



April 2022

# Rushen Parish Magazine



Blessed  
is the one who  
comes in the name  
of the LORD!

Psalm 118:26-27 Matthew 21:8-9

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## *From the Editor*

Easter for us as Christians is the most important time of the year. The resurrection of Jesus and the events leading up to it never fails to have an effect on our lives, and I'm sure that some of us are moved to tears when recollecting the brutal way in which Jesus was treated on that first Good Friday. Films depicting the death of Jesus give us an idea of how He was treated, but I suspect it was far more gruesome in real life.

When I was at college a number of primary school children, from a variety of Church of England schools, were invited to take part in a re-enactment of the events that occurred during Holy Week. There was no script, and how it was going to be dramatised to an audience, hadn't even been discussed. The exercise was given to the students studying drama as part of their coursework, and not until the day the invited children arrived at the college. The rest of the students in the third year of their studies were invited to see the production at about 4pm on the same day.

Throughout the day the drama students gathered the props they needed, painted a backdrop, and held auditions for the main parts of the story. The successful children were re-told the story and asked to make up their own storylines, and to know when it was their turn to speak. It really was a formidable task for them to undertake. Meanwhile, the other children were asked to be onlookers, soldiers, shepherds, and the general public at large. Their task was to make noises at the right time, and to keep quiet at others!

The audience were asked to be in their places at 3.45pm. The children were in their allotted places by 4pm and the performance began. It was brilliant. Despite the short time that had been given to rehearsals the children acted their parts to perfection, and where a line had been forgotten another would take its place. That was until we came to the death of Jesus, where a young girl of 10, playing the part of Jesus's mother, burst into tears at the crucifixion. These weren't made up tears, they were genuine and uncontrollable. She had been so moved by the story that she believed herself to be Mary, and unable to accept his cruel death. The performance ended there even though it was meant to go on. This child's tears had affected so many in the audience that it would have been wrong to continue.

What a pity it is that so many people, and children, in this generation have no time for Jesus. They cannot comprehend that this was the man that has saved us all. Quite frankly they don't know what they are missing. I'm sure that the little girl who played the mother of Jesus has never forgotten the story, nor Jesus Himself, and whilst for her on that day the glorious resurrection was not portrayed, she will always remember that our Lord and Saviour has given us, and her, the hope of eternal life.

I wish you all a Very Happy Easter.

**David**

## With Jesus in Paradise



*Thoughts on the Crucifixion accompanied by the picture on the left painted by the author.*

This is not a nice picture. In fact, it is pretty horrible. But then that 2004 film, *The Passion of the Christ* was pretty horrible. It was controversial for its goriness and violence. Yet the director Mel Gibson deeply wanted it to be true to life, without any sugar-coating. I would

very much like to think that this painting might have a similar effect.

At first glance, it is gory in the extreme. Two men nailed to crosses with blood pouring down their arms, bodies and legs. A horrible sight. Terrible pain. Barbarism from 2,000 years ago. But wait a minute. Look at all the people. Why are they there? What are they thinking? Am I there as well? And the background of high-rise flats and buildings, that's today. Also, what are the bright shafts of light flashing down from the top right side? Is there something else going on? If so, what?

Let's remind ourselves of the story. It's from the Bible and about the murdering of Jesus, nailed to a cross alongside two criminals. Only one of them is shown here but Jesus was not a criminal. He was innocent. He was indicted under fake charges that he was trying to foment insurrection and become King. The authorities decided crucifixion was the best way to stamp out His revolution. The crazy thing was that He was saying things like we are all sinners and all deserve to die for our sins. Even more, He said that *He* would die for our sins, instead of us, so that like the Old Testament sacrifices of animals, we could be washed clean by his blood. Crazy or not, people believed Him and began to follow Him in huge numbers. But a lot did not believe, particularly those in power. Killing Him was their solution.

Now He is on the cross, nails in His hands and feet; blood everywhere. But amazing miracle, one of the criminals *does* believe. He says to the other criminal that the two of them are "being punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he calls out: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replies: "*I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise,*" (Luke 23:42).

And that's what this painting is about, the moment of heart realisation, belief and faith. It is the moment that has given hope to millions of people. It is the moment that Jesus brings life and new life to anybody, however bad or hopeless they feel. It is the moment of being washed clean by His blood on the cross, and moving into His wonderful kingdom of freedom and forgiveness. It's for *all of us*, wherever we are in that crowd. It's for *all of us* wherever we live, whether high rise flats or the Highlands. It's only then that the true light of Jesus begins to shine into our lives.

From there we can walk freely, faithfully and forgiven into the future, with Jesus in the world and then, in Paradise.

**Rev William Mather**

## Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



The Ladies Working Party would like to extend a most appreciative "Thank You" to **everyone** who helped to make our Open Afternoon for The Leprosy Mission such a success. Mr Paul Moores gave us a very interesting, illustrated update on the work of the charity, which was followed by tea and cakes, and an opportunity to purchase from the Bring and Buy Stall. Thanks to the generosity of the many supporters of this charity, we were able to raise £760 on the day which, matched by an anonymous individual benefactor, will be

worth £1520 to the Leprosy Mission. Their aim is to help build a new state of the art research centre at Anandaban Hospital, Nepal, which currently is too small, not fit for purpose and has been badly damaged by earthquakes. Both Paul Moores and Elly Duchars have written to express their thanks for all the support and for the huge number of used stamps donated, which raise a lot of money.

Despite currently suffering from Covid, Margaret Moore still helps to keep us informed about those who are unwell, and important forthcoming dates, and at the time of writing, posies are being planned for the joint service at Kirk Christ for Mothering Sunday on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

We send our love and best wishes to everyone, particularly those who are in poor health, in hospital, recovering from operations and awaiting results. Our prayers go out to all those affected by the war in Ukraine and we were glad to be in a position to donate £200 to the DEC Ukraine appeal.

**Pat Thomson**

### ***How YOU could help someone in Ukraine***

*Here is a list of some of the Christian charities which are working in Ukraine.*

*Ukraine is in crisis. Only God knows how the situation will unfold in the coming days and weeks. Meanwhile, there is a need for food and other basic humanitarian aid.*

*The following Christian charities are at work in the country, and would welcome your immediate support:*

*Barnabas Fund. <https://www.barnabasfund.org/gb/>*

*Christian Aid. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>*

*Methodist Church UK. <https://www.allwecan.org.uk>*

*Operation Mobilisation <https://www.uk.om.org/Appeal/ukraine-in-crisis>*

*Samaritan's Purse <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk>*

*Transform Europe Network: <https://www.ten-uk.org>*

*World Vision <https://www.worldvision.org.uk>*



## Reflected Faith Series: Togetherness



*Editor: The **Revd Dr Jo White** continues her series on aspects of Christianity.*

Last month we began our Lenten journey with ashes on Ash Wednesday, reminding us of our beginning and our ending; and this month we will conclude that time with Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Such a relatively short time for so great a distance.

I'm reminded of this by the opening words used in Church of England services at the Palm Sunday services:

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters His own city to complete His work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with Him in faith and love, so that, united with Him in His sufferings, we may share His risen life.*

It's all about togetherness.

Together as a small group of people in that one church where we worship. Together with 'the' church across all denominations and throughout the world. Together with Christ Himself.

It's one of the reasons that we process on Palm Sunday. Ideally a joyful and noisy procession with banners and rejoicing – reminding us of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as much as into our own lives.

*This month*

It's in this joy wherein lies the contrast with our solemn and silent procession on Good Friday. We need them both. One on its own doesn't tell the full story. Just like a play on Good Friday without its follow-up on Easter Sunday leaves you hanging.

We all know that social media tends to only show happy occasions but that underneath all those meals and holidays and smiling faces there can be great heartaches and sorrows. It's the togetherness of both of those emotions where the true depth of joy is to be found and not on the surfaces.

How do we greet Christ anew on Resurrection Sunday without the devastating loss of Good Friday, or that long week travelling in and out of the city walls? May you find real joy in togetherness this Easter!

## St Mary's Sunday School



In our Sunday School lesson at the beginning of March we thought about the season of Lent as a time of preparation for Easter and discussed the theme of “temptations.” We watched a short video about Jesus being tempted in the wilderness and how He was using the Word of God to resist the devil and withstand all the temptations. We then played a game where we looked at various temptations we may be facing in our daily life and how we would respond (e.g. if we are ever tempted to take something that isn't ours, if we

are ever tempted to lie, or what we would do if we found a £10 note or a bank card on the pavement etc.) – some of these were quite challenging, but the children were all very honest! We moved on to talking about what can help us make the right decision in these situations, e.g. to think about 'What would Jesus do?' or 'What would Jesus want me to do in this situation?' and that it's always good to ask God in prayer when we're not sure what to do and trust that He will guide us to the right decision. We finished our session by making reminders of God's Word (to help us resist our temptations) by sticking a Bible verse on a cocktail stick in a sweet, e.g. “The Lord is my strength,” “The Lord is my shield” or “Choose what is right.”

The following week we celebrated our March all-age service, led by our vicar Joe, with Ruth Walker from SUMT leading the 'Learning Together' part. Lukas read the epistle from Paul's letter to the Philippians (3:17-4:1) and Thomas read the gospel reading (Luke 13:31-35). The Sunday School then led the congregation in singing the Beach Mission song “Follow Me.” Ruth's talk focused on the theme of 'belonging,' and she got us all to think about the various groups and places we belong to, e.g. family, friendship groups, church, choir, clubs and societies, the area where we grew up etc. She then moved on to the idea of 'citizenship' and what people need to do in order to become a citizen of a country. She tested our knowledge of British and Manx history, politics and culture with some of the questions people have to answer when applying for British (Manx) citizenship. Between us all we did quite well! Finally, Ruth asked us what we needed to do in order to become citizens of Heaven, and she explained that the only thing God asks of us is that we believe in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, who died for us and for our sins and by whose resurrection we have eternal life. And she left us with the question whether we would pass this test... The Sunday School led the congregation in prayers of intercession, including a prayer for Ukraine written by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York. As always, all the children and young people read very well and did themselves proud, including Beatrix who read a prayer for the first time. Well done! Following the service, everybody enjoyed well deserved refreshments – we thank the ladies who serve us each week.

On a different note, we congratulate Hannah and the Castle Rushen High School Team on their 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the One World Charity Challenge, for which they were awarded £1750! Together with the £500 they had raised themselves and thanks to a very generous benefactor who will match any money raised, the Leprosy Mission will be receiving £4500 for their Greater Heights appeal! Well done!

**Many blessings from Claudia, Helen and Lukas**



## News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



As we move into a new normal we have been able to hold services and events again. At Kirk Christ on Ash Wednesday we had a service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes. On 6<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm a service with the Mariners choir was held. Refreshments were served after which a sing-along was enjoyed by all. We thank the Mariner's Choir for leading the singing, the vicar for leading the worship, Paul Costain the soloist, and Michael Porter the organist. I would like to thank everyone who provided food and helped to distribute it. The collection raised £323 .00 which has been donated to Oxfam to help the Ukraine refugees. Also at 9.30am on the same day during morning service at Kirk Christ Nancy Young was baptised by the vicar.

St Catherine's had its first spring concert with an excellent evening of music on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March when those present were entertained by Rushen Silver Band. We now look forward to our Mothering Sunday joint service at Kirk Christ at 11am on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March and our Easter services in April.

**Gerry Callister**

### ***St Catherine's Church Spring Concerts***

<i>21<sup>st</sup> April</i>	<i>Manx Saxophone Ensemble</i>	<i>7.45pm</i>	<i>@ St Catherine's</i>
<i>19<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>Manx Children's Choir &amp; Scoill Phurt Le Moirrey</i>	<i>7.00pm</i>	<i>@ St Catherine's</i>

### ***Retiring Collection***

### ***Refreshments in the Hall following concerts***

### **Kentraugh Mill**

National Mills Weekend is the second weekend in May.

Kentraugh Mill will be open on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 10am to 5pm, and on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May from 11am to 5pm.

The Mill is the first building up the road from, the Shore Hotel, Gansey. Guided Tours will be given of the Mill, Chapel Garden and the Mill Dam.

Refreshments are available. No charge is made, but donations are invited for the 'United Society, Partners in Global Mission'. This is an ancient building and the machinery will be running. Visitors come at their own risk.

**Elizabeth Sheen (832406)**



Sudoku April 2022

					6			3
		1		7				
		5	2			4		
7	6				3			1
		8		9		2		
9			1				7	4
		3			7	5		
						9		
1			9					

**Two donkeys**

*Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me." The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."*

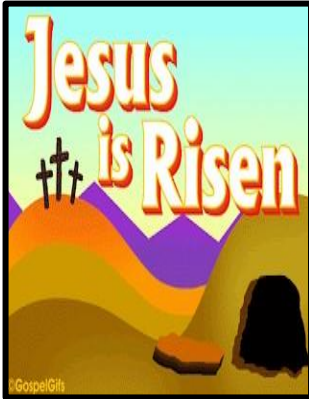
March Sudoku Solution

3	6	7	2	9	1	5	8	4
9	1	2	5	8	4	6	3	7
4	8	5	6	3	7	2	1	9
8	5	6	7	1	2	9	4	3
7	3	9	8	4	5	1	6	2
2	4	1	3	6	9	7	5	8
5	7	4	1	2	3	8	9	6
1	9	8	4	7	6	3	2	5
6	2	3	9	5	8	4	7	1

March Crossword Solution

A	W	A	K	E	N		Q	U	E	N	C	H	
G		T		J			N		O			A	
H	I	T	M	E		S	A	D	N	E	S	S	
A		E		C		A		E		N		T	
S	E	M	I	T	I	C		R	I	D	G	E	
T		P				R		G				N	
			T	E	S	T	I	M	O	N	Y		
S			A			F			E			D	
P	S	A	L	M		I	N	D	U	L	G	E	
I		S		A		C		R		L		A	
D	E	S	E	R	V	E		A	R	I	E	L	
E		E		I				K		N		E	
R	O	S	E	A	S			B	E	G	G	A	R

## An Easter Reflection



“When you die, that’s it. Nothing. Out like a light.” That’s what the man in the pub said, and his mates all nodded, though the one whose mother had died the week before wasn’t really quite so certain. Still, it seemed to make sense. After all, we know what ‘dead’ means: dead leaves, dead batteries, dead fish, dead pets . . . and dead people, to be honest. While we recognise that it’s all too easy to go from alive to dead, we’ve got serious doubts about the possibility of any return journeys.

Which is why Christians have an uphill task at Easter. Jesus was a great man, and people want to remember how He died. Fair enough. But it starts getting complicated when Christians insist that Jesus died - but didn’t stay dead - in fact, that He’s alive now. That ‘return journey’ has happened, they say.

That’s the problem about Easter, Christians persisting in what sounds like a ridiculous belief. If they just dropped the resurrection bit and concentrated on the wonderful teaching of Jesus and His example of generosity, compassion and love then everybody would find Christianity much more believable. Wouldn’t that make sense? And wouldn’t that fill the churches again? Well it might (or, more likely, it might not). But in any case, the trouble is that it wouldn’t be Christianity at all. The faith of Christians actually depends on the resurrection of Jesus, and always has done, right from the earliest days.

After the crucifixion the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross by some of His friends and put in a rock tomb with a heavy stone rolled across the doorway. Yet the following Sunday, the third day after His death, His followers claimed that they had met Him, seen Him, talked with Him. So certain was their belief that nothing could make them recant it. Not ridicule, not torture, not even death itself. They couldn’t deny His resurrection, because they were absolutely convinced that it had happened. Plenty of clever and powerful people at the time had a vested interest in proving them wrong. It shouldn’t have been difficult to prove that a dead man had stayed dead, especially when you have at your disposal the resources of the greatest empire in history. Yet they didn’t do it, because it couldn’t be done.

Still today millions of people all over the world believe that Jesus did in fact rise from the dead. They include brilliant scientists and philosophers as well as plenty of ‘ordinary’ men and women of all ages. They believe it because they respect the witness of those first Christians, and because in many cases their own lives have been transformed by a relationship with Jesus - a relationship that wouldn’t make sense if He were dead!

Christians don’t put their faith in a dead hero from the past, but in someone who is alive and *active in their own lives and in the world*. That, in a nutshell, is the real message of Easter.

**Canon David Winter**

## Echoes of War

### 1942 World War 2 Deal/Dover In primary school – Kent

Shelter! Shelter!  
 To the shelters!  
 Bombs are falling fast and free.  
 Hark! The siren,  
 Wailing siren.  
 Time to leave your books and flee!

Teachers calling!  
 Teachers guiding!  
 Down stone steps into the dark.  
 Now be careful  
 Oh! Be careful  
 Underground is cold and stark.

To the benches!  
 On the benches!  
 Squeezed up tight we trembling go –  
 Now the silence;  
 Apprehension.  
 What’s happening, who’s to know?

Start the singing,  
 Play the music!  
 Sound a merry joyful tune.  
 Lift up spirits,  
 Children singing!  
 Overcome the fear and gloom.

Drink up your milk!  
 Eat up your bun!  
 Lest to hunger you succumb.  
 Spell out the word;  
 Add-up the sum:  
 Distract from the scene to come - - -

Until at last –  
 The ‘All Clear’ sounds –  
 Raise aloud a mighty cheer!  
 Hustling, bustling,  
 Up steps we fled,  
 Thankful that we’re not all dead.

### 2022

Once again:  
 Bombs are falling,  
 Sirens wail!  
 Ukraine suffers war’s refrain.  
 Children displaced!  
 Families cry!  
 “Save, oh save us or we die.”

Lord have mercy!  
 Lord have mercy!  
 Turn this evil to reverse  
 Remove! Remove! Putin’s curse

*Matt 18:7 NRS Woe to the world  
 “Because of stumbling blocks –  
 Woe to the one by whom the  
 stumbling block comes.”*



Margaret Couper

## Handel's Messiah



*Editor: The Ven John Barton considers the most famous of all Handel's works.*

The original idea was not Handel's, but his collaborator's, Charles Jennens, a passionate Christian who wanted to demonstrate that Jesus really was the 'Christ', or Messiah. This was being denied by Deists in the 18th Century, who believed God created the world and then stayed distant from it.

Jennens combed the Old Testament for texts which anticipated God's continuing activity in the world, with the expectation of greater things to come: *Comfort ye my people; Every valley shall be exalted; And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed ...* and so on. Then there were poignant passages anticipating suffering, with deep significance for Christians: *Behold the Lamb of God; He was despised; Surely He hath borne our griefs.*

Throughout the work, there is the strong sense that God is both omnipotent and also intimately involved with the human race: *How beautiful are the feet; the kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ.* The Hallelujah Chorus, the best known of the work, concludes the second part of 'Messiah', before the focus shifts mainly to the New Testament and Christ's resurrection and triumph: *The trumpet shall sound; Death where is thy sting; and finally, Worthy is the Lamb.*

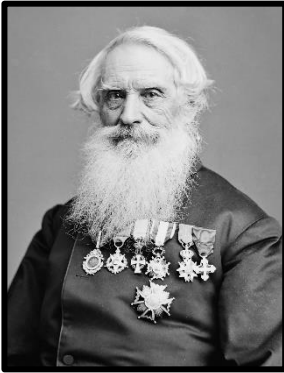
Handel composed the music in 24 days, writing across the final manuscript, "To the glory of God". As he finished the Hallelujah Chorus, he said, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself."

The work caused a stir by being presented in concert halls, rather than churches where some felt sacred works belonged. The first performance was in Dublin in 1742 and raised funds for charities. One of the soloists was Susanna Cibber, a woman of questionable reputation, whose rendering of "He was despised" so moved the Revd Patrick Delaney, that he cried out, "Woman, for this be all thy sins forgiven thee".

German-born Handel, who became a British subject and whose finances were sometimes precarious, didn't always get on with the wealthy Jennens, but the two men shared a single mission. The oratorio 'Messiah' is the result.

### Quiet in church

*A mother who took her fidgety seven-year-old to church finally had an idea: about halfway through the long sermon she leaned over and whispered: "If you don't be quiet, the preacher is going to lose his place, and he will have to start the sermon all over again." It worked.*



## Remembering Samuel Morse of Morse Code

*Editor: **Tim Lenton** considers the founder of the famous Morse Code*

Samuel Morse died 150 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1872. The American artist and inventor is best known for developing a commercial single-wire telegraph system - and the Morse Code, with his friend Alfred Vail.

He was born in 1791 in Charlestown, Massachusetts, the son of Calvinist preacher and geographer Jedidiah Morse. He found a great deal of interest in lectures on electricity, which was then poorly understood. His parents were somewhat disconcerted that he also enjoyed painting miniature portraits.

It was in 1832, while returning by ship from Europe, that Morse had the idea of a commercial electric telegraph – after hearing a conversation about the newly discovered electromagnet. The idea of an electric telegraph had been put forward in 1753, but Morse believed it could be put into action.

His eagerness stemmed partly from an early tragedy. His first wife Lucretia was taken seriously ill in 1825 while he was working on a portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette in Washington, but the message took ages to reach him by horse messenger. By the time he got home to Connecticut, his wife was not only dead, but buried.

By 1838 he and Vail had developed the system of dots and dashes that became known throughout the world as the Morse Code, and by 1844 the first telegraph line in the United States, from Baltimore to Washington, was completed, and he sent the first message: “What hath God wrought?” This had been suggested to him by Annie Ellworth, the teenage daughter of the commissioner of patents.

In 1871 there was a huge celebration of the telegraph in Central Park, New York, and Morse sent the final nationwide message on the day, part of which read: “Glory to God in the Highest; on Earth peace, goodwill to men.”

### **Directions**

*The Revd Billy Graham told of an encounter early in his ministry, when he had arrived for a preaching mission in a small town. Wanting to post a letter, he asked a young boy in the street where the post office was. After the boy told him, Billy Graham thanked him, and added: “Son, if you come along to the Baptist church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven.”*

*The boy looked doubtful. “The way to Heaven? But you can’t even find the post office.”*

## All in the month of April



**150 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1872**, Samuel Morse died. This American artist and inventor helped develop commercial single-wire telegraph systems and co-developed Morse code.

**125 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1897**, Johannes Brahms, German composer, piano virtuoso and conductor, died.

**100 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1922**, Joseph Stalin became leader of the Soviet Union, in succession to Vladimir Lenin.

**90 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1932**, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre opened in Stratford-upon-Avon, replacing the one that burnt down in 1926.

**75 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1947**, the school leaving age in the UK was raised to 15. **Also on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1947**, the term 'Cold War' was used for the first time when American financier and presidential adviser Bernard Baruch described the relationship between the USA and the Soviet Union.

**65 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1957**, the first episode of the British astronomy series *The Sky at Night* was broadcast on BBC TV. It became the world's longest-running TV series with the same presenter (Patrick Moore) until his death in December 2012. The series then continued with new presenters.

**50 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1972**, the first episode of the radio comedy panel game show 'I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue' was broadcast on BBC Radio 4. It is still running.

**40 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1982**, the Falklands War began when Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands. A British victory, although Argentina continues to claim sovereignty over the islands.

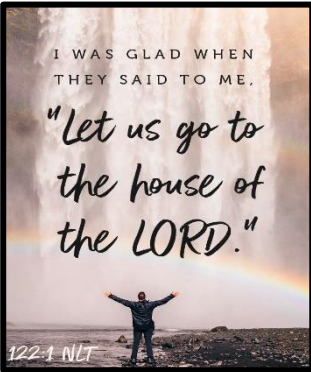
**30 years ago, from 5<sup>th</sup> April 1992 to Feb 1996**, the Siege of Sarajevo took place, during the Bosnian War. **Also on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1992**, the President of Afghanistan, Mohammad Najibullah, was forced to resign when his regime collapsed. Islamic rebels seized power on 28<sup>th</sup> April. **Also on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1992**, the world's largest McDonald's fast-food restaurant opened in Beijing, China. **Also 30 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> April**, Betty Boothroyd became the first female Speaker of the House of Commons.

**25 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1997**, the Grand National steeplechase was disrupted after the IRA sent coded bomb warnings. 60,000 people were evacuated from the Aintree course and the race was postponed until Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April. **Also on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1997**, the American golfer Tiger Woods, aged 21, became the youngest player to win the US Masters championship, and the first African American to win.

**20 years ago, on 1st April 2002**, the Netherlands became the first country to legalise euthanasia.



## Going to church at Easter



*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalm 122.1*

I read in an old book that Easter Sunday is the one time when everyone *has* to go to church, apart from those who are excommunicated. The book is called *The Parson's Handbook* and was first published in 1899. It was popular and went through various editions until the 1930s. It was written by a

cleric called Percy Dearmer, who also made his name in music circles, strongly supported women's ministry and the church's mission to the poor.

For worship style he wanted a return to a distinctly English traditionalism, and his book was a guide to how to take services and much more.

It would be great if more people went to church at Easter, to celebrate the high point of the Christian year. Years ago, many churches would have had six services on the day, starting early to fit everyone in. As Covid ends, will our congregations return to what they were two years ago, or will the steady decline continue?

Sadly, even among keen, committed, Christians, going to church is sometimes thought of as an option. People have busy lives in the week and Sunday is often just another day to 'do stuff'.

But Easter is different. We celebrate the resurrection of the Son of God – and rejoice that, because He lives, so the way is open for us as well. The challenge for the churches now is to build on the tentative faith of some people who turned to services during Covid, and bring back those faithful who have left, as well as speak to the people who would never normally dream of going to church. Not an easy task. Perhaps Dearmer has left us a hint, in being committed to tradition and beauty in worship, but also wanting to embrace the whole mission of the church. We are to witness to the risen Christ!

### David Pickup

#### ***The Italian pasta diet that really works***

You walka pasta da bakery  
You walks pasta da sweet shop  
You walka pasta da ice cream shop  
You walks pasta da table and fridge  
You gonna lose da weight!

## From the Registers

### Funerals February 2022:

4 <sup>th</sup> February	Charles H Coole	RBG	Burial only
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Paul E Crawley	RBG	Service & Burial
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Norman Cockburn	RBG	Burial only
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Beatrice M Hindley		Crematorium only

(RBG Rushen Burial Ground)

### The best position in which to pray

Three theologians at a conference centre sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," said one, and backed up his claim by quoting a number of New Testament texts on humility in Greek.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." He quoted a few texts on praise in Latin.

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor." He quoted a few texts on penitence in Hebrew.

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Sorry to interrupt," he said, "but the best praying I ever did was in English, hanging upside down from a telephone pole!"

### Safeguarding

The Parish of Rushen is committed to the safeguarding, nurture and care of **everyone** within our church community. If you, or someone you know, are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk or has been harmed, or are concerned about the behaviour of someone towards children or vulnerable adults, please contact:

**Rushen Parish Safeguarding Officer, Claire Jennings** (Tel. 830850)

The **Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser** has now been appointed. For more details contact the diocese.

A copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy is available on the Diocesan website: [http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding\\_inclusion](http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion)



## Rushen Mothers' Union



Despite some concern about the rising numbers of Covid cases on the island, we had 15 at our meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Mrs Margaret Couper was in the chair, and after our usual short service, including prayers for those suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine, hymns chosen and played by Mrs Iris Mitchell, and two lovely readings from Mrs Audrey Hibbert, Margaret introduced our speaker, Mr Eddie Perkins.

Eddie's talk, beginning with his earlier life experiences, was fascinating and humbling; one man is transforming Glen Chass for the enjoyment and benefit of all footpath walkers. Inspired by Mr Ned Maddrell who walked the footpaths of the island "to keep them open", and the often-heard phrase "Someone should do something about this!", he decided that he would begin to look after the Glen which had lain unattended for 30 years. He has transformed it, and is still finding ways to make it even more magical. "Eddie's Glen" is a delight. After a vote of thanks given by Mrs Jane Gunn, we all enjoyed refreshments together and also were able to view some photos of Eddie's work on his laptop.

A report was given by Mrs Pat Thomson about the Spring Council Meeting and AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Each branch is invited to contribute a page, signed by its members, to form part of a booklet which will be sent from the Diocese to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee in June. These pages will be received at The Festival Service, on 25<sup>th</sup> March, in the Cathedral, and subsequently "ribboned" together.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April, at 2pm in St Catherine's Hall when Mr David Bowman will give a talk entitled "God is working His purpose out", and Mrs Jane Gunn will be in the chair. Everyone is welcome, as always.

With love and very best wishes to all,

**Pat Thomson**

### **Dates for Diaries:**

Quiet Day- June, TBA, St Luke's, Baldwin

Founder's Day – 9<sup>th</sup> August, St Ninian's

Autumn Council – 12<sup>th</sup> September 7pm, TBA

General Meeting (Annual gathering) - 23-24<sup>th</sup> September, Belfast

Advent Service - 6<sup>th</sup> December, TBA

## God in the Arts

*Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a famous masterpiece by Giotto: Reprinted by kind permission of the Arena Chapel, Padua.*

### 'In a grove lit only by a kiss'



Holy Week, as its name tells us, is the most important, holiest week in the Church's year, when we follow Jesus from His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to the Upper Room, to Calvary and to the garden of the tomb. As we make that journey each year, we are not just remembering past events. We are celebrating how eternity touched Jerusalem in that first Holy Week and how eternity can touch our lives now.

To create that impact and that realisation, the week is brim-full of colour and variety in its worship, full of action and movement, full of processions and music. But we might think it is a week with very little silence.

Yet the silences are there if we look at the Gospels closely. We enter an upper room and catch our breath when Jesus announces a betrayer. Peter denies our Lord, a cock crows, and a bleak stillness falls on that scene. In the palace Jesus stands accused, no words are spoken, and the governor wonders in the silence. And there is silence by the cross until the ninth hour. The silence does fall during Holy Week, punctuating the crises of these tense days. It is conveyed with dramatic force in this Gethsemane scene: Peter Firth's poem describes it as 'a grove lit only by a kiss.' The painting is by Giotto, 'The Kiss of Judas,' and is part of an amazing series of frescoes he painted for the Arena Chapel in Padua from 1305-06.

At first glance it is a scene of frenzied activity: burning torches wave in the sky, weapons are wielded, and a ram's horn blown. The cohort of soldiers advance on Jesus, and Peter tries to defend Him by cutting off a soldier's ear in his anger. One of the religious leaders points to Jesus in the centre of the painting.

And it is there that the tragic stillness falls as our eyes focus on the eyes of Jesus: that steady, discomforting gaze into the eyes of Judas the betrayer. Judas' cloak seems to engulf Jesus, but it cannot blot out the look of our Lord.

The face of Judas is troubled, and the look of Jesus seems to burrow deep into that anxiety, beneath the surface into his heart.

In Holy Week they are eyes that look out to us. The face of Jesus is turned in our direction, saying, 'Yes, you may follow Me in the heady excitement of Palm Sunday. But will you also follow Me into this garden, on the way of My cross to the foot of Calvary, and beyond to the empty tomb of Easter morning?'

Children's Page

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Mark 16:1-8, John 20:1-18

Jesus' tomb had been sealed with a large stone. Very early Sunday morning, some of Jesus' friends went to put spices on his body.

How will we move the stone from the entrance?

But when they got there...

the stone had been moved and the tomb was empty... except for an angel.

Don't be afraid! God raised Jesus to life and he isn't here. Go and tell the disciples.

They fled to tell the others... but they didn't believe them.

Peter and John ran to the tomb to look.

They saw the tomb was empty and only the cloths that Jesus' body had been wrapped in lying there. So they went back to tell the others.

Mary Magdalene stayed by the tomb, crying. She didn't understand that Jesus was no longer dead. When she looked in the tomb there were 2 angels.

Why are you crying?

I don't know where his body is!

Someone behind her asked Who are you looking for?

Have you taken his body?

Mary

Then she recognised Jesus!

Teacher!

Don't cling on to me. I can't stay now. Go and tell my disciples I am alive.

So Mary went back and told the others the amazing news!



## The Story Behind the Hymn



### ***The Church is one Foundation***

*John Mason Neale*

Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
binding all the Church in one,  
holy Zion's help for ever,  
and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call thee,  
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;  
with thy wonted loving-kindness  
hear thy servants as they pray;  
and thy fullest benediction  
shed within its walls away.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants  
what they ask of thee to gain,  
what they gain from thee for ever  
with the blessed to retain,  
and hereafter in thy glory  
evermore with thee to reign.

Praise and honour to the Father,  
praise and honour to the Son,  
praise and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three, and ever One,  
consubstantial, co-eternal,  
while unending ages run.

This hymn is often used during services for the dedication of church buildings, but it has nothing to do with churches built of brick and stone. It talks instead about "the Church," which is built of flesh and bone. The church, you see, is not a building where we come to worship. We are the church, you and I, the people of God.

The first verse of this hymn talks about Christ as the foundation and the cornerstone of the church. This is language from the New Testament (Eph. 2:19-20; 1 Peter 2:5). Christ is the foundation and cornerstone of the church. Christ is the foundation and cornerstone of our lives.

The second verse speaks of us as a temple, which is also New Testament language (1 Cor. 3:16). We, the church, are God's temple, the place where God dwells, and this hymn asks God to "Shed within its walls away" which is another way of saying, "Dwell within us always."

In the last verse, the hymn reminds us that we will live with God forevermore.

This is an ancient Latin hymn, written in the seventh or eighth century. It was translated into English by John Mason Neale, a 19th century Anglican clergyman and Latin scholar. Neale was an unlikely man to do anything significant. As a young man, health problems caused him to leave active service as a clergyman, and he became the administrator for a home for elderly people. When he tried to revitalise the chapel services there, he was rebuked by the bishop and forbidden to conduct services. When he tried to simplify funeral services, he provoked a riot that required police to bring the mob under control. He clearly lacked the common touch.

Nevertheless, Neale laboured long and happily in his study, pouring over old, musty Latin documents. and was therefore able to give us such hymns as "All Glory, Laud, and Honour" and "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and a host of others. He reminds us once again that God often chooses unlikely people to be the vehicles for his blessings.



## Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



*Dear Lord, we thank you for the seasons and the changing weather we experience in each one of them. We look forward to the warmer weather now that April is here, for the spring flowers and the changing countryside that you have created for us to enjoy. Help us to realise that without you none of these things would occur. Amen*



### April 2022

#### ***This is your invitation to pray day by day for:***

- 1<sup>st</sup> The beauty of springtime and the new life that it brings to us all
- 2<sup>nd</sup> All those who attend the home groups that are arranged within the parish
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Gerry Callister for all his work as churchwarden, and his devotion to the parish
- 4<sup>th</sup> Engaged couples preparing to be married this year
- 5<sup>th</sup> The work of the Royal Lifeboat Institution in its aim to save lives of people in distress
- 6<sup>th</sup> The gift of love, given to us by God
- 7<sup>th</sup> Our sidespeople who work tirelessly for the parish
- 8<sup>th</sup> All the work carried out by those involved in the parish with the Mothers' Union
- 9<sup>th</sup> Continued diligence by everyone as we near the end of the Coronavirus Pandemic
- 10<sup>th</sup> Those who have served the parish for many years and now reside in care homes
- 11<sup>th</sup> The responsibility given to people who care for those who are terminally ill
- 12<sup>th</sup> The use of talents, given by God to us, as we pursue our daily lives
- 13<sup>th</sup> All people who are persecuted for their beliefs
- 14<sup>th</sup> Help for all those around the world who are hungry
- 15<sup>th</sup> Peace throughout the world
- 16<sup>th</sup> Those who intercede at all services within the parish
- 17<sup>th</sup> Children who have been orphaned and their hope for the future
- 18<sup>th</sup> The work of teachers and their assistants in our primary and secondary schools
- 19<sup>th</sup> Those who decorate our churches with floral displays
- 20<sup>th</sup> Those people in need of financial help in times of trouble
- 21<sup>st</sup> Queen Elizabeth, Lord of Man, and her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday which is today
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Those elected into positions of responsibility on the Parochial Church Council
- 23<sup>rd</sup> St George, the Patron Saint of England, who is remembered today
- 24<sup>th</sup> Farmers and farm workers, preparing the land for profitable harvests
- 25<sup>th</sup> The Children's Society and the wonderful work that it does
- 26<sup>th</sup> Stephen Curtis for all the work he's doing as Treasurer to the PCC
- 27<sup>th</sup> Young sportsmen and women preparing to partake in sporting activities
- 28<sup>th</sup> Parishioners and others who give of their time to keep our churches clean
- 29<sup>th</sup> People who are moving to a new house either here on the island or across the water
- 30<sup>th</sup> The tourist industry and the preparations being made for the summer months

**Services April/May 2022**

3 <sup>rd</sup> April <b>(Lent 5)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
6 <sup>th</sup> April	2pm	<b>Play &amp; Praise</b> St Catherine's Church Hall
10 <sup>th</sup> April <b>(Palm Sunday)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
17 <sup>th</sup> April <b>(Easter Sunday )</b>	6am	Dawn Service
	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's All-Age/Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	3.30pm	St Catherine's <b>Messy Church</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> April <b>(Easter 2)</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> May <b>(Easter 3)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
4 <sup>th</sup> May	2pm	<b>Play &amp; Praise</b> St Catherine's Church Hall
8 <sup>th</sup> May <b>Easter 4</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
15 <sup>th</sup> May <b>(Easter 5)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's All-Age Service
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)

Dates and times of services/activities subject to alteration/or cancelled  
 (CW) Common Worship (BCP) Book of Common Prayer

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*Articles for the magazine should be submitted to the editor no later than 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. This arrangement is subject to change.*

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**Churchyard Enquiries:**

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or Mr G Callister:      474924/834627

Crossword April 2022

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**Across**

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|--|---|
| <p>1 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4)</p> <p>3 A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8)</p> <p>9 In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)</p> <p>10 Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)</p> <p>11 Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)</p> <p>12 Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)</p> <p>14 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful' (Matthew 13:22) (13)</p> <p>17 Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)</p> <p>19 What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4) (5)</p> <p>22 The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5)</p> <p>23 For nine (anag.) (7)</p> <p>24 Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8)</p> <p>25 Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: 'This day I — the ranks of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10) (4)</p> | <p>2 Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5)</p> <p>4 'They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — —, who is the image of God' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)</p> <p>5 An animal's internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)</p> <p>6 Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film starring Richard Burton (3,4)</p> <p>7 'A — on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4)</p> <p>8 One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)</p> <p>13 Old Testament hymn-singing (8)</p> <p>15 'And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth' (7)</p> <p>16 Of felt (anag.) (3,3)</p> <p>18 'So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36) (2,3)</p> <p>20 Comes between 'bad' and 'worst' (John 5:14) (5)</p> <p>21 'Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (4)</p> |
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**Down**

- 1 'I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them' (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)