and an enthusiastic Ladies' Committee.



## ST. PETER'S, CREGNEISH

Most visitors find their way up to the charming village of Cregneish, with its little church looking as if it must have been the centre of the life of the village for generations. Yet it is only sixty years since St. Peter's was built. A hundred years ago Parson Corrin, a well-loved Vicar of Rushen, started services in a farm-house, and these were carried on until the people felt that they would like to have a church of their own. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs. E. M. Gawne of Ken-traugh, and in December, 1878, the little church was dedicated by the Bishop. The site was given by Mrs. Gawne, and the building cost £150—which seems an absurdly small amount until we realise that to the building, "the people of Cregneish gave their time and labour." Perhaps in this last sentence we find an explanation of the fact that St. Peter's is the best-attended church, weekday and Sunday alike, in the whole parish.

### THE PARISH REGISTERS

The Registers in our possession go back to the year 1708, and although the vast majority of the entries are the bare chronicle of Baptism, Marriage, and Burial, a patient search reveals many curious entries and occasional quaint comments on the events recorded.

The volume before me commences with the words "Christnings Anno 1712, 1713," but on the second page comes an entry: "Robert, son of Hen. Christian and Ann Gawne was baptd Oct. 30th, 1709. N.B. This name is not found in the "old register, but it is asserted by certain credible witnesses "that he was baptd on the same day that Hen. Harrison of "Ballachurry was buried, and that appears by the old register "to be as above mentioned. This is inserted by Nich. Chris-tian, Curate." Then follows a somewhat unusual entry, in a different hand.

#### A REMEDY FOR STAGNATION OF THE BLOOD.

Infuse an ounce of Salt-peter into a quart of spring water, and when dissolved, take half-a-pint thereof at going to bed and half-a-pint in the morning fasting for two days. Let the water be made lukewarm, and repeat the same at some intervals as occasion may require.

Perhaps the Vicar hadn't been feeling too well, and a sympathetic parishioner had called with a suggestion for treatment! They still do it—but it is not now customary to jot down the

kindly thought in the permanent history of the parish.

The writing in these early pages is quite good, and stands out as clearly as if it had been done two years ago instead of over two hundred. Is the secret contained in the entry which follows the "Remedy"?

#### TO MAKE THE BEST BLACK INK.

Bruise a pound of Galls, boil them in about five quarts of beer, then add a quarter of a pound of Roman vitriol and coppers mix'd, and warm the ink again, adding a little rock allum; when it is cold strain it and add twelve ounces of gum-arabic; stir it often and keep it for use.

Was it thought wasteful to use so much beer at one fell swoop for ink-making? Immediately after the above come the words, "The fourth part," and the ink-recipe is repeated with appropriate reductions, including, "a quart and a half-pint of beer" instead of "five quarts." We get back to normal on page three of the register, which is headed "Christnings Ano 1713."

The last entry on the page is dated March 14th, followed by the words, "Here endeth the year 1713." The next page begins with the record of a "Christning" on March 25th, and is headed "1714." And here we have a link with the History of England. From 1155 to 1752 the legal year began on March 25th. And so our register ends its year in March, until we find the Vicar making a note at the end of December, 1751, "Here "ends 1751. N.B. By Act of Parliament this year made and "enacted, it is appointed and provided that for the future the "Year of our Lord shall begin the first day of January which "till now begun the 25th of March following, and the new stile "to commence Sept. 3rd wh, is to be called Sept. 14th."

Parishioners of Rushen would be interested to see the names in these early Baptismal entries as those with which they are familiar to-day—Watterson, Qualtrough, Kermodé, Corrin, Collister, Maddrell, Crebbin, Keggins, Lowey, Cregeen, Carine—they are all there, with the same Christian names as are current now. One Christian name which seems to have been very popular was "Jony," quite a number of girls receiving this name in 1715 and 1716. In the matter of names, a strange happening is recorded in January, 1732. "Catherin, son of "Philip and Jony Clucas, had private Baptism on January "10th, was so named through the mistake of ye midwife, and "afterwards was pronounced William by the Godfather at "receiving him into the Congregation, Janry 14th."

For long years before the main industry of the Isle of Man was "Holidays," the people of Rushen lived by farming and fishing. In the Parish of Rushen, bounded on three sides by the sea, it is natural to find in the old registers many refer-

ences to the bitter cost of the living earned from "the fishing." Time and again there is the melancholy record of a disaster to one of our little ships. Sometimes the entry had an almost dramatic or lyrical touch. Look at this note, dated July 19th, 1763.

"Wm. Watterson of Ballafessin, Robt Christian, tenant of Ballagawn, John Waterson of Saureby, Patk. Crebbin and Wm. Kneen, all of this parish, and John Kneal of Ballasally, being all one boat's crew—went to the Herring-fishing along with the rest of the fleet. But the evening appearing dark and lowring, and heavy rain continuing, the most part of the fleet returned to harbour before night, the wind being then about S.E. and pretty calm—about ten o'clock at night the wind clapt up suddenly to about North, and blew so tempestuously, that the boats that stayed at sea till then were hard set to save their lives; but the said persons were never more heard of, being supposed to have perished near the Carrick or Chickens of the Calf." An entry in August tells us "Robt. Christian, above-mentioned, being found floating in Portern Bay Aug. 7th, was buried."

In November, 1789, there was an accident in Port Erin Bay. But let Parson John Clague, the then Vicar, tell the story himself: "James Cottier, son of Mr. Thos. Cottier, the Rowany, being a shopkeeper in Port-iron, was shooting a long line in Port-iron Bay three weeks ago last Tuesday along with two young men in a punt, and it being a blowing day, upon their return in the surf near the shore, they were all three washed out of the punt, and Cottier being a good swimmer carried on his back one of the young men to a buoy, and afterwards endeavoured to save himself. In the meantime a boat which was at sea came to their assistance, but unluckily one of their men fell overboard, and whilst they were busily recovering this man, Cottier was drowned, a Caution this to all not to be too venturesome at sea . . ."

The Vicar in earlier times was able to allow himself a certain freedom of comment, as the following entries suggest. In 1799 there is recorded the burial of ——— (we omit the name). "by drinking too freely of a Cask of spirits which was found at Bunrour died in about 32 hours after, and was buried this the 12 day of March." And a year or two later there is this note in the register: "——— buried. This man with two other, ——— and ——— of Ringwillen, were drowned near Bunrour, on Saturday night 17th inst—having left Port St. Mary about one or two o'clock the same night, after having brought an Irish vessel safe into the harbour—the night was stormy, and it is feared they were not sober, having risked too much in putting to sea again in a small open boat . . ." One wonders if there had been too much of the traditional Irish hospitality! With one more quotation we must leave this subject. "Wm., son of ———,

"who on Sunday evening with other boys in attempting to rob seawalls nests fell down a steep place and was drowned . . ." It is to be hoped that at the funeral the Vicar didn't feel moved to improve the occasion. But it must have been tempting.

## CHURCHWARDENS

Churchpeople who are strangers to the Isle of Man may be interested to learn that we have four churchwardens, as have all the ancient parishes. The Vestry meeting at which they are elected is always held on Easter Monday at 11 o'clock "in the forenoon." The wardens then appointed do not take office until they have been admitted at a ceremony very different from that which will be familiar to any English Churchwarden. Just about Easter the Vicar of this parish receives a notice, signed by the Coroner of Rushen Sheading that he is to attend a "Chapter Court" to be "holden in the Court House, Castletown." On the appointed day the Vicar and his wardens go to Castle Rushen. There in the Court House, with a Police-Officer in attendance, they find the Vicar-General of the Diocese in wig and gown seated on the bench. The Vicar hands in certain Church accounts and a list of the Wardens. The latter are called by name into the Court, and are solemnly sworn in by the Vicar-General. They undertake to perform faithfully the office of churchwarden, and "to present such persons as should be presented." One of the documents the Vicar hands in certifies that there are "no presentments." But once upon a time things were very different. It was the duty of the Wardens to bring before the Vicar-General ("present") persons charged with various offences. It is on record, for example, that in the year 1684 the Vicar himself was presented, "We present the Minister because his wife sells bear some tymes on necessity." (That was some years before the ink-making recipe before-mentioned got into the register). And in 1670, "We present John Qualtrough for selling sickles at the Crosse near the Church upon Sunday."

We are told that the staff carried by a Churchwarden in England was necessary for the fulfilment of his duty of turning dogs out of church during divine service; but there appears to have been another official who performed this task in the Isle of Man. At one Chapter Court in the seventeenth century it is recorded that "we present the Sumner for not keeping out the doggs or hanging such doggs as frequent the church on Sunday." This was not in Rushen, but of course there was a Sumner. From time to time he is mentioned in Church Accounts as receiving payment for his services. The last mention occurs in the accounts presented to the Annual Vestry Meeting in 1904, when he was paid ten shillings. Although there is no mention of stray dogs, it is on record that in 1869, the Wardens of Rushen went to the Chapter Court without

having their accounts properly passed by the Easter Vestry. The Vicar-General issued an order that a special Vestry Meeting be held for this purpose, and that afterwards the Vicar and Wardens should attend an adjourned Chapter Court, and that "the Sumner of Rushen is hereby authorized to summon the "Wardens elect of the said parish to attend such adjourned "Chapter Court." Is there any significance in the fact that in the following year's accounts there is no mention of a payment by the Wardens to the Sumner?

#### THE PARISH CLERK

It is no special prerogative of an ancient Manx Parish to have a Parish Clerk. He has been an important feature of the life of Church and Parish in these Islands from the days of St. Augustine. He held an important and carefully defined place in the public worship of the Church. Until the use of instrumental music became general for church services, it was always the Parish Clerk who announced the verses of psalm and hymn and "raised the tune." And until quite recent years we still relied at Rushen Parish Church on the Clerk to start the singing for us. Up to 1947 Mr. Evan Qualtrough carried out the duties of Clerk. He was appointed in 1901, in succession to his father, Richard Qualtrough, who became Parish Clerk in 1864. Richard received his appointment at a Parish meeting at which there were two candidates. The minutes tell us that the successful candidate received two hundred votes, against his rival's four. Apart from qualifications (the applicants were tested in singing and reading) it is not surprising that the meeting plumped for Richard Qualtrough. Members of this family had held the office, with one short break, for a hundred and fifty years. The Burial Register records the funeral of Evan Qualtrough, Parish Clerk, in 1799.

The Clerk's salary is now paid in the ordinary way from one of the Church accounts, but in one of the oldest Manx manuscripts, "The book of the Spiritual Laws and Customs," it is laid down that "The Clerk's Due his standing wages is "a Groate out of every Plow, if the Plowers plow but three "furrows within the yeare; and those that have no plowes and "keep Smoak, payeth 1d. annually." And so the Parish Clerk of Rushen was paid by Plough Groat and Smoke Penny for many a long year. As lately as 1907, the item "Clerk, in lieu of Plough Groat, £1-0-0," appears in the accounts presented at the Vestry Meeting.

As in most parishes, the Clerk has his part in Baptism, Marriage, and Burial, but it was at a funeral, up to the retirement of Mr. Evan Qualtrough, that the Clerk really came into his own in Rushen. On the day of the funeral he would go to the house. The coffin was placed on two chairs outside the door, and with friends and neighbours gathered round, the

Clerk would "put out" (as we say here) a hymn. Verse by verse he declaimed the words. And for all his seventy years (his age when the writer last heard him do this office) he led the singing with voice strong and true. The men would then walk in a kind of dense pack round the hearse (does this date from the days when there were no hearses, and the body was carried on the parish bier over a rough track, with relays of men always ready to take their turn at the carrying?). When the procession arrived within a couple of hundred yards of the churchyard, the Clerk would put out the Burial Psalm, a metrical version of the 90th Psalm.

"Thou turnest man, O Lord, to dust  
Of which he first was made.  
And when Thou speak'st the word 'Return'  
'Tis instantly obeyed.  
But howsoever fresh and fair  
Its morning beauty shows,  
'Tis all cut down and withered quite  
Before the evening close."

This was sung a line at a time, the Clerk first announcing the words, and then starting the singing in a haunting minor chant. The men would join in, adding their own rough harmonies. There was something tremendously impressive in the rise and fall of this ancient dirge, as the slow-moving singers approached the lych-gate. Thus for many generations had the men of Rushen made their farewell to friends and neighbours, in the shadow of their mother church.

\* \* \* \*

When the writer was bringing to a close the first edition of this account of the Parish of Rushen, he was sitting in his study one lovely morning in May. From his window he looked out on a field bright with corn "springing fresh and green." The sun was shining on the Cronk above Port St. Mary, and lighting up more vividly the deep blue of the sea. A very modern tractor rumbled past the Vicarage from the neighbouring farm (how old is its name, "Ballakillee"—the farm by the church?). An aeroplane roared overhead. Then the church bell began to toll, as for centuries it had done, to remind parishioners of the shortness of human life. Someone had passed on, and in three days time a little procession would go through the lych-gate, and the familiar words, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," would once again send out their message of comfort and hope. And the little whitewashed church would still keep guard.

VICARS OF RUSHEN SINCE 1574

1. James Smyth . . . . .	1574	
2. Alexander Stevenson . . . . .	1582	- 21
3. William Watterson . . . . .	1603	
4. John Corkill . . . . .	1606	- 32
5. John Keig . . . . .	1638	- 32
6. John Thompson . . . . .	1660	- 29
7. Richard Thompson . . . . .	1689	x
8. John Parr . . . . .	1691	
9. Matthew Curghey . . . . .	1703	- 10
10. Thomas Christian . . . . .	1713	- 16
11. John Quaile . . . . .	1729	-
12. Nicholas Christian . . . . .	1734	- 44
13. John Clague . . . . .	1782	- 24
14. Joseph Qualtrough . . . . .	1816	
15. William Corrin . . . . .	1824	- 35
16. Hugh Stowell Gill . . . . .	1859	- 13
17. Edward Kissack . . . . .	1872	
18. Arthur Allwork . . . . .	1879	
19. Frederick Tracy . . . . .	1881	
20. Charles Dawes . . . . .	1885	
21. Blundell Browne . . . . .	1887	
22. Thomas R. Kneale . . . . .	1893	
23. Charles H. Leece . . . . .	1897	- 30
24. Albert Ridings . . . . .	1927	
25. John Duffield . . . . .	1932	
26. William Benjamin Farrer . . . . .	1939	
27. George Gilbert Gresswell . . . . .	1948	

Telegrams :  
"Towers, Port Erin"

Telephone :  
Port Erin 2287

## "THE TOWERS" PORT ERIN : ISLE OF MAN



Close by TENNIS BATHING BOATING  
Moderate Tariff. Electric light throughout.  
Hot and cold water in all bedrooms. Accommodation for 150 guests. Ballroom.

Booklet on application

## Bay View Private Hotel PORT ERIN



Centre of Promenade, overlooking shore, Bay and Headlands. Comfortable Dining, Lounge and Smoke Rooms. Close to Golf Links, Tennis, and Swimming Pool. Excellent Cuisine. Tariff on application.



Proprietor - - - Mrs. J. ALLEN

Telephone, Telegrams : Port Erin 3116

## BELLE VUE HOTEL

PORT ERIN

FULLY LICENSED

Officially appointed "A.A." and "R.A.C." Hotel. H. & R. Association. Central position for sun and sea bathing. Golf and tennis within easy approach. Hot and cold water throughout. Electric lift. Dances held nightly in spacious ballroom. Porter meets trains. Four lock-up garages on premises.

Apply for Brochure and Tariff to Manageress.

THE

## Falcon's Nest Hotel

PORT ERIN

Officially appointed "A.A." and "R.A.C." Hotel. H. & R. Association. Excellent Cuisine. Boating, fishing, and bathing from hotel. Overlooking shore and bay. Five minutes' walk from Golf Links. One minute from station. Porter meets trains. Twelve lock-up garages on premises.

Write to Manageress for Brochure and Terms.

Telegrams, Telephone : Port Erin 2240

Telephone : Port St. Mary 3330

## "CONCORD"

PRIVATE HOTEL

PORT ST. MARY



Adjacent Promenade. Glorious Position. Facing Sea. All Bedrooms have Hot and Cold, and Spring Interiors.

Noted for Excellent and Generous Table.

Proprietress : Mrs. L. ALWAYS

## Golf Links Private Hotel

PORT ERIN

FINEST POSITION ON PROMENADE

Commands perfect view of bay and headlands. Close to Links, Swimming Pool, Shore and Station. Beautiful Lounges, Ballroom and Games Room. Accommodation for 130 Guests. Hot and Cold Water in all Bedrooms.

Highly Recommended. Tariff on application.

Mrs. M. CRIGHTON

Miss A. E. LATIMER

Telegrams :  
Crighton, Port Erin

Telephone :  
2270 Port Erin

Phone 2110

Estimates Given

## T. R. CREGEEN

**Registered Contractor, Decorator and  
Paper Hanger**

---

*Also Hardware and China Merchant*

---

Only Registered Workmen Employed

**ATHOL STREET, PORT ST. MARY**  
ISLE OF MAN

## AQUARIUM AND FISH HATCHERY

PORT ERIN

---

*Live Fishes and other Marine  
Creatures on view, including  
Baby Plaice and newly hatched  
Lobsters.*

---

OPEN WEEKDAYS 10-5 Admission 3d.

Telephone: Port Erin 2367

## G. A. DAVIES

**Retail Fish Merchant - Kipper Factor  
Lobster and Crab Salesman**



*Hotels and Boarding Houses supplied. Daily  
deliveries throughout the south of the Island.*

*Only Fresh Kippers sent by post.*



**1 STRAND ROAD**  
Port Erin

## STATION HOTEL

PORT ERIN

The Station Hotel is situated opposite the Railway Station—one minute from shore—and is central for boating, fishing, bathing, and tennis. Five minutes to golf links, tennis courts and open-air salt water baths. H. & C. Water in all bedrooms. Newly decorated and electric light throughout. Accommodation for 40 guests. Parties catered for. Private Garage. Comfort and cleanliness.

Tariff on application to T. J. GRAVES, Proprietor

Phone: Port Erin 2236

# T. A. COOLE

FRUIT MERCHANT



STRAND ROAD

PORT ERIN



Telephone: Port Erin 2243

Telephone: Port St. Mary 2293

## MILLER'S Motor Garage

Motor Cars for Hire

Tours : Boat Runs : Weddings

*Also Mourning Coaches*

.....

Any kind of Haulage contracted for

.....

STATION ROAD, Port St. Mary

# THE REGENT

HIGH-CLASS BOARDING HOUSE



*Situated in the finest position on the Port Erin Promenade, commanding magnificent views of the whole bay and headlands.*



Personally supervised by the Proprietress,  
Mrs. ALICE DUKE



Telephone: Port Erin 3263  
*and ensure a comfortable, happy holiday.*

BOARD RESIDENCE

## "CRONK AIRH"

Promenade, Port St. Mary



Overlooking Bay. Central for all sports.  
Comfortable homely residence.

Personal supervision.



Misses QUINE

## "THE MOUNT"

PRIVATE HOTEL

Gansey Beach : Port St. Mary



Beautiful country mansion overlooking beach.

---

PRIVATE FUNCTIONS AND RECEPTIONS A  
SPECIALITY

---

Enquiries to Proprietress : Mrs. G. SCOTT-FORREST  
Phone : 3306

## "MOORLANDS"

PRIVATE HOTEL

The Four Roads, Port St. Mary



COMFORTABLE — CONVENIENT — RESTFUL



Particulars from Manageress

Phone : 2288

# J. A. Kewley

For Everything Electrical

---

**RADIO : TELEVISION  
RECORDERS**

**AND ALL**

**ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES  
of every Description, including  
REFRIGERATORS**

**RADIATORS**

**SHAVERS, etc.**

**A LIGHTING SPECIALIST  
CONTRACTS UNDERTAKEN**

**A N.E.C.T.A. Dealer**

---

**STATION ROAD  
PORT ERIN**

**Phone: 2197 Night 3186 Day**



1871

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

LIBRARY

1871