

November 2022

Rushen Parish Magazine

Grief
is the
price
we pay
for
Love

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From the Editor

Recently I was advised by a hospital consultant not to drive for a period of four weeks. Those of you who live on their own, as I do, find the use of a car to get from one place to another invaluable, and a lifeline between being an active part of the community, or being stuck at home with limited interaction with others. The situation caused me to have to go to the hospital on the bus, a mode of travel I rarely take. Because of this I hadn't realised that my bus pass was no longer valid as it was out of date. I boarded the bus, used the pass as directed, waited for a beep which didn't come, collected my pass, and sat down on an available seat still unaware of its invalidity. After my hospital appointment I commenced my return journey, firstly to Douglas. I followed the same procedure as I had on the first bus only to be told by the driver that my pass was out of date. I asked whether I was expected to pay a fare which I was willing to do. The driver responded by telling me to say nothing and to get my pass changed at the 'Welcome Centre' when I arrived at Douglas, he even took me to the door of the Sea Terminal building.

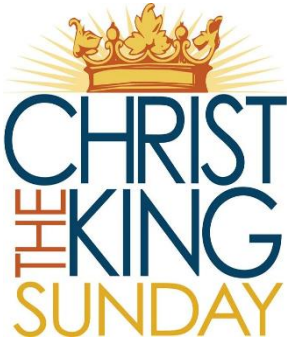
I entered the Welcome Centre, explained my dilemma, and was told by one receptionist that I would have to wait an hour. I was somewhat perplexed as to why I had to wait for so long only to be told that the person who deals with bus passes was at lunch. I must have looked downhearted but was prepared to wait. Within seconds another receptionist appeared from the back office and presented me with an updated bus pass. I expressed how grateful I was and asked how an hour could be reduced to seconds, only to be told that her aim was to please. From there I went to Lord Street to board the bus home. The driver appeared to be somewhat stern, didn't speak and appeared annoyed at me getting a free ride. Of course he might have been a lovely man so I'm not judging him.

What did I learn on that trip to the hospital? Apart from personnel at the hospital, I interacted with three bus drivers and two receptionists. A driver who turned a blind eye, another who was extremely helpful, a receptionist who had little or no compassion, and one who had loads, and a driver who seemed almost judgemental at those getting a free ride. Five people, all of whom had a different outlook on life.

C S Lewis wrote, *"It takes all sorts to make a world; or a church, this may be truer of a church. If grace perfects nature it must expand all our natures into the full richness of the diversity which God intended when he made them, and heaven will display far more variety than hell."* This is so true. Although I met five people with vastly different personalities I am grateful that they weren't all the same. In our church life and fellowship we are all blessed with being with people who have unique talents and personalities, and who contribute to our lives in so many wonderful ways, and making us better people in the sight of God.

David

The Excitement of the Sunday of Christ the King



The last Sunday in November is the last Sunday of the church year, and in some ways the most important. Why? Because everything else in the Christian year looks BACK on what happened 2000 years ago. The Sunday of Christ the King looks FORWARD to what we can expect next.... the return one day of Jesus Christ to this earth, as King of Kings.

Does the idea of Jesus of Nazareth literally returning to earth seem a bit quaint to accept, in our computerised world of e-mails and the Web, that is what the Bible says will happen – *it is promised more than 250 times!*

The Bible is quite clear: the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings will take place personally, powerfully, bodily, visibly, publicly – and INSTANTLY. (Read Matthew 24:30,31, or I Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:3.) Here are words of Jesus Himself:

For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. (Luke 17:24)

This will be no local story for a BBC TV reporter to cover if he gets time. That day he won't be interviewing the Carpenter of Nazareth, wearing Galilean homespun. Jesus will be in His incandescent brilliance as the 'Son of Man' – a bit of a challenge even for TV reporters! Certainly when Peter, James and John were witness to their familiar Master 'transfigured', as the same irradiated Person – in a dramatic preview of Christ's triumphant final rule (Luke 9:28-36), they did not feel very confident.

The martyred Stephen, about to die, had a similar glimpse: "Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7:56). The exiled apostle John on the island of Patmos saw the same figure: '...His face was like the sun shining in full strength' (Revelation 1:16.)

When Christ one day returns, the whole world will finally witness this same spectacle (Revelation 1:7). His return will mark the end of history, as we know it. It will inaugurate the final Judgment. It will reunite the Lord with His Church on earth.

Jesus' return to us will bring about the new heaven and the new earth. Pain, death, persecution, privation and sorrow will all be banished. The entire edifice of evil that has raised itself against the rule of God will be dismantled in a moment.

We have been warned all along not to place a date or a time upon the Second Coming of Christ. (Matthew 24:42-44) Sadly, many people ignore this warning and waste endless time in calculations. The way in which we should be spending our days before the end is to work, watch and witness to our Lord Jesus – whether or not ours is a world of computers, e-mail and all the rest!

In the meantime, where is Jesus now? The Bible writers tells us that Jesus has returned to the place of privilege and power, and is 'seated at the right hand' of the Father (Ephesians 1:20-21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3), and is waiting for the Father's timing for Him to return to earth in glory (Mark 13:26-27,32), to raise the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and give them their resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-44).

Jesus will never be a baby again. He is now Christ the King – today, tomorrow, forever.



Women's Fellowship

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

We started the month of October with a very busy weekend; decorating the church on Saturday 1st , and setting up in the hall kitchen, hosting the Faith Lunch after the Harvest Service on Sunday 2nd, and then making up the gifts to go to 17 members of the parish on Monday 3rd. Huge thanks to everyone who helped to make it such a success: the ladies for decorating the church, Peter for

moving all the tables and chairs into and out of the hall, all who brought the delicious food to share, Peter and Claudia for taking the food stuffs to the Food bank, and all who helped distribute the flower gifts. Good Team work! We were delighted too that so many people joined us from the other parish churches for the Faith lunch, creating a lovely, friendly atmosphere.

Our Tuesday afternoon meetings continue in the usual format; readings, prayers, news of parishioners and the planning of forthcoming events. It was lovely to welcome Ginny again and we appreciated her leading us in prayer, and updating us on the Retreat Day in Peel which she had so enjoyed. We were delighted to receive a lovely surprise of delicious cakes from Ron Maycox who wished to thank us for kindnesses and knows what we all love!

Sue Bould has been busy beginning to organise our Christmas Lunch, which this year will be on 6th December in the George Hotel, Castletown and we thank her very much for doing this. We are all looking forward to a very happy time together.

We send our love and very best wishes to everyone, but particularly to those who are not in good health and we pray for their recovery.

Pat Thomson

More real-life notes left for milkmen...

Please knock. My TV's broken down and I missed Coronation Street last night. Maybe we could talk about what happened over a cup of tea?

My daughter says she wants a milkshake. Do you do this before you deliver, or do I have to shake it at my end?

Please send me a form for cheap milk, as I have a baby two months old and did not know about it until a neighbour told me.

Milk is needed for the baby. Father unable to supply it.

Please leave no milk today. When I say today, I mean tomorrow, as I wrote this note yesterday.

Reflective Faith Initials that talk our Faith Language



The Rev Jo White considers the new King's cypher

We have started to see the new King's cypher on a variety of items, including post boxes. Look at the way 'they' have entwined the letters C R and the Latin numeral III.

Now think about what you so often see in church buildings - letters entwined together. These are either from the Latin or the Greek languages.

Here's a starter for you:

XP – often joined together so the P is standing halfway behind the X.

This symbol - called the chi rho symbol - was used from earliest times and was often simplified into a six-pointed figure. You can see it on some silver spoons found at Mildenhall, and now in the British Museum dating from about 350 AD.

'X' called 'chi' in Greek is said 'Kh' as in khaki. 'P' called 'rho' in Greek is said 'r'. If you put the two together what do they sound like? Khr

What word connected with being a Christian starts with that sound? Of course – Christ. The original Greek would be 'Christoe'.

Another common set of initials often seen on altar linen and probably the most misunderstood is 'IHC'.

People often suggest it comes from the Latin 'Jesus Hominum Salvator' meaning, 'Jesus, Saviour of the World', or even the English 'In His Service'. But they don't. They are the first three letters of the Greek for JESUS - which in Greek was IHCOYC.

It doesn't help that Greek has two ways of writing the sound 's' as in the middle of Jesus. It can be either a 'C' or what looks like a rather stylised 'E'.

To confuse you more, when you translate the Greek letters IHC into Latin they come out as 'IHS'. So you can see both spellings that mean the same thing.

This month

Have a look around your church building – both inside and outside for initials or even whole words. Would knowing what they represent aid you in your worship, and how much do they reflect your faith?

St Mary's Sunday School



Following our summer break (which seems a very long time ago now), the Sunday School started meeting again in September to prepare for our Harvest Festival at St Mary's. We had a fun session in which we enjoyed tasting various types of bread (as the gospel reading for the Harvest service focused on Jesus, the bread of life) as well as making our own Harvest creatures with a variety of fruit and vegetables. Our Harvest service on the 2nd of October was led by our vicar Joe.

As always, the church was beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit, vegetables and other donated items for the Foodbank. The Sunday School contributed to the service with a dramatised version of the gospel reading, a Harvest Thanksgiving song (accompanied by percussion instruments), and a variety of prayers, including a Thanksgiving prayer with props. Thomas also helped by reading the epistle from Philippians. Following the service, we all enjoyed each other's company with a delicious faith lunch in the hall. Thank you very much to all who contributed in any way to make this Harvest Festival such a success! The following morning, the Southern hub of the Foodbank gratefully accepted all our gifts.

In our October Sunday School meetings, we have focused on the themes of Thankfulness and Prayer, as expressed in the lectionary gospel readings according to Luke. We learnt about Jesus healing ten lepers with a short video and a quiz, before acting out the story with our fingers (by drawing sad faces on one side and happy ones on the other side) or making a 2-sided paper bag puppet. We also discussed leprosy as a disease and remembered the wonderful work of the Leprosy Mission. Then we thought about the importance of being thankful for all the good things in our lives, e.g. food, family, friends, pets, a home, a bed, books, toys, clean water, plants, gardens, the Bible, and Jesus. We cut out pictures from magazines to create a colourful Thank You collage.

The following Sunday, we explored the theme of Prayer with the parable of the persistent widow. We started with a game (trying to make each other laugh), followed by a chat about what it may take to get somebody to do what we want them to do (eg to get sweets from parents or be allowed to watch TV for longer). We then joined forces to search (persistently!) for a lost bag of sweets, and once found, we used it to illustrate the concept of fairness and justice (by sharing out unequal amounts of sweets). After watching a video of the parable of the persistent widow, we discussed that although God is not like the unjust judge, He loves it when we talk to Him in prayer, and He always gives us what is best for us (which may not necessarily be what we've asked for). The children learnt that they can talk to God anywhere, anyhow, at any time about anything, just like they talk to a friend, because God is always listening and always interested in what we have to say. We finished off our session with individual prayers for certain people and countries (by making floating flower prayers), and we also made our own prayer dice to help us say Thank you, Sorry, and Please to God, eg at the end of a day.

We are now looking forward to Messy Church at the end of the month and to the Autumn half term holiday.

With love and blessings, Claudia



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



Harvest celebrations were held at our four churches on 2nd October. As usual the churches looked beautiful with displays of flowers, fruit and produce. I would like to thank everyone who gave of their time and helped to decorate the churches. At Kirk Chris Jan Edwards provided extra flowers some of which were taken to St Catherine's. Thank you Jan for your lovely donation. Also at Kirk Christ Stanley Clucas loaned us some beautifully made corn figures, all of which made an impressive display at the west end of the church. These included a crown, sword of state and the union flag. The produce from all of the churches was sent to the Southern Hub Food Bank which was well received and provide families in need with food during these difficult financial times. Finally can I thank everyone who provided the harvest produce. We are so blessed with people who are prepared to donate goods and who attended our two churches on such a lovely weekend.

Gerry Callister



The Port Purlers Charity Knitting Group

The Port Purlers Charity Knitting Group which I started 11 years ago as outreach to the community, is proud to announce that they are staging an exhibition of knitting and stitching of all types at the Erin Arts Centre.

The exhibition opened on Friday 7th October and there are examples of knitting, crochet, embroidery, quilting, needle felting and so much more. We have invited friends to exhibit some of their work too and the result is a rich mixture of crafts. We hope that you will come along and have a look...perhaps some of you would even join us on a Tuesday afternoon, at the Erin Arts Centre, to continue a craft you know or to learn something new. These crafts are not just for women...men are welcome too!

We would be pleased to welcome you to the exhibition from 10.00am to 4.30pm on Tuesday to Friday or at other times when the Centre is open. We hope to raise some funds for the DEC appeal for Pakistan and for the Erin Arts Centre. You should see our poster in church "Threads through Time".

Margaret Galloway

November Sudoku 2022

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

Two more Dingbats for you to solve

22 Ltd 33 Mob MAIL MALE

Answers to October's Dingbats: *'Long-time no see'* and *'No peace for the wicked'*

October Sudoku Solution

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

October Crossword Solution

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



The Poppies of Remembrance Sunday

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud.

These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

Parish Pump



Pre-Christmas Quiz
Friday 18th November at 7pm
St Catherine's Church Hall
Fish/Sausage & Chip supper



Admission £10 per person **There is to be a Raffle**
Tables of 4 or 6. Come on your own if you wish and we will
make sure that you sit with your friends
Tea/Coffee provided. Feel free to bring your own drinks
Contact Gerry on 424924 or David on 260539

The man who gave us the National Health Service



If you use the services of the National Health Service this autumn, spare a thought for the 'presiding spirit' which led to its founding.

Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan was born 125 years ago this month, on 15th November 1897, the sixth of ten children. The family lived in Tredegar, Monmouthshire, where his father was a miner, and his mother was the daughter of a colliery blacksmith.

When he was 14, Bevan followed his father and older brother in the mines, but in his spare time spent hours in the local library, self-educating himself. At 19, Bevan joined the Independent Labour Party and in 1919 he moved to London to continue his studies and encountered the works of Marx and Engels. In 1925 his father died in his arms of the miners' disease pneumoconiosis.

In 1926 Bevan was appointed a full-time union official and was soon caught up in the miners' strike, which led to the General Strike of May 1926. Bevan became known as a firebrand activist and agitator.

In May 1929, when he was 31, Bevan entered Parliament as Independent Labour Party member for Ebbw Vale. A passionate socialist, he regularly attacked Neville Chamberlain, Lloyd George, Winston Churchill, and even his own party's prime minister, Ramsay Macdonald. Bevan's outspokenness caused the parliamentary authorities to suspend him from the house in 1937, and his own party expelled him for a time in 1939.

When in July 1945 Labour was returned to government with a landslide, the new Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, offered Bevan a Cabinet position. "I understand that you have much experience of negotiation. I am offering you the post where you will deal with health, housing and the local authorities."

And so, at 47, Bevan became the youngest member of that Cabinet. He oversaw the building of over a million new houses before 1950, and in 1946 the government steered through the National Insurance Act, which created the infrastructure of what was to be the Welfare State.

In 1948 the National Health Service Act, which Bevan had seen through Parliament, became law. This allowed people to receive, free at the point of use, medical diagnosis, and treatment at home or in hospital. As the writer Brian Brivati observes: "It was the decision to nationalise the hospitals that made the profound difference in the... creation of the NHS. This decision was Bevan's and its implementation was down to his skill, patience, and application as a minister. It is the most significant and lasting reform in the history of the Labour Party, and it was achieved by one man."

Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan was Minister of Health 1945 to 1951. The National Health Service became operational on 5th July 1948.

Remembrance November 2022

“We’ll meet again”

A wartime message echoed by the Queen,
As covid hit a fearful human scene.
Now at ‘Remembrance Time’ we pause and pray,
For those who for a while have passed away.

“We’ll meet again”

Believing Christians! there is brightness there,
A confident ring! bliss beyond compare.
Time, today, may seem tedious and long,
Resurrected life! should be our hopeful song.

“We’ll meet again”

King Charles believes he’ll meet ‘Mama’ again.
(Such promises the Bible does contain).
Now, as the ‘Lord of Man’ begins his reign,
May loyal, reverential love remain.

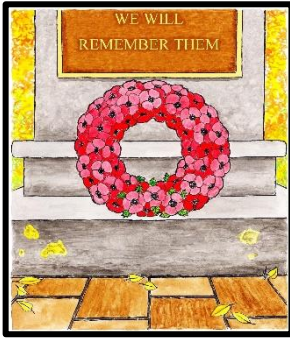
“We’ll meet again”

Oh! blessed refrain,
Repeat the words once again!

John 14:1-3 N.I.V.

*Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God, trust also in me ---
I am going to prepare a place for you.
I will come back and take you to be with me.”*

Margaret Couper



Live Forever?

German billionaire, Peter Thiel, has registered to be cryonically preserved: his body will be deep-frozen when he dies, then thawed out and resuscitated if medical developments make it possible. Likewise, mega-rich Jeff Bezos has poured cash into anti-ageing research, which means more than inventing an improved wrinkle cream.

These 21st Century entrepreneurs may not know the Memorial Service read on the Jewish Day of Atonement, which considers the implications of their fictional world. It leaves us to speculate,

“If the existing generation were given the chance to live forever, but on the clear understanding that never again would there be a child, or a youth or a girl, or adolescent love, never again new persons with new hopes, new ideas, new achievements; ourselves for always and never any others . . .”

Actually, most people don’t want to live forever. A recent survey revealed only 19% of non-Christians and 11% of Christians “would like to live forever if scientists were able to engineer it.”

Dame Deborah James, who died earlier this year aged 40, showed the world how to live with incurable cancer. Although she didn’t want to die, as she approached the end, discovered,

“My appreciation for the little things in life has only increased: walking from the kitchen into the garden and enjoying the sunshine; listening to the birds; having something to eat. I’ve realised that nothing else matters beyond the simple things and the love of your family and friends.”

Christian belief in eternal life isn’t about an endless extension of the here and now. We shall be changed, insists St Paul:

“... in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

We aren’t given all the details. Instead, Jesus invites us now to establish such a trust in His unseen presence, that when our time comes, we will be carried out of sight into something greater:

*“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

Venerable John Barton

All in the month of November



175 years ago, on 4th November 1847, Scottish obstetrician James Young Simpson discovered the anaesthetic properties of chloroform. He helped popularise its use in medicine. **Also on 8th November 1847**, Bram Stoker, Irish-born British writer, was born. He is best known for his Gothic horror novel *Dracula*.

125 years ago, on 15th November 1897, Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan, British politician was born. He was the Minister of Health 1945-51 who led the establishment of the National Health Service.

100 years ago, on 4th November 1922, British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen. On 26th November he reached a second sealed doorway and discovered the famous treasures.

80 years ago, on 5th November 1942, the WW2 Second Battle of El-Alamein ended. British troops led by Generals Alexander and Montgomery defeated Rommel's German forces in Egypt. On 10th November, Winston Churchill announced: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

75 years ago, on 20th November 1947, the marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, took place at Westminster Abbey in London.

70 years ago, on 1st November 1952, the USA carried out the first successful detonation of a hydrogen bomb, in a test on the Pacific island of Elugelab, Marshall Islands. The island was completely destroyed and no longer exists.

65 years ago, from 16th to 26th November 1957, the first London Film Festival was held, at the National Film Theatre. (Now BFI Southbank.)

60 years ago, on 20th November 1962, the Cuban Missile crisis ended and US President John F Kennedy lifted the military blockade of Cuba.

40 years ago, on 2nd November 1982, Channel 4 Television was launched in the UK. **Also on 30th November 1982**, Michael Jackson's album *Thriller* was released.

30 years ago, on 11th November 1992, the Church of England voted to allow women to become priests. The first women were ordained in March 1994. **Also 30 years ago, on 20th November 1992**, the Windsor Castle fire broke out in a private chapel and spread to a large part of the building. Damage was extensive and took five years to repair, at a cost of £40 million. Buckingham Palace was opened to the public for the first time to help raise the money.

20 years ago, on 11th November 2002, Microsoft founder Bill Gates pledged \$100 million to help fight AIDS in India. **Also on 15th November 2002**, Myra Hindley, one of the notorious 'Moors Murderers' (with Ian Brady) died.

The message of Advent? History is going somewhere!



Editor: We consider the beginning of the Church Year...

'And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger...' (Luke 2:7)

'They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.' (Matthew 24:30)

What a contrast between the humble birth of Jesus in Bethlehem – and His eventual return! No one knows when that day will be, but it will be earth-shaking. In the meantime, Advent reminds us of the last of six great saving actions of God in Jesus Christ.

The Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem was to inaugurate our salvation. The Death of Jesus at Calvary established it – forever. The Resurrection of Jesus at Easter confirmed it. The Ascension of Jesus to heaven celebrated it. The Gift of the Spirit at Pentecost drove it worldwide. And sixthly will come the Return of Jesus at the world's end – to consummate and complete it.

The message of Advent reminds us that history is not circular or locked into an unending stalemate. Neither can we ever accept a notion of successive reincarnations, for the Bible is clear that *man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment* (Hebrews 9:27).

The Bible has had many pre-runs of that final 'Day of the Lord.' Noah's flood, the overthrow of wicked Babylon; these and other upheavals were but pointers to the final 'Day of our Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Corinthians 1:8), when all wrongs will be stopped, and the Lord shall reign with justice.

For the Bible is clear that world history is leading to *a Conclusion*, to the new heaven and the new earth. That will be inaugurated when 'He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.' Christ's return will usher in the final triumph, bringing about the dismantling of the whole apparatus of Evil that has so harassed us across the centuries.

The Cross and Resurrection secured the victory over evil. Christ's return will make it final! Believers echo Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 - 'And so we will be with the Lord for ever.' If we have a *strong view of the future, we can be sure it will energise us in the present!*

In the meantime, Advent is coming round once again. It's time to celebrate the first of God's six mighty acts that secured our salvation – and look forward to the future.

From the Registers

Funerals September 2022:

1 st September	Joan Helps		Crematorium only
2 nd September	Brian Stott	Ashes Burial	RBG
7 th September	William Karran	Burial	RBG
16 th September	Anne Moon	Ashes Burial	RBG
20 th September	Susan Corkish	Service & Burial	Kirk Christ & RBG
23 rd September	Peter Addison	Memorial Service	Kirk Christ
29 th September	Iris & Bertie Lennard	Ashes Burial	RBG
30 th September	Michael Atherton		Crematorium only
30 th September	John & Lois Parkhouse	Ashes Burial	RBG

Wedding September 2022:

17th September Tegan M. L. Hilton & Thomas G.B. Kewley Kirk Christ (1pm)

Baptisms September 2022:

11 th September	Rory Blake	St Mary's (11am)
11 th September	Gracie Coldwell	St Mary's (11am)
18 th September	Cooper Edward Brotherton Lewis	Kirk Christ (9.30am)



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, Voirrey Baugh (Tel. 832275)

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



Covid concerns had prevented Mr Gerry Callister from speaking to us on "The Co-op" last year, and it was so good for our members and guests to finally hear his most interesting and enjoyable talk on Monday 10th October. We began as always with a short service, including prayers led by Mrs Pat Thomson, a well-chosen reading from Mrs Sue Bould, and a hymn chosen and played by Mrs Iris Mitchell. We heard news of members who were not in the best of health, of the useful MU gifts of toiletries bags for those in hospital, of Mrs Jane Gunn's MU work with the children of some

of the prisoners here on the island, and a prayer of appreciation of our MU patron Queen Elizabeth, Lord of Mann, from the MU Connected booklet, sent out to every member.

Grateful thanks are extended to all who helped us to raise a total of £324 at our well-attended coffee morning on 7th October. The initial heavy rain had not discouraged our supporters and they were rewarded with sunshine for their return home. We were delighted to welcome members from other branches, including Mrs Joyce Kermeen with MU cards for sale, our Diocesan President Rev Jeanette Hamer and Diocesan Secretary Mrs Ann Corlett.

Gerry needs no introduction to anyone in Rushen Parish as he is always there with a helping hand whenever any event is taking place. I do not know how we could manage without him. His talk was in two parts: a short history of the Manx Co-op from 1919 to present day, followed by a description of his life learning the grocery trade starting at the age of 10, working in many different shops including Co-ops in Kirk Michael, Port Erin, Ramsey, and Peel, delivering around the island, in deputy manager and manager positions, and concluding with his work as a director. Anecdotes accompanied each part of his fascinating talk, and as he finished with us all wanting to hear more, we hope he can be persuaded to come back another time and treat us to Part 2! Gerry had also kindly brought his Maundy Money for us to examine, some correspondence and a commemorative programme from the Rushen Coronation Service of 1953. Mr David Bowman gave an appreciative vote of thanks and presented Gerry with a gift, after which we concluded with a hymn and the saying of The Grace together, followed by refreshments served by Jane and Sue.

With love and very best wishes to all

Pat Thomson

Forthcoming Dates:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 14 th October | COUNCIL MEETING St John's Church Hall 6.30 for 7pm |
| 8 th November | S&W JMP MEETING St John's Chapel 10am |
| 14 th November | BRANCH MEETING , St Catherine's Hall, Mrs Lesley Scott in the chair, with Mr HUGH DAVIDSON SPEAKING ON "RUSHEN HERITAGE" . 2pm Guests always welcome. |
| 6 th December | MU ADVENT SERVICE 7pm, Braddan Church |
| 12 th December | BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY 2pm in St Catherine's Hall |

God in the Arts

'An Old Woman Saying Grace'



*Editor: **The Revd Michael Burgess** continues his series on *God in the Arts* with a look at 'An Old Woman Saying Grace'. It now hangs in Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.*

Thank you, Lord, for food to eat

There is a character in a Russian novel who says, 'Ladies and gentlemen, let us assume that man is not stupid...but if he isn't stupid, he is monstrously ungrateful all the same – a creature that has two legs and no sense of gratitude.' That is certainly true in a world where carping and criticising come more easily

than praise and thanksgiving. It is an attitude which rubs off on all of us, and is like Aesop's fable of the donkey, who was never happy with his lot, whatever the weather, whatever the season.

Aesop told the story to remind us of the need to cultivate a spirit of gratitude – not to put blinkers on our eyes and be negative about life, but to open both eyes and hearts in thanksgiving for the world in which we live. We do that each time we celebrate the eucharist together. We do it when we say grace before meals. This month's painting, 'An Old Woman Saying Grace' by Nicholas Maes brings this truth to mind.

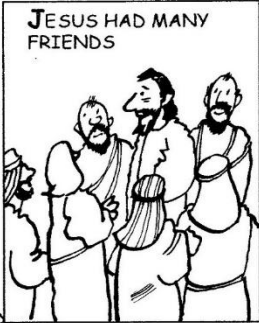
Maes was a pupil of Rembrandt and he lived from 1632 to 1693. He spent most of his life in Dordrecht in Holland, and, apart from portraits, he delighted in painting women – women spinning or reading the Bible or preparing meals. Here the woman is sitting down to a simple meal of soup, bread, butter and fish. But before she enjoys this food, she puts her hands together and, as simply as the food in front of her, mouths a prayer of thanks to God.

The artist tells us that this offering of prayer was a daily pattern for the woman. For on the ledge at her side lie an open Bible, a lamp and an hour-glass, and on a nail some keys. Signs that such prayer can be a light to illuminate the days of our lives and the key to open our hearts to the kingdom, just like the woman in the painting.

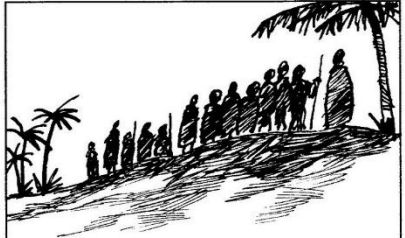
It is a tender moment, both concentrated and intimate. At first glance, there is a tinge of sadness for the table is set just for her. She will eat alone. And then our eyes catch sight of the cat's paw reaching up to enjoy the food as well. Who knows? – something may spill over the edge of the table for the cat to enjoy. Simplicity and humour go hand in hand to remind us all of the need to be thankful. And thankfulness for food can spill over into thanksgiving for all the mercies and gifts that come our way in life.

Children's Page

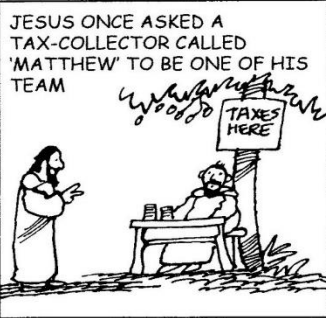
The Doctor and the Patient



JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS



BUT SOME WERE EXTRA SPECIAL. THESE WERE HIS 'DISCIPLES'.



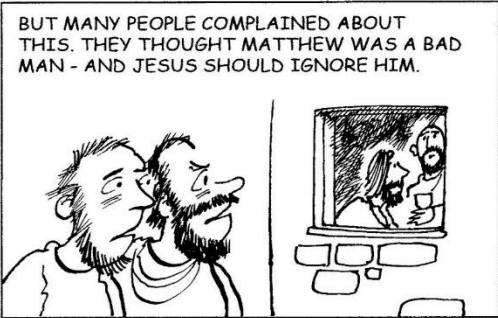
JESUS ONCE ASKED A TAX-COLLECTOR CALLED 'MATTHEW' TO BE ONE OF HIS TEAM



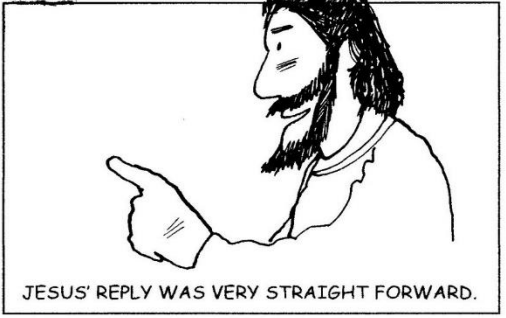
MATTHEW AGREED TO FOLLOW JESUS



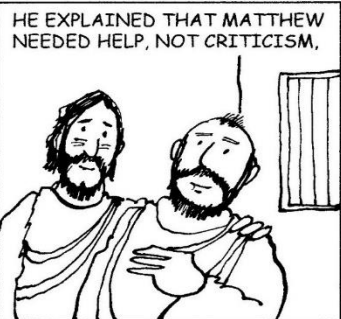
JESUS WENT TO HAVE A MEAL AT MATTHEW'S HOUSE



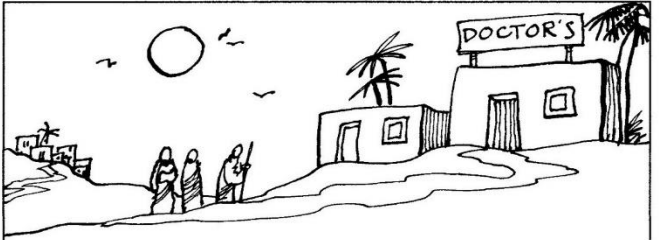
BUT MANY PEOPLE COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS. THEY THOUGHT MATTHEW WAS A BAD MAN - AND JESUS SHOULD IGNORE HIM.



JESUS' REPLY WAS VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD.

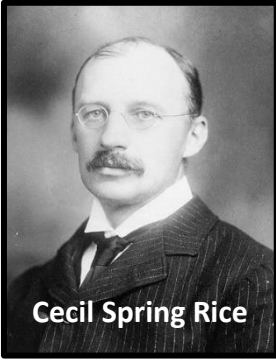


HE EXPLAINED THAT MATTHEW NEEDED HELP, NOT CRITICISM,



"IT'S NOT THE WELL THAT NEED A DOCTOR - BUT THE SICK!"
see Luke 5:27-32

The Story Behind the Hymn



I Vow to Thee, My Country

I vow to thee, my country,
all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect,
the service of my love;
The love that asks no question,
the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar
the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters,
the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted
the final sacrifice.

And there's another country,
I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her,
most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies,
we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart,
her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently
her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness,
and all her paths are peace.

In light of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, and because she loved it so much, I thought it would be good to look at the story behind this hymn. It is commonly used at Remembrance to remember those who fought and died in both wars for the country. At her Coronation in 1953 the Queen made a vow to serve the country. Something she did throughout the 70 years of her reign.

The origin of the hymn's text is a poem by diplomat Cecil Spring Rice, written early in the 20th century, entitled *Urbs Dei* ("The City of God") or *The Two Fatherlands*. The poem described how a Christian owes his loyalties to both his homeland and the heavenly kingdom.

In 1908, Spring Rice was posted to the British Embassy in Stockholm. In 1912, he was appointed as Ambassador to the United States of America, where he influenced the administration of Woodrow Wilson to abandon neutrality and join Britain in the war against Germany. After the United States entered the war, he was recalled to Britain. Shortly before his departure from the US in January 1918, he re-wrote and renamed *Urbs Dei* as "*I Vow to Thee, My Country*" significantly altering the first verse to concentrate on the themes of love and sacrifice rather than "the noise of battle" and "the thunder of her guns", creating a more sombre tone in view of the dreadful loss of life suffered in the Great War. The first verse in both versions invokes Britain; the second verse, the Kingdom of Heaven.

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



*Help me to live each day, quietly, easily,
To lean on your great strength
Trustfully, restfully,
To await the unfolding of Your will Pa-
tiently, joyously,
To face tomorrow
Confidently, courageously Amen*

November 2022

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st All saints, known or unknown, now in heaven
- 2nd People we have known and loved, but no longer see
- 3rd Christians around the world
- 4th Those who intercede at our services throughout the parish
- 5th Safety for all those involved in firework and bonfire celebrations
- 6th Our congregations throughout Rushen meeting in fellowship and faith each Sunday
- 7th The work of the British Legion in preparation for Remembrance Sunday
- 8th Older people who need warmth as winter approaches
- 9th The refugees seeking better opportunities for themselves
- 10th Babies born today and the families into which they are born
- 11th The Armistice which is remembered today
- 12th The work of charities both at home and overseas
- 13th Those who died in two world wars and subsequent conflicts to give us freedom
- 14th The Ladies Working Party and the work it does for the parish
- 15th Couples who are preparing for marriage at some point in the future
- 16th Those who are ill, or in hospital, and the people who look after them
- 17th The PCC meeting taking place in St Catherine’s Church Hall this evening
- 18th Fishermen who risk their lives to provide us with food to eat
- 19th Those continuing to suffer the effects of Covid 19, or are still receiving treatment
- 20th Christ the King – the last Sunday of the church year
- 21st Preparations for Christmas in shops and other retail outlets
- 22nd People in prison seeking to improve their lives
- 23rd Preparations throughout the parish for our Christmas services
- 24th The importance of the Bible as a teaching aid for all Christians
- 25th People who are suffering hardship through loss of earnings
- 26th Children who are affected when families break up
- 27th Those recovering from operations, or medical procedures, at Noble’s Hospital
- 28th Our PCC Treasurer, Stephen Curtis, for maintaining the parish finances
- 29th Voluntary helpers in schools who give their time to help the children
- 30th Saint Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland, and brother of St Peter the Apostle

Services November/December 2022

6 th November (3 before Advent)	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 November (Remembrance)	10.50am	Kirk Christ Remembrance Service
	10.55am	St Catherine's Remembrance (*)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
20 th November (Christ the King)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's All-Age Service (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
27 th November (Advent 1)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
4 th December (Advent 2)	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)
	4pm	St Catherine's Christingle Service
11 th December (Advent 3)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
14th December	7.30pm	St Peter's Carols, Candles and Cake
15th December	7pm	St Catherine's Commissioner's Carol Service
18 th December (Advent 4)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's All-Age Service (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
	6.30pm	Kirk Christ Parish Carol Service
24 th December (Christmas Eve)	4pm	Crib Service. Venue to be announced
	7.30pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
	11.30pm	St Catherine's Midnight Communion (CW)
25 th December (Christmas Day)	10am	Kirk Christ Joint Christmas Day Service (CW)

Dates and times of services/activities subject to alteration/or cancelled
(CW) Common Worship (BCP) Book of Common Prayer (*) With St Mary's

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

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St Mary's Ladies Working Party

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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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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:

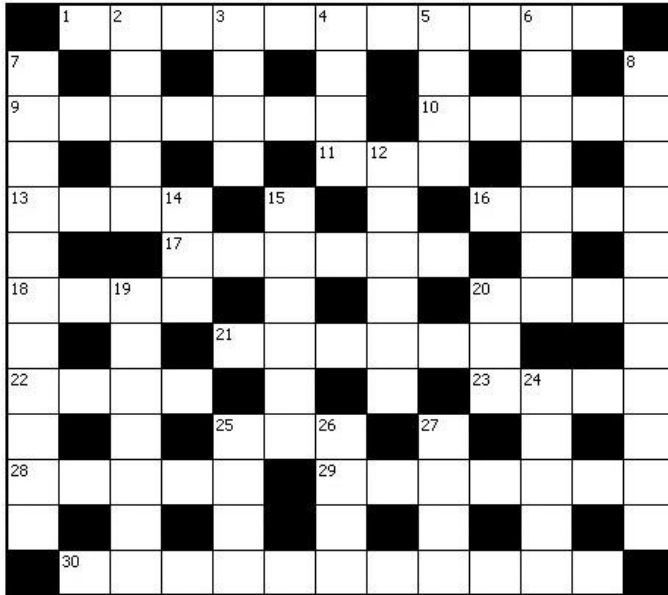
Mr M D Porter, 10 Fairway Drive, Rowany, Port Erin 832143

Churchyard Enquiries:

Please contact Mr Harry Dawson: 478050/835770

or Mr G Callister: 474924/834627

Crossword November 2022



Across

- 1** and **20 Down** 'Lord of all __, Lord of all __, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
- 9** Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you __ your fellow Hebrew?' (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10** Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline __ (2,3)
- 11** 'At even __ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
- 13** A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
- 16** 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but __ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17** Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18** Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must __ God rather than men!' (Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20** Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, __ Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21** Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
- 22** 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat __ __ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23** Infectious tropical disease (4)
- 25** Tree (3)
- 28** 'No fear of me should __ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)

29

For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)

30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

- 2** 'O Jerusalem __ how __ I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
- 3** Way out (4)
- 4** Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
- 5** Done (anag.) (4)
- 6** Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
- 7** Concerning the study of God (11)
- 8** Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
- 12** Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
- 14** Frozen (3)
- 15** Established form of religious ceremony (6)
- 19** Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
- 20** See 1 Across
- 24** Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
- 25** Time (anag.) (4)
- 26** Lists choice of meals (4)
- 27** 'For the wages of sin is death, but the __ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)