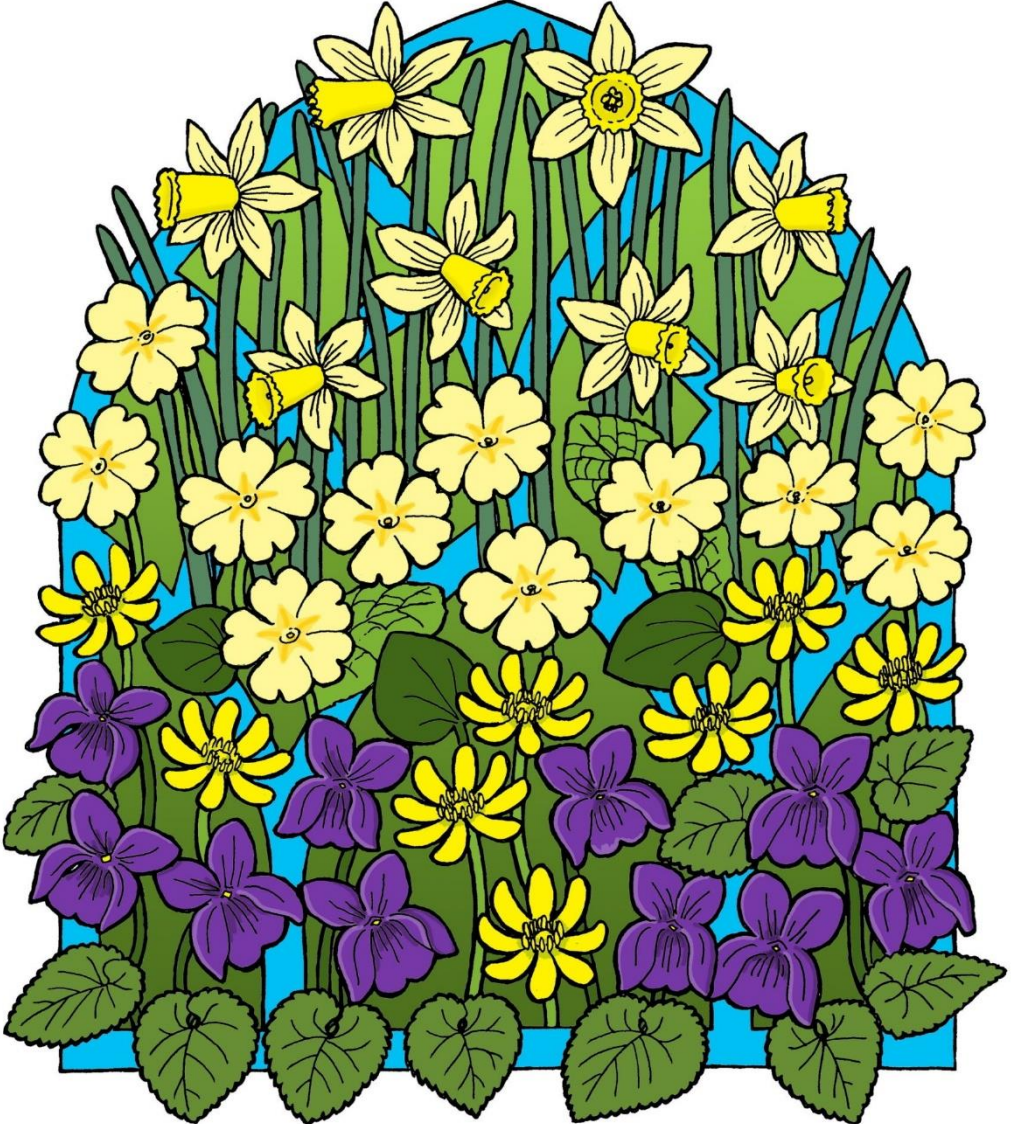




March
2022

Rushen Parish Magazine



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come!

Song of
Songs 2:12

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From the Editor

Dear Friends

I was born at Old Trafford not far from Manchester. From what I've heard my mother experienced a very difficult and painful birthing experience and to quote her she said, 'never again!' True to her word I was not blessed with a brother or a sister and was an only child. I would have liked a sibling but do not blame my parents for not having one, after all I wasn't aware of their situation, and the second world war was still raging. Nevertheless I was nurtured carefully and brought up by my parents to be the person I am today, and for that I am extremely grateful.

When I was nine my mother contracted tuberculosis and had to be taken away from the family home to a sanatorium in the Lake District. She was there for fifteen months and needless to say I was lost without her. At no time was I allowed to visit her whilst she was convalescing. My father visited her every weekend and I was looked after by a friend whilst he was away. It was during that time I realised what an impact mothers have on our lives. Not only do they give birth to us, but their care for us as we grow is phenomenal. I'm pretty sure that her being away had a profound effect on my development during that time. My work at school suffered as did my behaviour, and I was not the person my parents had wanted me to be.

When she returned home everything changed. Not only did I improve at school, my behaviour did too. Unfortunately though, not long afterwards my mother and father split up. Whilst this was traumatic in itself, my mother became very possessive of me and worried about me whenever I was not at home. It was as if I was being punished for not being with her during those months of convalescence. Unfortunately this continued throughout my teenage years, attendance at college, my engagement, and ultimately my marriage. Despite this apparent flaw in our relationship I continued to love and care for her until she died in 2001. It was not until then that I realised how much my mother had contributed to my life and I did miss her and still do.

Princess Diana once said, '*A mother's arms are more comforting than anyone else's*'. She was right. In preparation for Mothering Sunday perhaps you, like me, will reflect on the contribution that your mother made to your life. I remember vividly the last time I saw my mother alive, the look she gave me as I left her, and the tears that were shed. There's no doubt that the influence she had on my life was immense and for that I am extremely grateful. My mother was deeply proud of me and I will never forget her for as long as I live.

David



Remembering Mothers

The honouring of mothers goes back to Roman times. Each Spring, a pagan festival honoured Cybele, supreme Goddess of Fertility and Mother of all the Gods. Other celebrations paid tribute to Mother Earth. From the Middle Ages, in England, it became traditional for outdoor labourers and craftsmen to have a day off in Lent. Later, domestic servants were also given short leave to visit their mother and family.

These brief holidays became opportunities to go to church. This might have been their home church or their nearest cathedral. The Services at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. The term 'Mothering Sunday' dates from the 16th century. This year it falls on the 27th March.

'Mother's Day' is a secular festival. It originated in 1908 after a woman called Anna Jarvis held a church memorial service for her mother in West Virginia, USA. She was a peace activist and a nurse. She founded Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna wanted people to honour the mother of the family, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. Before she died Anna regretted the commercialism that followed and expressed that this was never her intention.

Many mothers are mentioned in the Bible along with interesting stories about them. These include Eve, Hagar, Leah, Ruth and Bathsheba, to mention only a few. A few times God enabled childless women to have a baby: Rachel, Rebekah, Manoah's wife (unnamed) and Hannah who eventually gave birth to Joseph, Jacob, Samson and Samuel respectively. There was also Sarah, wife of Abraham, who aged 90 became the mother of Isaac.

It is possible that these miraculous births were remembered by the Virgin Mary. She was certainly aware that her elderly relative was pregnant. These events foreshadowed angel Gabriel's announcement that Mary was going to have a baby. Then added "For nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

On our Mothering Sunday, what else can we remember about mothers and give thanks to God for them?

Lester Amann

Less Calories

A minister took his young daughter to the grocery store with him. In addition to the healthful items on the carefully prepared shopping list, they returned with a box of sugar-laden biscuits. The minister noticed the glare of his wife and quickly said, "It's okay, this box of biscuits has one-third fewer calories than usual."

"And why is that?" she asked. "Because we ate a third of them on the way home," he replied.

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



Our weekly meetings continue to be well attended, and we are very grateful to Margaret Moore who leads us, updates us on the health of people in the parish and encourages us to remember them all in our prayers. She also regularly chooses and gives us lovely readings which focus our thoughts.

We are very grateful to David Bowman for printing our posters and tickets for the Open Afternoon on 8th March in the hall at St Catherine's when we shall welcome Paul Moores and Elly Duchars to update us on the inspiring work of The Leprosy Mission. All are welcome and refreshments will be provided. Used postage stamps and donations will be gratefully received.

We were glad to be in a position to make a donation of £100 to the DEC Afghanistan Crisis Appeal and received an appreciative letter thanking us for helping them to provide vital relief to people facing starvation.

Sadly, the Governing Body of Friends of Chernobyl's Children Isle of Man have sent a charity update to all their supporters informing us that it is not possible to bring the children from Belarus to the UK or IOM this summer, due to the ban in Belarus on children travelling overseas, and the continuing difficult political situation there. Also, once again, there can be no coordinator's visit to take aid to the families. However, Maxim, one of the children in the first group in 2000, has gained a degree from Moscow State University, and "as our patron Sir Lawrence New commented recently, there are countless young Belarussians, teenagers and adults, who are much the stronger for all that FOCC have done for them. Maxim is proof of that." Norman and Joan Rivers have worked tirelessly for this charity over many years and must be hugely disappointed, although trying to remain hopeful that the situation will be resolved and their work might continue.

With love and best wishes to everyone, especially those with health concerns at this time.

Pat Thomson

Have you ever considered that..

- ~ A bird in the hand is safer than two over your head.*
- ~ A narrow mind and a wide mouth usually go together.*
- ~ A penny saved is a ridiculous waste of time.*
- ~ A stitch in time would have confused Einstein.*
- ~ No woman ever shot a man while he was doing dishes.*
- ~ We need to save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.*





Wear your daffodil to support Marie Curie and the National Day of Reflection

This March the UK's leading end of life charity Marie Curie will once again be asking people across the UK to support its Great Daffodil Appeal.

Money raised from the flagship fundraising appeal will help the charity's doctors, nurses and hospice staff continue their vital work providing expert care to people at the end of life, and their families. Funds raised also go towards the Marie Curie Information and Support Line, which provides support for people dealing with all aspects of end of life including bereavement.

Last year Marie Curie provided direct support to more than 69,000 people – a 15% rise on the previous year – which is more than ever before.

Marie Curie would like to encourage as many people as possible to give their money or time through volunteering, donating, and fundraising. This could include taking part in a Step into Spring challenge, organising a fundraising event, purchasing products from the Marie Curie online shop, or donating.

This year, for the first time in two years, Marie Curie's volunteer collectors will be back on the streets donning their daffodil hats and selling the charity's iconic daffodil pins.

During the Great Daffodil Appeal, on 23rd March, Marie Curie is inviting everyone in the UK to take part in the National Day of Reflection. It will be a day to come together and support the millions of people who are grieving and remember those we have lost.

You can show your support for the day by wearing a daffodil pin and joining the minute's silence at 12 noon. Or take part by joining one of the many local events happening across the UK or join one of the online talks for inspiration, support and reflection.

For more information on the National Day of Reflection and how to support Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal this March, visit: mariecurie.org.uk

Looking

In Swansea there used to be a well-known firm of solicitors called W G Christian and Sons. A letter sent to them from overseas was addressed simply: W. G. Christian, South Wales. It eventually arrived at their office with a note from the Post Office attached. It read: "No Christians in Cardiff – try Swansea."

St Mary's Sunday School



Share God's Word

We are very pleased to welcome a new family with 3 girls (Beatrix, Margot and Violet) to St Mary's Sunday School, who joined us at the end of January and have settled in very well.

At the beginning of February, in preparation for our all-age service the following week, we had a Sunday School lesson about the Beatitudes, mainly focusing on what Jesus wants us to be like and what He wants us to do ('Do to others as you would have them do to you'). With a variety of fun activities and games, we thought about what it means to be kind, humble, loving and gentle. We practised being kind and humble servants (just like Jesus) by

acting out a variety of activities we can do to help and serve others, eg cleaning, Hoovering, laying the table and making the bed. We decorated red hearts to give to somebody as a token of our love for them (this tied in nicely with Valentine's Day), and we practised being gentle by trying to balance a very light ball of fluff on a tissue while walking or turning around or trying to jump – we realised that it's not all that easy being gentle! At the end of the session, we also blew some bubbles outside, to remind us that many of the things we chase after are only temporary (here today, gone tomorrow), and that God wants us to store up treasure in Heaven instead.

In our February all-age service, despite being low in numbers, we led the congregation in the singing of "Blessed are the ones in need" - a lovely song based on the Beatitudes. Many thanks to Thomas for reading the Old Testament lesson from Jeremiah so beautifully, and to Laura for reading two of the prayers. Joe involved the whole congregation in the reading of the gospel (the blessings and woes from Luke 6), and got us all thinking about what pieces of advice we would give to others in a variety of contexts, eg for a game, for singing (in a choir) and for life – we had some very good answers! Joe then likened the blessings Jesus spoke over people to pieces of advice for all of us and for our lives, advice on how to live a truly blessed and joy-filled life, by following Jesus, serving each other and caring for one another, which may not lead to riches on earth but to our true reward in Heaven!

The following Sunday, Hannah and Grace from Castle Rushen High School came to tell the Sunday School about their Sixth Form Charity Challenge and especially about the work of the Leprosy Mission, their chosen charity, which is of course also very close to the hearts of many members of our congregations and of St Mary's Ladies Working Party. Hannah and Grace gave an interesting presentation to the children, interspersed with a fun game trying to pick up chocolate buttons with an oven glove (to simulate what it is like not to have feeling in your hands), a video about the current Leprosy Mission 'Greater Heights' appeal to fund the rebuilding of a Research Centre, as well as an engaging and educational board game designed by their Charity Challenge team. The girls are very grateful for the many generous donations from members of the congregation for their 10k sponsored walk to raise funds for the appeal.

We wish everybody an enjoyable Half Term break, as we look forward to our February Messy Church and our next Sunday School meeting on March 6th.

Many blessings from Claudia, Helen and Lukas



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



As we approach Spring I always thank God for this first season of the year. The daylight hours are longer with the sun getting higher in the sky, the birds preparing to nest and the new born lambs in the fields with their mothers. As I write this we are just approaching Lent. Let us ask our Lord to help us to be diligent in prayer and bible reading during the season that leads us up to the great celebration of Easter. This month we celebrate Mothering Sunday on the fourth Sunday of Lent when we remember our church as our mother, also Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus, and our own mothers, and we thank God for them all. At 7pm on 2nd March at Kirk Christ, which is Ash Wednesday, we have a service of Holy Communion, and on 6th March at 6.30pm a service will be held with the Mariner's Choir. Solos to be provided by Mr Paul Costain. This is the first time the choir has visited Kirk Christ and we look forward to joining in singing with it. Please also come along to the parish joint service on 27th March. At St Catherine's we have our usual Soup Inn on 3rd March at 12 noon, and our first concert on 10th March at 7.45pm. At this we will be able to sit back and relax with music from Rushen Silver Band with refreshments at the conclusion of the concert in the church hall.

Until next time
Gerry Callister

St Catherine's Church Spring Concerts

<i>10th March</i>	<i>Rushen Silver Band</i>	<i>7.45pm</i>	<i>@ St Catherine's</i>
<i>21st April</i>	<i>Manx Saxophone Ensemble</i>	<i>7.45pm</i>	<i>@ St Catherine's</i>
<i>19th May</i>	<i>Manx Children's Choir & Scoill Phurt Le Moirrey</i>	<i>7.00pm</i>	<i>@ St Catherine's</i>

Retiring Collection

Refreshments in the Hall following concerts

World Day of Prayer Service 2022

This year's ecumenical World Day of Prayer Service is being held on Friday 4th March 2022 at Castletown Methodist Church, Arbory Street, Castletown.

The theme of the service is 'I know the plans I have for you' (Jeremiah 29 v 11) and has been prepared by representatives from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Everyone is most welcome to attend and from 10am tea/coffee will be served in the church hall prior to the service starting at 11am.

Sudoku March 2022

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

Hereafter

The minister came to see me the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. No matter where I am - in the bedroom, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement - I ask myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'"

February Sudoku Solution

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

February Crossword Solution

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

The Story of the Yellow Ribbons



*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 third in the series, which will run for most of this year.*

We are loved with everlasting love! One of the greatest and most comforting doctrines taught in the Bible is the love of God for His people. In the Law and in the Prophets; in the poetical and historical books; in Gospels

and Letters – all agree to tell us what God said to His people through Jeremiah. “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3).

It was that love that moved the Father to send His Son into the world (John 3:16). Paul writes glowingly of “that great love with which He loved us” (Ephesians 2:4). John emphasises the same great truth in a magnificent creed of just three words: ‘God is love’ (1 John 4:8). Quite simply there is nothing in all creation more reassuring, more comforting, more encouraging, more uplifting than to know that God loves us. And we can go further and put it in personal terms as Paul did. ‘He loved me and gave Himself for me’ (Galatians 2:21).

How can we illustrate the illimitable love of God? One such illustration was told by the Rev John Wilbur Chapman of Indiana, an ordained Presbyterian minister who in 1893 went into full-time evangelistic ministry: One evening Chapman was travelling by train in a rural part of Kansas. The other passenger in the carriage was a young man who kept glancing out the window and then covering his face with his hands. Chapman asked if he could help.

The young man confessed that many years before he had run away from home and ‘sown his wild oats.’ He had not written to his parents at all, until a few weeks before, telling them that he would be travelling on this train. At a certain point it passed very close to his home. In the letter he had begged his parents’ forgiveness and asked if they wanted him to come home. If so, they were to tie a yellow ribbon on the old apple tree that grew right beside the railway lines.

“Sir,” he said to Chapman, “the train will soon pass my home but I’m afraid to look. If there’s a yellow ribbon on the tree, I’ll get off at the next station and go home. If there’s no ribbon, I’ll just travel on. But I’m too afraid to look out for the tree.” So Chapman offered to look for him.

“You can open your eyes now,” he said a few minutes later. The returning prodigal looked at Chapman with tears and quivering lips. ‘All is well,’ said the evangelist. ‘There is a yellow ribbon on the apple tree. In fact, there’s far more than one. Every branch is hanging with yellow ribbons, scores and scores of them. Your parents love you that much, they want you to come home.’”

If parents can love their wayward children like that, how much greater is the love of God! Truly, we are loved with everlasting love.

Wake-up!

Wake-up you people!
 Spring-time's all around:
 Transforming tree-tops,
 Transforming the ground.
 Listen! to bird song;
 Encapture the sound –
 Beauty in the making,
 The gift of life abounds.

Wake-up you people!
 Clear the cluttered mind –
 Of thoughts that hinder,
 Inspiration find.
 With worries and stress,
 Do not be resigned;
 Try creative thinking
 Renew the deadened mind.

Wake-up you people!
 Open up your heart.
 To love and be loved,
 Make a conscious start.
 In our community
 Play an active part!
 Within relationships,
 Practise this joyful art.

Wake-up you people!
 Easter's on its way,
 Heraldng new life
 Free from evil's fray.
 Wake-up you people!
 Stand fast, don't delay,
 Ready for 'The Return'
 And God's Eternal day.

*"Look! I am making
 Everything new."
 Rev.21:5 The Message.*

Margaret Couper



Remembering Aretha Franklin

Eighty years ago, on 25th March 1942, Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul, was born. The American soul/R&B/pop/gospel singer was known for her many hit songs including 'Respect' and 'I Say a Little Prayer'. She died in 2018.

Aretha began her career as a young child, singing gospel songs at New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, where her father C L Franklin was a minister. His emotional sermons led to him being known as 'the million dollar voice', and he earned money preaching in churches across the country, making him something of a celebrity.

That led to his becoming friends with such luminaries as Martin Luther King, Sam Cooke, and Clara Ward – a singer who acted as a role model to Aretha, who then achieved widespread commercial success after she signed for Atlantic Records in 1966.

Her successes as a singer are too many to document fully, but she won 18 Grammy Awards, and was the first female artist to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

She was also inducted into the UK Music Hall of Fame in 2005 and into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2010, *Rolling Stone* magazine ranked her top of its list of the 100 Greatest Singers of All Time. A year after her death the Pulitzer Prize jury awarded her a posthumous special citation "for her indelible contribution to American music and culture for more than five decades".

Life was not always easy for her. A fear of flying stopped her travelling overseas after 1984, and she performed only in North America after that.

Aretha was a Christian who believed in supernatural healing and regarded her singing abilities as a gift from God. "My faith always has been and always will be important to me," she said.

Tim Lenton



Why God made mums

With Mothering Sunday in mind a group of seven year old children were asked to answer some questions about why God made mums. Here are the questions, and their answers:

Why did God make mothers?

- She's the only one who knows all the passwords we use online.
- Mostly to clean the house, I think.
- To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

- He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
- I've heard it was some amazing experiment on men that got out of hand.
- God made my mum just the same like He made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

- God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and one part of men.
- They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.
- They have a lot more hair than dads, are softer to hug, and wear woolly jumpers.

Why did God give you to your mother, and not to some other mum?

- We're related.
- God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.
- Other mums wouldn't understand about me being afraid in the dark.

What kind of little girl was your mum?

- My mum has always been my mum and none of that other stuff.
- I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
- They say she used to be nice.

What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him?

- His last name.
- She had to know his background, like has he put anything too disgusting on Facebook?
- She needed to check out his bank account, to make sure he could buy her clothes.

Why did your mum marry your dad?

- My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mum eats a lot.
- She got too old to do anything else with him.
- My grandma says that no one will ever know.

Who's the boss at your house?

- Dad is, because mum says so. She just helps by reminding him what to do each day.
- Mum. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
- Dad was, until Mum found what he had written on Facebook about Granny.

What's the difference between mums & dads?

- Mums work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.
- Mums know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
- Dads are taller and stronger, but they panic when the dishwasher overflows.

What does your mum do in her spare time?

- She takes my brother to football and my sister to violin lessons.
- To hear her tell it, it's like she pays bills all day long.
- I think that must happen during the night, because then she just lies there and sleeps

What would it take to make your mum perfect?

- On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
- Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.
- She would understand why the dog needs to sleep with me at night.

If you could change one thing about your mum, what would it be?

- She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
- I'd make my mum smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
- She'd be more relaxed about me not doing my homework.

During the middle of the tenth century the Bishop of Exeter, Leofric, presented a collection of prayers to his cathedral. The author is unknown, but the meditations present an insight into the Anglo-Saxon Christian spirit. Here is one considering Lent.

Give me, O Lord, patience and sense of purpose in each of the things which you send to beset me. You know the many wicked deeds which burden my heart. But out of compassion you set aside all blame and receive me as your own. Please protect me through the dangers and confusion of my transient life on earth, ensuring that in all things I strive for eternal life in heaven.

I know that I am very slow to make amends for my sins, despite the many favours you grant me. Fix my trust, my timid hopes, upon yourself, so that I may stand on a secure foundation. Lift up my thoughts with your wisdom.

Stand by me, Lord, and hold me upright when the gales of sin blow round me. And when the dark stormy night of wickedness closes in on me, guide my steps. My soul is already battered by the temptations to which I have submitted. My spirit is crushed by the weight of past misdeeds. My mind is stained by the memory of the evil in which I have participated. Throughout my life you have been unfailingly generous to me, although I have deserved only punishment.

Ah Lord, you are the only remedy. Let my suffering bring me true contrition, that I may receive your forgiveness, and so be made fit for the everlasting joy of heaven. Amen

All in the month of March



500 years ago, from 9th to 17th March 1522 Martin Luther preached his *Invocavit* Sermons. He urged citizens to adhere to the core Christian values and trust in God, rather than using violence to bring about change.

175 years ago, on 3rd March 1847 Alexander Graham Bell, Scottish-born American engineer, and scientist, was born. Credited with inventing the first practical telephone.

150 years ago, on 16th March 1872 the first FA Cup Final was held at the Oval in Kennington, London. Wanderers beat the Royal Engineers 1-0.

100 years ago, on 10th March 1922 Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi was arrested and charged with sedition for his campaign of non-cooperation against the British Indian government. He was sentenced to six years in prison but released after two years as he needed surgery.

80 years ago, on 8th March 1942 the bombing of Essen, Germany, took place. It was the first attack on a German city by the British RAF following the Area Bombing Directive of 14th February, which authorised the bombing of civilian areas. **Also, on 25th March 1942** Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul, was born. The American soul/R&B/pop/gospel singer was known for her many hit songs including *Respect* and *I Say a Little Prayer*. (Died 2018)

75 years ago, on 1st March 1947 the International Monetary Fund began operating.

70 years ago, on 11th March 1952 Douglas Adams, British comedy writer and dramatist was born. Best known for *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series. (Died 2001)

65 years ago, on 25th March 1957 the Treaty of Rome was signed, creating the European Economic Community (EEC) which came into force on 1st January 1958. It was renamed the European Community in 1993 and dissolved in 2009, having been replaced by the European Union.

60 years ago, on 19th March 1962 the American folk-rock singer Bob Dylan released his debut album *Bob Dylan*.

50 years ago, on 24th March 1972 the government of Northern Ireland resigned, and on 30th March 1972 that the British government introduced direct rule of Northern Ireland from Westminster (until 1999).

40 years ago, on 3rd March 1982 the Barbican Centre in London was opened. It is the largest arts and conference venue in Europe.

30 years ago, on 19th March 1992 Buckingham Palace announced the separation of the Duke and Duchess of York (Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson.)

25 years ago, on 6th March 1997 Queen Elizabeth launched the official Royal website: **Also, on 21st March 1997** the Rev W V Awdry, British clergyman and children's writer, died. Best known as the creator of *Thomas the Tank Engine*.



Reflected Faith Series: The Ashing Service

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

Such a strange name for a church service! Why would anyone be attracted to attend such a thing? This year Ash Wednesday is close to the start of March; on the Second of the month. As the first day of Lent the service is used to physically place a sign of the cross on each person's forehead using ashes made from the previous year's palm crosses.

The use of ashes has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship; the Old Testament referring to sackcloth and ashes over twenty times.

There is clearly a visual link with the blackness of evil and sin but also the 'dirtiness' that spreads everywhere from it. We all know how a small amount of mud on the shoes walked into the house will soon go everywhere and take a much harder and longer clean-up operation than if it was wiped off before entering.

In Christian records, ashes are used for penitents by the sixth century, but it is not until the beginning of the eleventh century that the faithful took part in a ceremony on the Wednesday before Lent that included the imposition of ashes. Still later this came to be called Ash Wednesday.

Over the centuries the emphasis of meaning for the imposed ashes has changed from a preparation for baptism, a renewal of baptismal vows, to an understanding of a community's preparation for the event of the Paschal mystery of rebirth at Easter. It reminds of what is past and what is to come, and it encourages us to think again of how we can change that journey should we wish to do so.

This month

The Imposition of Ashes is a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. It is 'felt' in the heart and soul – as well as on the skin.

And can be one of the most profound experiences of humility as we enter together as a Christian community across the globe our journey towards the Cross and the Resurrection.

As the priest says the traditional words over you:

"Remember that you are but dust, and to dust you will return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. Amen." What will you be focusing upon?

From the Registers

Funerals January 2022:

4 th January	Paul Harrison	Kirk Christ	Service & Burial
14 th January	Douglas Moore	Kirk Christ	Service & Crem.
18 th January	Marion J Nelson	Kirk Christ	Service & Burial
20 th January	Brian G Heaney	Kirk Christ	Service & Crem.
21 st January	Margaret A S Thorpe	Kirk Christ	Service & Burial
28 th January	David Lewthwaite	RBG	Burial only
31 st January	Kathleen Hudson	RBG	Ashes only

(RBG Rushen Burial Ground)

Shoes

A timid curate went into a shoe shop to try on some shoes. "Try those – they are just right for you," decreed the very superior sales assistant. The curate struggled to get the shoes fastened, but he failed. The assistant frowned and looked down. "Well, no wonder. Try pulling the tongue out."

"Well, theyth sthlll feelh a bith tighth."

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



Despite very windy conditions outside, 17 members and guests ventured to our meeting on 14th February to take part in our short service and to hear a talk from our speaker, Mrs Judy Mathews from the Southern Branch of the IOM Foodbank. Mrs Elsie Faragher was in the chair, Mrs Iris Mitchell chose and played our two hymns, Mrs Sue Bould led us in prayer and Mrs Maureen Hartley gave us a very appropriate reading for Valentine's Day, entitled "A Supermarket Prayer", which we all enjoyed.

Elsie welcomed Judy who thanked us for her invitation and for bringing much needed cleaning materials for the foodbank. She began her talk by explaining how the southern branch works, including referrals, assessments, deliveries, client units and mouths that are fed, and the extent to which Covid has impacted their work. Over the past 5 years, Judy has seen many changes in the need for help; how talking and listening are important, how some clients do not qualify for benefits through lack of time on the island, how gifts of money allow the purchase of fresh protein to improve the diet, and she is looking forward to moving into the Commissioners' Offices when members of the Rotary Club have got the premises ready.

After questions from the floor, Mrs Margaret Couper gave an appreciative vote of thanks and a gift, and following our final hymn we all enjoyed refreshments and fellowship together. Our next meeting is on Monday 14th March at 2pm in St Catherine's Hall, with Mrs Margaret Couper in the chair and Mr Eddie Perkins speaking about "Glen Chass". Guests are always very welcome.

Some dates for Diaries:

Spring Council Meeting and AGM on Monday 7th March at St John's church Hall. Tea/coffee from 6.30 – 7.15. Short service at 7.15 then our meeting. Please bring any donations for Isle Listen.

Lady Day Festival Eucharist Service in the Cathedral on Friday 25th March at 2.30pm

Quiet Day – June TBA

Founder's Day on 9th Aug TBA

Autumn council Meeting on 12th September at 7pm TBA

Advent Service on 6th December at 7pm TBA

Trustees Meetings all to be held in Kirk Michael Parish church at 7pm, on May 17th, Aug 2nd and Nov 1st.

There is a vacancy for a Trustee and a volunteer from the southern branches would be welcomed.

Pat Thomson

God in the Arts



Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'The Potato Planters' by Jean-Francois Millet, which hangs in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Enter my rest

At this time of the year, we are planning our gardens for the Spring and Summer ahead. The book of Genesis opens with a glorious account of God's work of creation, and it also tells us that God rested on the

seventh day.

We all need to find that balance of work and rest, of activity and slowing down in our lives. And we are not always good at that because our world seems to be in the fast lane. We rush everywhere, we rush out of habit, and we rush because everyone around us is rushing.

This month's painting, 'The Potato Planters' by Jean-Francois Millet, a 19th century French artist, portrays two peasants at work. They don't seem to be rushing, but Millet has certainly portrayed the hard toil of their work, digging in the earth from sunrise to sunset to eke out a living. Millet was the son of a farm labourer and many of his paintings convey the severe realism of peasant life. We can sympathise with the couple working on the land, and our eyes focus on them as they dominate the canvas.

But in the corner under the shade of a tree there is a donkey and a sleeping child. The donkey knows only too well the reality of toil and work, but here he is resting, enjoying the peace and the shade. Andy Merrifield, an American philosopher, has just published an account of his travels with a donkey, Gribouille. As they journey together, the donkey teaches him the value of patience, the importance of going slowly through the world, and the preciousness of tender friendship between humans and animals. They are all caught up in the little donkey in this painting.

The man and woman in the foreground may reflect our own lives with the duties, the expectations and the demands called of us at work. Take time to focus on the donkey, enjoying his rest. Take time this Spring and Summer to find relaxation and recreation. The world may carry on spinning around us, but we can stand apart, and enter into the rest that God enjoyed after His work of creation.



Children's Page

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

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

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a lost coin, then one about a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father...

I want my share of what I'll inherit from you now!



So the father divided his property between his sons.

The younger son took his money and went to another country.



Then his money ran out and there was a famine.



The only job he could get was feeding pigs.

He was so hungry he would have eaten their food.



Then he came to his senses -

I'll go to my father, say sorry, and ask him for a job as a workman!



He set off for home.

His father saw him coming, ran to him and hugged him.



Father, I am so sorry. I am not good enough to be your son..




But his father sent servants to get clothes for his son and prepare a feast to celebrate his return.

The older son came back from work and heard the noise.



Your brother has returned and your father is having a feast

The older son was so angry he wouldn't go into the house..



so his father came out to see him

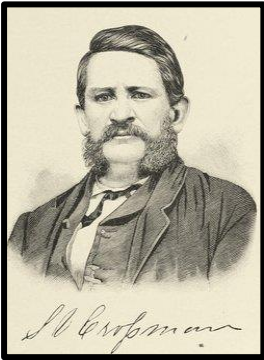
For years I've slaved for you and you've given me nothing. He returns after wasting your money and you give him a feast!



My son, all I have is yours, but we should celebrate because he was lost and now he has been found.



The Story Behind the Hymn



My song is love unknown

Here are three of the seven verses:

1. My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me;
love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I,
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh and die?

2. He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend!

6. Here may I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend
In whose sweet praise;
I all my days
could gladly spend.

The full version can be found in the hymn book in our churches

My song is love unknown is a big song with an attractive tune (*Love unknown*) by the notable English composer John Ireland. The story goes that he composed it over lunch one day in 1918 while out with the organist and music editor, Geoffrey Shaw. Shaw was looking for a tune to go with the hymn, which he wished to include in *The Public School Hymn Book* of 1919.

The words are by Samuel Crossman (1624-1683) who became Dean of Bristol Cathedral. He received a Bachelor of Divinity at Pembroke College, Cambridge. He then served both an Anglican parish at All Saints, Sudbury, and a Puritan congregation.

This poignant meditation of the Passion of Christ was published just before Crossman's ordination, in *The Young Man's Meditation* (1664).

The original poem has seven verses, taking the singer from Palm Sunday through the crucifixion. It re-tells the story of Jesus' life (drawing mainly from the Gospel of Matthew,) from a highly personal point of view – as if the singer were witnessing the events at first hand.

There is an almost conversational quality about the second half of some of the verses, with their short halting phrases that the tune reinforces: "But O my Friend/my Friend indeed..." (v.2); "Never was love like thine/never was grief like thine..." (v.6). The tune also draws out the underlying grief of the meditation, which is only resolved, in the final verse, by the opportunity to live in uninterrupted relationship with "my Friend": "This is my Friend, /in whose sweet praise/I all my days/could gladly spend."

But its purpose is not simply to retell the events of the Passion. From the beginning, we find that this is a love song sung to the Saviour who demonstrated pure love, even to the "love-less" so that they might be "love-ly".

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



*My dearest Lord,
be thou a bright flame before me,
be thou a guiding star above me,
be thou a smooth path beneath me,
be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
today and for evermore. Amen*



March 2022

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Farmers as they prepare their land for the seasons ahead
- 2nd The work of the Social Committee and its commitment to raise funds for our parish
- 3rd Soup Inn taking place today in St Catherine's Church Hall from noon to 1.30pm
- 4th People who are housebound, unable to enjoy the pleasures of outdoor life
- 5th Families as they enjoy the weekend together
- 6th The Mariners' Service taking place at 6.30pm at Kirk Christ today
- 7th Children returning to school after a busy weekend
- 8th Michal Kewley for organising the summer concerts at St Catherine's Church
- 9th Those bereaved recently or who are remembering the death of loved ones
- 10th Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, whose birthday it is today
- 11th The emergency services in their effort to bring relief to those in distress
- 12th Those in financial difficulty
- 13th All participants in sporting activities taking place today
- 14th The Mothers' Union and the good work it does in our parish
- 15th Those responsible for maintaining the highways on the island
- 16th Voluntary helpers in schools who give their time to help the children
- 17th The works of agencies such as the Samaritans and Alcoholics Anonymous
- 18th All saints and martyrs who have remained steadfast in their faith
- 19th Actors and Actresses who provide such pleasure to theatregoers
- 20th Shopkeepers in Port Erin and Port St Mary
- 21st Those who intercede at our services in the parish
- 22nd Students in colleges undertaking courses to further their knowledge
- 23rd For the springtime and the signs of new life in the trees, farms and gardens
- 24th Chaplains in hospitals, prisons and the armed forces, and their ministry
- 25th Those families hoping that they will be able to have a summer break
- 26th Those who prepare for and participate in the activities during Messy Church today
- 27th All mothers on Mothering Sunday
- 28th Residents and helpers at care homes on the island preparing for their daily activities
- 29th The work of the Church Army
- 30th Headteachers in schools within the Southern Mission Partnership
- 31st The safety of children at play now the lighter evenings are upon them

Services March/April 2022

2 nd March	2pm	Play & Praise St Catherine's Church Hall
6 th March (Lent 1)	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)
13 th March (Lent 2)	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)
20 th March (Lent 3)	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)
26 th March	3.30pm	St Catherine's Messy Church
27 th March (Mothering Sunday)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
3 rd April (Lent 5)	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 th April	2pm	Play & Praise St Catherine's Church Hall
10 th April (Palm Sunday)	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 th April (Easter Sunday)	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)

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)

St Mary's Hall Bookings:

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.

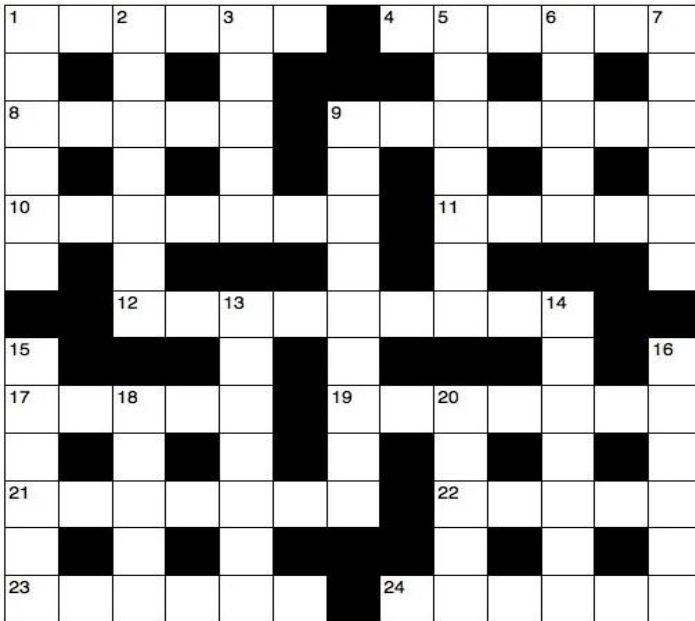
Parish Director of Music:

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 March 2022



Across

- 1** Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4** Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8** "They — —," you will say, "but I'm not hurt!" (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9** Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10** Jewish (7)
- 11** Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12** 'A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies' (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17** Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisdian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19** 'Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21** 'As you can see, he has done nothing to — death' (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22** Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23** 'All the people — — one man, saying, "None of us will go home"' (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24** Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham's side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

- 1** Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2** 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3** Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5** 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6** 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7** Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9** 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13** One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14** Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15** Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16** One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18** Donkeys (5)
- 20** Raked (anag.) (5)