



February
2022

Rushen Parish Magazine



1 Cor 12-13 2 Tim 1:2 Gal 5:22 1 Pet 3:8 Col 3:12-13

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From the Editor

Dear Friends

Many years ago, not long after we were married, Pauline's mother died. She was relatively young but had suffered with a bronchial condition for years. Living near the Trafford Park industrial centre of Manchester didn't help, nor did the fact that she smoked a large number of cigarettes each day. It was however the norm in those days, and to be fair to those who suffered as she did, the dangers of such a lifestyle not advertised as it is today. On the day of her funeral Pauline's father, brothers and I, followed in a car behind the hearse. On leaving St Mathew's Church in Stretford, on route to the crematorium, I noticed a gentleman who was standing on the pavement. He had stopped to allow the cortege to pass. He had taken off his hat, and lowered his head as a mark of respect. We didn't know him and I doubt that he knew us, but nevertheless he was so courteous in taking the action he did.

When I was a boy I was taught to respect others, and certainly those who were older and wiser than me. Nowadays I feel that this regard for the feelings of others no longer has the same impetus as it once did. We seem to be living in a 'me' culture where the considerations of others, and the way about how they live, no longer plays a part, and personally I'm not particularly happy about it. I know that the schools I attended taught respect, and that teachers of today still strive to ensure that the children in their care are given the tools to have respect for people, property and for the feelings of others.

So why has it changed? I'm sure that the internet hasn't helped, however good it may be. The television too has played a part because despite the watershed at 9pm, some of the material shown is far too graphic for young minds to understand. When I go into school each week I am amazed at what the children are aware of, what they see, and the opinions they have too. Perhaps one of the things that has changed is the fact that the handbook we used as children, as young adults, and even now, is no longer used in the same regard. The stories in the Bible, and the teaching of Jesus, gave us the tools to be the people we are today. I still look fondly at the Bible I was given when I retired from my school and the words written inside which read, *"Almighty God, I thank you for the Bible in which I can learn about you. Help me to read it frequently, to study it carefully, to learn from it willingly and to live by it faithfully, to the honour and glory of Your Name. Amen."*

David

Angel of Light



Editor - Prior to Christmas Claudia Koenig wrote a letter to the Isle of Man newspapers in the hope that it would be published which it was. Some of you will already have read it but the message of hope that it brings needs to be spread far and wide and I make no apology for publishing it in our own parish magazine. Thank you Claudia.

'On one of my walks up to the Chasms on a beautiful calm day this autumn, I stopped to sit on a rock and watch the twinkling reflections of the sunlight on the surface of the sea, praising God and giving thanks for his wonderful creation when suddenly the sun and the clouds moved to shape into a gloriously bright 'angel of light' hovering over the water (*see picture*).

What a truly amazing and awe-inspiring sight! A symbol of light and hope, which the world so desperately needs today, and a reminder that angels were not only sent by God 2000 years ago to Mary and Joseph, and to the shepherds on the hillside above Bethlehem, but that God still sends angels today to help and guide us and to bring light and hope into our lives.

In the run-up to Christmas, we are often too busy and the world around us is so noisy that we don't get to sit and listen to the song of the angels, which is so beautifully described in the Christmas carol "It came upon the midnight clear." This Christmas season, I'd like to encourage your readers to take time to listen out for and join in with "that glorious song of old" about peace on earth and goodwill to all people, a beautiful song which the angels still sing today "o'er all the weary world," especially for all "beneath life's crushing load."

This Christmas time, receive the most precious gift the world has ever been given, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, who came into the world as Immanuel (God with us) to bring light, hope, love, joy, and peace. Invite Him into your heart, allow Him to carry your burdens and to fill your heart with joy and a peace that surpasses all understanding. Wishing all readers a very blessed CHRISTmas.'

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

Although many December events were cancelled due to Covid, the decorated church was welcoming for those services which could go ahead, and for visitors. The poinsettias had lasted well until we took down the decorations on 4th January 2022. Thank you, Peter for all your help.



Our regular meetings recommenced on 11th January, and it was lovely to see everyone again, and enjoy fellowship together, although masked! Margaret gave us a lovely reading and, as always, led us in prayers for those we know are unwell. Matters discussed included the new flower rota for 2022 kindly drawn up by Jude; our Christmas donation of £100 to Graih, the centre for the homeless in Douglas; the proposed plan for the building of new toilets in St Mary's; the impact on our LWP account resulting from the IOM Bank's increased charges to be levied later this year; a combined service to take place on the 4th Sunday of each month in Kirk Christ and a newsletter received by Sue Maddrell in December from Paul Moores of The Leprosy Mission (TLM).

We now plan to have an Open Afternoon for TLM IOM in St Catherine's Hall on Tuesday 8th March '22 at 2pm, Covid permitting, to which all are invited to bring their used postage stamps and collection boxes or donations. Paul has now put this date in his diary for his Spring visit to the island and hopes that Elly Duchars, IOM trustee, may also be able to come along. Refreshments will be served and we look forward to many guests joining us to hear an update on their excellent work.

We send our warmest good wishes to everyone, but especially to those who are worried about health issues or experiencing difficulties at this time.

Pat Thomson

What a tree can do for you

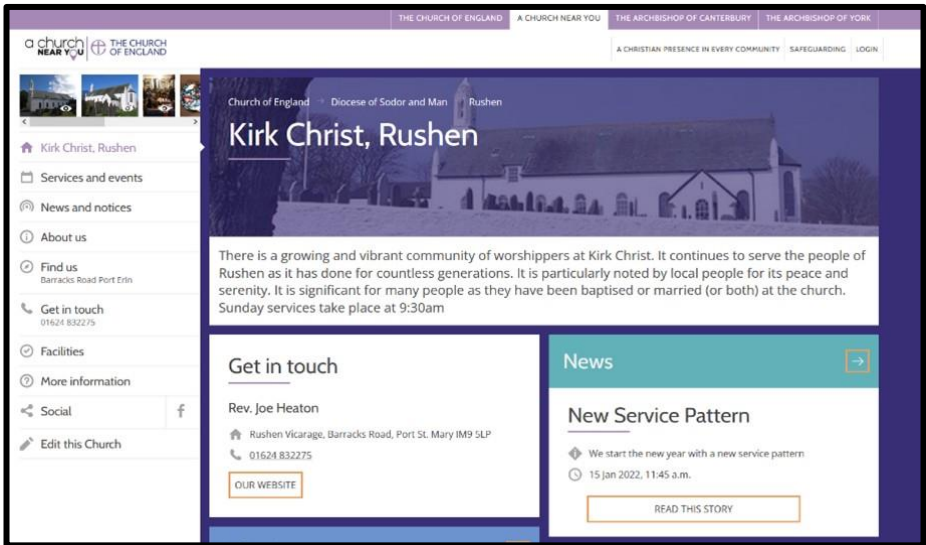


Trees can help prevent you getting depressed. At least, you are less likely to be on antidepressants if you live on a tree-lined street.

That is the finding of a survey by the Forestry Commission, which looked for the first time at the mental health value of our forests and woodlands. Apparently, they save the NHS something like £185million in antidepressants each year.

A spokesman at Mind, the mental health charity, said: "Although many of us feel like hibernating in winter, getting outside in green spaces and making the most of the little daylight we get can really benefit both your physical and mental health."

'A Church Near You'



There are many ways of reaching out to people who may be thinking about coming to one of our churches. Some people will come through our door and visit us. However, for people who are not regular churchgoers, this can take quite a lot of courage. What will it be like on the other side of the door? Are there special places to sit/clothes to wear? Will I know anyone?

People will have many different reasons to look for a church. Perhaps they are new to the area, perhaps they are going through a crisis and need help, perhaps they are looking for a location for a wedding or christening. Recognising this, the Church of England has provided a website called [www.achurchnearyou.com]. So anyone visiting the main Church of England website can be quickly directed to Anglican churches in their area.

Browse to the site and you are presented with a map of Rushen, with our churches highlighted. Clicking on the church and visiting the page you can see a clean modern looking webpage containing a brief introduction, news items, contact details for Joe, a link to the main Rushen website and photos of the church and church events. There is also an up-to-date calendar for each of the four churches showing regular services and one-off events.

The idea is to give people the answers to the basic questions. When are the services and what sort of worship takes place? What does the inside of the church look like? When is the building open? What facilities do we have (Toilet / parking / Hearing Loop / Disabled access / baby change etc)? Hopefully, this knowledge can help the visitor pick the church best suited to their needs, and be less fearful in opening our door on that first Sunday morning.

Try it yourself, tell your friends, check the calendar for events at your church. And if you spot any errors or omissions tell me (**Peter Hayhurst 464949**) and I will fix it straight away.

St Mary's Sunday School



As I didn't write an article for the January edition of the magazine, I hope it is not too late to wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year!

While it was sad that our Parish Christingle Service and our Crib Service at St Mary's had to be cancelled in December (along with several other Christmas services and concerts), we were very pleased to be able to hold our annual Sunday School Christmas Party in St Mary's Hall. We played fun games, including a 'snowball fight' (thank you, Sam!) and our traditional Christmas story pass-the-parcel courtesy of Margaret Moore (her parcel-wrapping skills are legendary!), and we enjoyed lots of yummy party food.

After the Christmas holidays, we started the new year by celebrating the Baptism of Jesus in our January all-age service, led by our vicar Joe. The gospel reading about Jesus's baptism was read beautifully by Megan, who also helped lead the prayers of intercession, together with Laura. Joe's talk focused on positive words that have been spoken over people and the amazing impact they can have on people's lives. He told the story of a teacher who asked each pupil in the class to write something positive about each of the other pupils on a piece of paper, and then typed up all comments for each pupil. Many years later, at the funeral of one of the former pupils, the parents told the teacher how their son had treasured that piece of paper all his life – and so had several of the other former pupils!

As Christians, we are called to encourage each other and build each other up with our words (and our actions) rather than to criticise and pull down. Joe reminded us that God speaks words of affirmation over us through His Word, such as the words we had heard in the Isaiah reading: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine," or simply "I love you, my child."

In our regular Sunday School sessions, we are now continuing the series of lessons about Joseph and God's plan for his life. Although Joseph's dreams were shattered several times, he never stopped trusting God and choosing to do what is right. God was with Joseph every step of the way, and Joseph's faithfulness was rewarded in the end. A good reminder for all of us to pursue our God-given dreams and to persevere through the challenging times, knowing that "God works all things together for the good of those who love Him." (Romans 8:28)

Many blessings, Claudia, Helen and Lukas



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



Over the Christmas period, and despite travel restrictions for visitors, we were blessed with good attendances during the holiday season. It was such a shame that the normal Christmas routine, throughout the parish, was curtailed because of the rise in Covid infections.

Recently it has been decided to improve the vestry at St Catherine's church. It has become to look a little cluttered and in needs of attention. Before Christmas the vestry at St Mary's also needed to be improved. Steve Rycroft and Chris Barnes have both been involved in these projects, and with St Mary's vestry completed they are concentrating on St Catherine's. It is anticipated that there will be new shelving erected and some painting to be done. Once completed the parish can boast having vestries in good repair and fit for purpose.

The next main event at Kirk Christ is the Mariner's Service on 6th March. Details will be published in Rushen News nearer the time.

How good it is that the days are lengthening and that we are now enjoying lighter mornings and evenings.

Gerry Callister

Five famous quotes from Desmond Tutu

The recent death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu was mourned around the world. Here are five of his more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

"Don't raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right."

"Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened."

"Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another."

Sudoku February 2022

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

Forgiveness

A Sunday School teacher asked her children: "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy ventured: "Sin?"

December Sudoku Solution

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

December Crossword Solution

		T	A	B	E	R	N	A	C	L	E	
S	A		O		A		B		U			
A	B	S	A	L	O	M		I	N	C	A	S
C		T		D		I		A		E		A
R	O	E	S		C	A	P	T	U	R	E	D
I				T		H		H		N		D
F	R	I	G	H	T		C	A	V	E	L	L
I		N		E		P		R				E
C	Y	C	L	O	N	I	C		H	E	R	B
E		E		C		L		S		X		A
S	O	N	A	R		A	M	A	Z	I	N	G
		S		A		T		V		S		S
		S	E	T	T	L	E	M	E	N	T	

A Glimpse of Love

(Observation from a busy car park during a festive season)

The little lad sat captured,
In a heavy, wheel-bound chair;
Young frail body fastened there.
Mum steered the chair with care.

Bright lights danced and stars they shone,
From busy shops everywhere –
Bursting with colourful fare.
Mum steered the chair with care.

No sound from his lips did come –
Only a smile beyond compare,
As arms and legs thrashed the air –
Mum steered the chair with care.

Enabled, though disabled –
Mother and son go with glee.
Beyond “four walls,” he’s now free,
This exciting world to see!

Object of a Mother’s love –
Freely given from above.

*“Love is patient, love is kind.”
1. Corinthians 13:4 (N.I.V)*

Margaret Couper



The TV Detector Van

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: 70 years ago, on 1st February 1952, the first TV detector vans rolled onto our streets, in an effort to increase the ratio of those paying their licence fee to those who forgot, or didn't bother. I haven't seen one for years, but I remember them when I was a boy, ordinary looking vans with an array of aerials on the roof, and Mum always kept the licence to hand, in case they knocked at the door (which, of course, they never did!):

Deep in the suburbs something stirs
Within a van, a motor purrs
And rattles, clunks, beeps and whirrs
As it performs a scan.
A worker sits alone, unseen
Peering at a flick 'ring screen
He will know what it may mean –
The TV detector man!

Within a house, without a care
A couple sit and gaze and stare
At their TV – but what's out there?
A TV detector van!
For, in their hall, unopened, laid
Their licence bill, unseen, unpaid
No licence payment have they made!
Though that was not their plan.

They just forgot, so easy done!
The TV shows, they are such fun!
The doorbell rings, and their stands one
TV detector man!
No place to run, no place to hide!
The TV still is on inside!
They'd left themselves so open wide
To the TV detector van.





The Rules of Marriage

(Editor)With Valentine's Day in mind

A group of children were asked what the rules of marriage should be. Here are some of their real-life answers:

How do you decide who to marry?

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.
- Derrick, age 8

What do you think your Mum and Dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. - Craig, age 9

When is it okay to kiss someone?

If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. - Howard, age 8

When they're rich. - Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be 18, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - Curt, age 7

Is it better to be single or married?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9

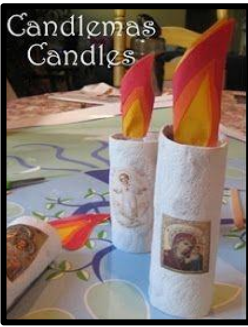
I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out. - Theodore, age 8

How would the world be different if people didn't get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? - Kelvin, age 8

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a lorry. - Ricky, age 10



Reflected Faith Series: Candlemas

There are three reasons for this festival, which is held each year on the second of February.

Firstly, it's the halfway point between the shortest day and the Spring Equinox, so from that date on the daylight hours get longer.

In pre-Christian times, this day was known as the 'Feast of Lights' and celebrated the increase strength of the life-giving sun as Winter gave way to Spring.

Secondly, it's when we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby Jesus, to the Temple forty days after His birth.

And the third reason? It's directly linked to the name of the feast – Candlemas. It was so named because on that day each year all the candles for the coming year were brought into the church to be blessed at a 'mass'. Remember that candles were important in those days, not only because there were no electric lights; people thought they gave protection against plague and illness and famine.

In many churches on this feast there will be a procession of the whole congregation with lighted candles – often inside the whole building, going into every 'dark' corner. Everyone carries their own lighted candle, which they are encouraged to take home and light there also.

One of the prayers that may be used is this:

*Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
You make our darkness to be light.
For with You is the well of life
and in Your light shall we see light.*

This month

Christ is often called the 'Light of the World' who came to bring light, hope, and peace into our darkness. Have a think about those places that are dark for you and perhaps you do not like going there or will not go there. Perhaps they are too painful or scary.

Just pause for a short time with a lit candle and imagine Jesus going there for you or with you. Lighting your way. Making it safe. He came to give us life – and life to the full – even in those dark places.

Rev'd Dr Jo White



More than conquerors: In the depth of the sea!

(Micah 7:19)

*Editor: This series is about encouragement. Each month **Dr Herbert McGonigle** will take a Bible event and a historical anecdote to bring us a word of help and support in these difficult days. This is the second in the series, which will run for most of this year.*

The Bible is very expressive when it comes to speaking about how God can forgive our sins. It uses many descriptions to tell us how our sins are both forgiven and forgotten.

Here is a sample of these great promises. Our sins are ‘forgiven,’ (Ps. 32:5); ‘washed thoroughly’ and ‘blotted out’ (Ps. 51:2, 9); ‘forgiven and covered’ (Ps. 85:2); ‘washed whiter than snow’ (Is. 1:18); ‘taken away’ (Is. 6:7); ‘put behind His back’ (Is. 38:17); ‘laid on Him’ (Is. 53:6); ‘remembered no more’ (Jer. 31:34); ‘pardoned’ (Jer. 33:8); ‘destroyed’ (Rom. 6:6); ‘purged’ (Heb. 1:3) ‘borne for us’ (1 Pet. 2:24); ‘washed away’ (Rev. 1:5). What glorious news this is! In Christ we are truly forgiven! Our sins are cancelled! God will not hold our guilty past against us!

The prophet Micah has a very dramatic way of telling us this. He says that God has cast our sins ‘into the depths of the sea’ (7:19). So how deep is the sea? Far out in the Western Pacific Ocean, two hundred miles from the island of Guam, lies the deepest part of the earth’s oceans. It is called the Mariana Trench. It is more than 1500 miles long and over 40 miles wide but it is its depth that is awesome. It plunges down into the ocean bed for some 35,800 feet. By comparison, Everest, the world’s highest mountain, is 29,000 feet in height. That means that the Mariana Trench goes lower into the ocean bed than the peak of Everest stretches up to the clouds. At that frightening depth the pressure from the waters above is more than eight tons to the square inch!

While these geographical facts and figures compel our attention, the theology of our forgiveness is even more wonderful! When we are ‘in Christ’ as His redeemed people, our sins are truly forgiven. God has thrown them into the depth of the sea, never to be resurrected! They are buried forever in the vast abyss of God’s unfathomable love and mercy. What great, good news the gospel brings! Our guilty past is both forgiven and forgotten!

A few months after his evangelical conversion in May 1738, John Wesley went to Herrnhut in Germany. He met the Moravian hymn writer Johann Andreas Rothe. Wesley had learned German and enjoyed singing the Moravian hymns. He translated many of them into English, including one of Rothe’s great hymns that includes the lines:

*O Love, Thou bottomless abyss
My sins are swallowed up in Thee
Covered is my unrighteousness
Nor spot of guilt remains on me.
While Jesu’s blood through earth and skies
Mercy, free boundless mercy, cries.*

(The Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle is a former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology and Church History at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, England.)

All in the month of February



175 years ago, on 11th Feb 1847, Thomas Edison, American inventor and businessman was born. Best known for inventing the first practical incandescent light bulb, phonograph, movie camera and projector, and many more.

100 years ago, on 8th Feb 1922, the first radio was installed in the White House. **Also on 28th Feb 1922**, Egypt gained its independence from the UK.

90 years ago, on 27th Feb 1932, British physicist James Chadwick announced his discovery of the neutron subatomic particle in the journal Nature. He was awarded the 1935 Nobel Prize for Physics for his discovery.

80 years ago, on 8th Feb 1942, the Battle of Singapore took place. The Japanese then occupied Singapore until September 1945. This is regarded as the worst disaster in British military history, with about 80,000 British, Indian and Australian troops captured.

75 years ago, on 7th Feb 1947, the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves in Khirbat Qumran (now in the West Bank, Palestine).

70 years ago, on 6th Feb 1952, Princess Elizabeth ascended the throne following the death of her father, King George VI. She was in Kenya at the time and became the first Sovereign in over 200 years to accede while abroad.

65 years ago, on 16th Feb 1957, the Toddlers' Truce was abolished in Britain. During the Truce, television admissions closed down for an hour so that young children could be put to bed. Children's programming ended at 6pm and adult programming began at 7pm.

60 years ago, on 20th Feb 1962, John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth. He made three orbits in the space capsule *Friendship 7*.

50 years ago, on 9th Feb 1972, the British Government declared a state of emergency over the miners' strike which began in January. From 16th February, electricity supplies to homes and businesses were cut off for up to nine hours a day. The strike ended on 25th February. **Also on 18th Feb 1972** the House of Commons voted narrowly in favour (by eight votes) of joining the Common Market (now the European Union).

30 years ago, on 20th Feb 1992, the English Premier League was founded, superseding the first division of the Football League.

25 years ago, on 13th Feb 1997, an inquest into the death of black British teenager Stephen Lawrence ended. The jury decided that he had been unlawfully killed by five white youths, but they were not convicted. The case was one of the highest-profile racial killings in British history. Two of the perpetrators were eventually convicted in January 2012, and sentenced to 15 years and 14 years in prison. **Also on 22nd Feb 1997**, scientists at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh announced that they had successfully cloned a mammal for the first time: a sheep named Dolly.

20 years ago, on 4th Feb 2002, Cancer Research UK was founded. It is the world's largest independent cancer research and awareness charity. **Also on 19th Feb 2002**, NASA's Mars Odyssey space probe began mapping the surface of Mars using a variety of imaging systems. It later discovered huge reservoirs of underground ice.

10 years ago, on 11th Feb 2012, Whitney Houston, one of the bestselling music artists of all time, died. She drowned in her hotel bathtub because of coronary artery disease and drug intoxication, aged 48.

In memory of Dolly the Sheep



Just 25 years ago, on 22nd February 1997, scientists at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh announced that they had successfully cloned a mammal from an adult cell for the first time: a sheep named Dolly.

Dolly – named after country singer Dolly Parton – was not the first cloned mammal, however. Another sheep had been cloned from an embryo cell as early as 1984. Dolly was made from an adult mammary cell, which had been thought impossible.

The idea was to open up possibilities in breeding and in medicine, but Christians and others were alarmed at the possibilities that seemed to be opening up for human cloning, which some said raised difficulties because humans were made in the image of God.

The Vatican called for a total ban on the cloning of human beings, which it said was a “dangerous experiment” that could undermine human dignity. But a number of Jewish thinkers argued that in certain circumstances it could be an acceptable and compassionate option.

Over the years Dolly gave birth to six lambs but in 2000 was found – with other sheep at Roslin – to be infected with a virus causing lung cancer; she was then diagnosed with arthritis, which was treated successfully, but in 2003 she was discovered to have tumours growing in her lungs and was euthanised to prevent her suffering, at the age of six. A healthy sheep would normally live to the age of 10 or 12.

Dolly’s body was donated to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, where she has become one of the most popular exhibits.

Tim Lenton

Loved nonetheless

Here is a thought on a verse of Scripture from the encounter of Jesus with a man described as a ‘rich, young ruler’.

This man was keen to follow Jesus, but when told he must share his wealth with the poor decided it was too much to ask, and he went away sorrowful. In this context we read that, “Jesus, looking at him loved him (Mark 10:21).” This is a remarkable statement about Jesus, and the nature of divine love, a love that doesn’t alter despite the ups and downs of our behaviour. It is constant and unchanging, truly without condition, and unshaken by the unpredictability of human response. We might have expected to hear Jesus say, ‘You foolish man’ or ‘You stupid boy’, but there is no such rebuke, only love. Jesus might have been annoyed, disappointed, exasperated, alarmed, shocked . . . but all we feel is His love for someone who has missed a great opportunity. What a joy it is to know that Jesus loves us exactly as we are. When He looks at us, nothing is hidden from His gaze. He sees through all our pretence, all our subterfuge, all our attempts to put on a brave front. He knows who I am, completely. And yet He loves me unreservedly and without reservation. Amazing.

Why walk away from a love like that?

From the Registers

Funerals December 2021:

1 st December	Brian G Cowley	St Catherine's	Service & Crem.
3 rd December	Marlene Sargent		Crematorium only
9 th December	Alistair D Shearer	RBG	Burial only
11 th December	Nadia La-Kahzrajie	RBG	Burial only
15 th December	Margaret B Brown	RBG	Burial only
17 th December	Enid Williamson		Crematorium only
23 rd December	Eileen Watterson	Kirk Christ	Service & Burial

(RBG Rushen Burial Ground)

Those who want to get married

A minister was preparing to marry a local couple within a couple of weeks. At the close of the morning service, he saw them both in the congregation, and wanted to ask them to come forward, but he couldn't think of their names. So he said: "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?"

Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers walked up the aisle.

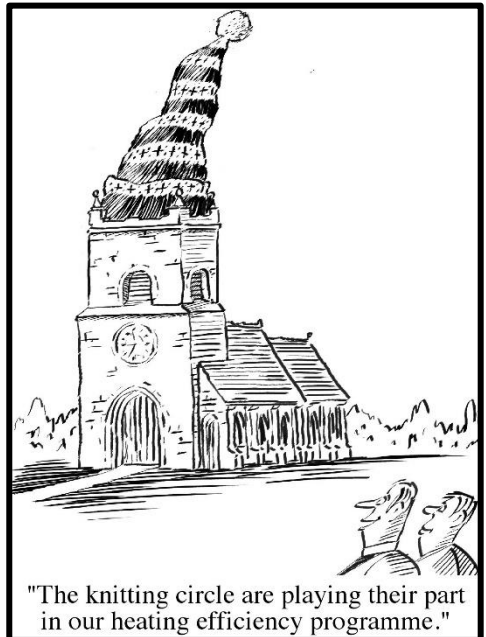
Safeguarding

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



Rushen Mothers' Union



It was very good to meet again on Monday 10th January 2022 in St Catherine's Hall after Covid had caused us to cancel our Christmas party. Mrs Elizabeth Sheen was in the chair and led our short service, beginning with a warm welcome to everyone, including our speakers Megan and Sue from Crossroads, followed by the reading of the MU prayer for New Year. As Mrs Iris Mitchell was unwell, we

were very grateful to Mrs Margaret Couper for choosing and playing our two hymns. Mrs Lesley Scott had selected two readings for us from The Friendship Book, and our prayers were led by Elizabeth.

We were all looking forward to hearing a talk on the work of the Isle of Man charity 'Crossroads', and Ms Megan Faragher began by explaining that it has been providing support for more than 30 years to local carers and people with care needs no matter their disability, age or illness. There are 90 staff members and 110 volunteers who seek to improve lives by giving carers time to themselves; to have a break from their caring responsibilities. She explained that 'Crossroads' is the leading provider of practical and emotional support for carers in the Isle of Man, and the only on island service provider whose main focus is on the carer. Sue then spoke to us about the 'Crossroads Young Carers Project' which runs fortnightly sessions for young carers aged between 5 and 18, offering activity trips and group events, providing them with regular breaks, reducing their feeling of isolation, and giving them the chance to make the most of their childhood.

There were many questions from the floor which Megan and Sue were happy to answer. Mrs Elsie Faragher gave an appreciative vote of thanks and a gift, and after Elizabeth closed the meeting, we all enjoyed tea, biscuits and some of the Rushen MU 100th Birthday cake which Elsie had saved for us.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 14th February at 2pm in St Catherine's Hall, when Mrs Jane Gunn will be in the chair and our speaker Mrs Judy Mathews' topic will be 'The IOM Foodbank'. As always, guests will be made very welcome.

Some dates for Diaries:

- JMP South & West committee meeting on 15th Feb in St John's Hall – Pat will attend.
- The MU Festival Service on Lady Day, 25th March at 2.30pm at the cathedral, led by the Bishop with MU Provincial President Jane Houghton preaching.
- A Branch Coffee Morning in May, in St Catherine's Hall has been proposed.

Pat Thomson

God in the Arts



Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a famous masterpiece by Rembrandt. 'Picture used by kind permission of the National Museum, Stockholm.'

Nunc Dimittis

Waiting is a common human experience. Our lives are made up of waiting that leads to encounter, and the waiting requires patience and humility. Milton wrote in his blindness, 'They also serve who only stand and wait'

as he wondered what he could do for God's kingdom now that his sight had gone.

Simeon in this month's painting of the 'Presentation of Christ' had been waiting. He belonged to a people who had been waiting for centuries. He was heir to the hopes and dreams of a nation waiting for a better world now that the holy city was in the hands of Roman invaders. With his people he clung to the hope that God would come to bring freedom and a new life. God's chosen one, the Messiah, would bring this about. When it came, there was no fanfare, no warning, just an ordinary family from faraway Nazareth in the Temple, performing the religious duties for the firstborn son. But the waiting led to encounter, and the sight of the new-born child led to insight as Simeon recognised that light and salvation had at last come.

Rembrandt has captured all this in his painting, 'Simeon with the Christ Child in the Temple': the faith and patience, the hope and humility of an old man, a priest, who takes the babe into his arms and blesses God. It was the artist's last painting and left unfinished at his death in 1669. The figure of Mary by Simeon's side may have been painted by another artist at a later stage. It is the aged priest and the new-born babe that impress us as we look: Simeon with his venerable beard and eyes half closed, and the tiny child cradled in his strong arms, looking up intently with his eyes open.

As Rembrandt painted this canvas, was he saying something about his own life? He had not been afraid to paint his portrait at various stages - at 21, at 35, at 53 - a total of 60 portraits covering the span of years.

In this final painting the years have moved on as we see Simeon, mouthing 'Nunc dimittis' with his eyes half closed. Is the waiting over and the journey coming to an end, so that his eyes will fully close? Or will he open them to see that with the babe in his arms, God has more in store: the promise of a future as they step out together on a new journey?

February

Children's Page

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 15 verses 11-32

Jesus spent his time teaching everyone who would listen, whatever they were. The Pharisees and Law teachers watched Jesus.

He is friendly with bad people, and even eats with them..

So Jesus told these stories:

If a man owns 100 sheep..

Imagine having that many sheep!

and he loses 1 of them...

How would you notice with that many sheep?

won't he leave the 99 in the field and look for the lost one?

When he finds it, he tells his friends to celebrate because he has found his lost sheep!

In the same way there is more celebration in heaven when one bad person repents..

than the 99 who don't need to repent.

Or what if a woman who has 10 small coins loses 1?

What's special about a small coin?

Wont she light a lamp, sweep her house, and search until she finds it?

That's what I'd do.

When she finds it she tells her friends to celebrate because she found the coin she had lost.

It was special to her.

In the same way, God's angels rejoice when a bad person repents.

The Story Behind the Hymn



Rev. J Hayford

Majesty

The hymn 'Majesty' as described by Rev. J Hayford:

'In 1977 my wife Anna and I spent our vacation in Great Britain, travelling throughout the land from the south country and Wales to the northern parts of Scotland. It was the same year as the 25th Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation, and symbols of royalty were abundantly in evidence. For years I have been convinced that the provisions of Christ for the believer, not only include our forgiveness for sin; but provide restoration to a royal relationship with God as sons and daughters born into the family through His Majesty, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Within that relationship, as people of the Kingdom, I felt the Bible disclosed a new dimension of dominion over "all the works of the devil" bequeathed to us as heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.

While visiting many of the castles of the land, I began to sense the influence one might feel if raised as a child in such regal settings. For example, while at Blenheim – where Churchill was raised – it became quite credible how a person, accustomed to such an environment, might more likely conceive of themselves as being bred to influence their world. Of course, Churchill was not directly of the royal family, but the sense of regal destiny pervades many of those sites and influences many of those people.

One day, as Anna and I drove along together, the opening lyrics and melody of "Majesty" simply came to my heart. I continued driving, asking Anna to jot the words and melody line in the notebook she had beside her. So powerfully did the sense of Christ Jesus' royalty, dignity, and majesty fill my heart; I seemed to feel something new of what it meant to be His! The accomplished triumph of His Cross has not only unlocked us from the chains of our own bondage and restored us to fellowship with the Father, but He has also unfolded to us a life of authority over sin and hell and raised us to partnership with Him in His Throne – now! (Ephesians 2:1-6).

"Majesty" describes the kingly, lordly, gloriously regal nature of our saviour – but not simply as an objective statement in worship of which He is fully worthy. "Majesty" is also a statement of the fact that our worship, when begotten in spirit and in truth, can align us with His Throne in such a way that His Kingdom authority flows to us – to overflow us, free us, and channel through us. He has birthed us into His eternal Kingdom, with dynamic implications for the present and for eternity. We are rescued from death, restored to the inheritance of sons and daughters, qualified for victory in battle against the Adversary, and destined for the Throne forever in His presence!

Majesty, worship His Majesty.
 Unto Jesus be all glory, honour and praise!
 Majesty, Kingdom Authority,
 Flow from His throne, unto His own
 His anthem raise!

So exalt, lift up on high the Name of Jesus!
Magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship His Majesty;
Jesus who died, now glorified, King

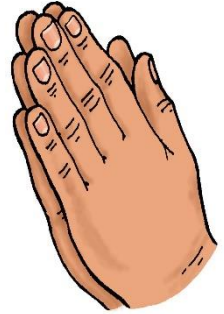
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 Majesty, Kingdom Authority
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 His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the Name of Jesus
Magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship His Majesty;
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings!

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



Thank you, that you accept us as we are; that you love us as we are. So, may we love those around us. By your Spirit may we hold hands. May we rejoice with the rejoicing, weep with the weeping. And may we offer our all to you, together. Then we may be ourselves. Then we may be one.



Amen

February 2022

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Everyone who gives of their time, money and energy to charitable organisations
- 2nd The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas
- 3rd Pets which bring such comfort to the elderly and the lonely
- 4th 'Soup Inn' taking place today and those who prepare and partake in the activity
- 5th The bereaved and the sense of loss that they feel when loved one's die
- 6th The Queen, Lord of Man, as we remember her accession to the throne
- 7th Stephen Curtis and the work he does maintaining the finances of the parish
- 8th Grandparents who help their children through challenging times
- 9th Preparations being made for the refurbishment of St Mary's Church
- 10th Families attending morning services today and the fellowship they derive
- 11th Those who give of their time to visit sick and lonely people in the parish
- 12th Those preparing for marriage later this year and the excitement they derive
- 13th Children enjoying their pancakes and chocolate before Lent begins in March
- 14th St. Valentine, the patron saint of romantic love, remembered today
- 15th Those people in hospital awaiting treatment for life threatening diseases
- 16th The head teachers of our local schools and the successes they bring to all children
- 17th Homegroups in the parish and the fellowship derived from them
- 18th Children who attend nursery, primary and secondary schools across the island
- 19th All those who intercede during the services in the parish
- 20th Farmers as they prepare for springtime and the year ahead
- 21st Sidespersons who carry out their duties in our parish week by week
- 22nd All those who read the lessons at the services in the parish
- 23rd Children who have been baptised in the parish during the past year
- 24th Children who attend youth organisations such as brownies, cubs, scouts and guides
- 25th The Rev'd Joe Heaton, Vicar of the Parish of Rushen, and his ministry.
- 26th The participants in Messy Church which takes place today
- 27th PCC committees and the work they do in keeping the parish active
- 28th Those who administer communion to the housebound.

Services February/March 2022

2 nd February	2pm	Play & Praise St Catherine's Church Hall
6 th February (Epiphany 5)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
13 th February (Epiphany 6)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's All-Age Service St Catherine's Holy Communion CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
20 th February (2nd Sunday b. Lent)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's All-Age Service St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
26 th February	3.30pm	St Catherine's Messy Church
27 th February (First Sunday b. Lent)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
2 nd March	2pm	Play & Praise St Catherine's Church Hall
6 th March (Lent 1)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
13 th March (Lent 2)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's All-Age Service St Catherine's Holy Communion CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
20 th March (Lent 3)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's All-Age Service St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
26 th March	3.30pm	St Catherine's Messy Church
27 th March (Mothering Sunday)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)

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

Contact Details for Rushen Parish cont'd....

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(Mobile: 07808254356 email: lesley@pharmaconsulting.co.uk)

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Mr G Callister, 60 Ballamaddrell, Port Erin 474924/834627

St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

Mr & Mrs G Callister, 60 Ballamaddrell, Port Erin 474924/834627

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e-mail: dbow43@manx.net

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

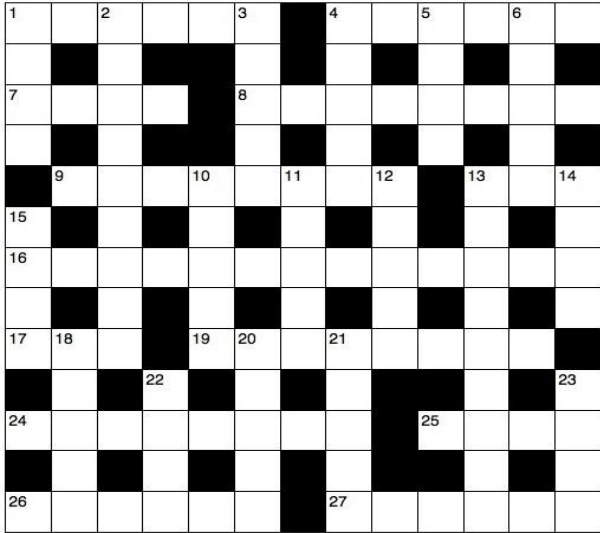
Parish Director of Music:

Mr M D Porter, 10 Fairway Drive, Rowany, Port Erin 832143

Churchyard Enquiries:

Please contact Mr Harry Dawson: 478050/835770
or Mr G Callister: 474924/834627

Crossword February 2022



Across

- 1** 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4** 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7** The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8** He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9** Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13** Solicit money or food from passers-by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16** What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17** Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19** 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24** Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25** Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26** Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27** The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1** 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2** Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)

- 3** 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4** Belief (5)
- 5** 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6** 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10** A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11** 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12** The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13** A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14** Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16** Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15** The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18** 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20** 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21** The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22** 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23** 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)