

Rushen Parish Magazine

January 2023



Our two new Liturgical Assistants
Gerry Callister & Peter Hayhurst



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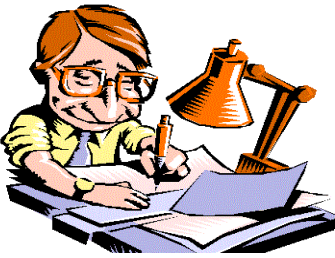
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From the Editor

Well, here we are again. 2022 is quickly becoming history, even though many things have happened which have been so poignant such as the deaths of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, the fiasco of the British parliament, and the lingering effects of the Covid pandemic amongst countless other events. In our own church family we have lost a number of people who have contributed to the life of the parish, and are now being remembered by their families, and for their contribution to those who loved them so much during their lives. As with all years there have been highs and lows for most people, some of which are probably best forgotten, and some which will always be remembered.

I was a new year baby being born on 1st January. Whilst as a child I always thought it was unfair because it was so near to Christmas, and presents were few, I made a point of making New Year Resolutions. Although these were always simple and easily achieved, I seldom kept to the promises I had made. In fact I found the process somewhat onerous as it related to things that I liked and would not have had any influence on my lifestyle if I'd kept them or not. I do wonder if any of us actually keep to the resolutions we make at this time of the year. I know I will be wrong in thinking this because there will be some who stick to them through thick and thin.

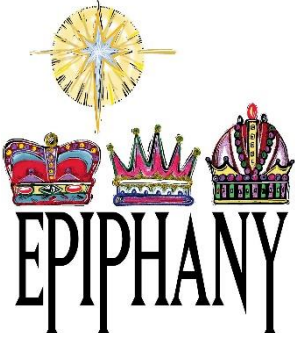
It is not only new year when we resolve to change our lifestyle. Lent too provides us with the opportunity to stop indulging in something we like. Smoking and consuming sweet things and chocolate come to mind. It also gives us the chance to be diligent in some of our disciplines and to perhaps read our Bibles daily, or remember to pray for the people we know who are troubled in some way or another. Perhaps contribute to a charity raising funds for people and children less fortunate than ourselves.

So how can we be more conscientious when deciding what resolutions to make, and how can we make sure that they don't get brushed under the carpet? Whilst not a dancer with only left feet to guide me, I'm an avid 'Strictly Come Dancing' fan. This year's celebrity who won the glitterball was Hamza Yassin. He was a worthy winner amongst some very talented competitors. His closing remarks included three objectives which he had used in his journey to the top. They were:

- *surround yourself with people whose eyes light up when they see you coming;*
- *the top of one mountain is the bottom of the next so keep climbing;*
- *slowly is the fastest way of getting to where you want to be.*

Perhaps these may be a guide to us all as we prepare our resolutions for 2023. Whatever we do, shall we try to make a difference to ourselves and to others? Can we help those struggling to exist because of the cost of living crisis? Are we prepared to read our Bibles regularly to learn more about the life of Jesus and how He gave help to so many, and is still doing so today some 2,000 years later? Whatever we choose to do I would like to take this opportunity in wishing you all, and your loved ones, a very Happy New Year.

David



Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh for the infant Jesus & Epiphany

Epiphany is also known as 'Twelfth Night', or the last night of the Christmas festival. According to the song, it is also the day when that over-enthusiastic 'true love' of yours dumps no less than 78 presents on your doorstep, among them a dozen leaping lords of the realm and a final partridge – to go with the 11 you have already been given.

In many parts of the world, 6th January is celebrated as Christmas Day. As we Western Christians are packing away our tree, the Greek Orthodox world and Catholic Spain are giving presents and celebrating the wise men, or magi. For what better time to give presents to each other, than on the day the wise men presented gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus?

What do we make of these presents? Gold is for kingship, proclaiming a royal child. Frankincense carries a feeling of worship about it: it was used in the temple worship and indicated access to the presence of God. Frankincense is thus for worship and incarnation.

The third gift, myrrh, finds its place at Calvary. After the crucifixion, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea prepared Jesus' body for burial, using myrrh as an embalming fluid. Thus, when the wise men visit the baby Jesus, the shadow of the cross already falls across the crib. But myrrh is also symbolic of love, so you could say that the third gift is about adoration as well as death. And Christ's death on the cross is for love of the Church, His bride.

As for the magi, they were not Jewish grandees, but foreign Gentiles. And so it was clear, from as early as the manger in Bethlehem, that Jesus was not just the Messiah for the Jews, but the Saviour of the whole world.

Epiphany

On 6th January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. But who were these Wise Men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian.

Another church father, Origen, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the 8th century, the Magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

Parish Pump

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



Christingles were prepared and distributed at St Catherine's Church on 4th December. A delicious LWP Christmas Lunch was enjoyed on 6th December at the George Hotel, Castletown, with guests and members of St Mary's congregation, and the festive decoration of St Mary's church took place on 10th December, all hugely enjoyable events which Covid sadly prevented me from attending. Thanks to everyone who was able to assist, in any way and

particular appreciation to Sue Bould for organising the lunch, and to Peter Hayhurst for his help with the church decorations.

Our next activity will be helping with refreshments for the Crib Service on 24th December at 4pm, in St Mary's, after which our weekly meetings will be suspended until 10th January 2023, at 2.15pm when we shall meet in St Catherine's Hall, while St Mary's reordering takes place. A coffee morning in Port St Mary Golf Pavilion on Friday 10th February 2023 is being planned, and more information will follow soon.

A number of our members and friends are not in the best of health at the time of writing, and we send them all our love and very best wishes. We extend to Gerry and to Peter our grateful thanks for all their hard work on our behalf, throughout the year.

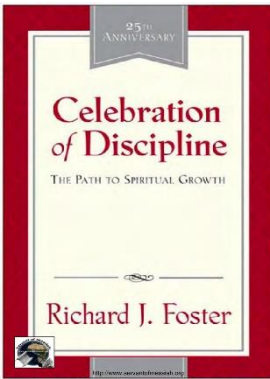
With our love and best wishes to everyone for good health and happiness in 2023.

Pat Thomson

Your Cat's 10 top New Year's Resolutions

- 1 My human will never let me eat their pet hamster, and I am at peace with that.
- 2 ***I will not use the bathtub to store live mice for late-night snacks.***
- 3 I will not play 'Thundering Wildebeest Stamping Across the Plains of the Serengeti' over any humans asleep in bed at night.
- 4 ***When it rains, it will rain on all sides of the house. It is not necessary to check every door.***
- 5 I will not play 'dead cat on the stairs' while people are trying to bring in groceries or laundry, or else one of these days, it will really come true.
- 6 ***When my human is typing at the computer, their forearms are not a hammock.***
- 7 TV screens do not exist to backlight my lovely tail.
- 8 ***I will not suddenly freeze and puff my entire body to twice its size for no reason after my human has watched a late-night horror movie.***
- 9 I will not perch on my human's chest in the middle of the night and stare until they wake up.
- 10 ***Above all, I will not walk on the key board when my human is writing important adagfsg gdjag ;lnk*?!***

Spiritual Practices



Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham begins a new series on the spiritual disciplines that help us to grow and deepen our faith. It will run throughout this year.

January is a time for thinking about New Year Resolutions, even though we can struggle to keep them very long! However, this month is a good time to re-set our spiritual disciplines. These practices, which engage our whole person, help our spiritual growth as disciples of Christ.

If we want more of Jesus' presence in our lives, we often find ourselves thinking, 'I'll have to try harder: to pray, listen to God or read the Bible'. Paul makes the important distinction between training and trying in the Christian life:

'Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever'. (1 Corinthians 9:24,25).

Paul insists that runners undergo strict training if they are to win the race. It would be foolish to enter a marathon without adequate training. The runner wouldn't complete the course despite trying hard! The same principles apply to the Christian life: God wants us to train by developing spiritual practices: 'to train means to arrange my life around activities I can do that will enable me, over time, to do what I cannot do by direct effort alone' (Dallas Willard).

In his book *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster lists the following spiritual disciplines:

Inward Disciplines: Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study

Outward Disciplines: Simplicity, Solitude, Submission, Service

Corporate Disciplines: Confession, Worship, Guidance, Celebration

Over the coming year we will be looking at some of these. Effective discipline is not drudgery, but delightful! Richard Foster insists that we can 'celebrate' these disciplines which can help us grow.

Canon Paul Hardingham

St Mary's Sunday School



Share God's Word

Since you will be reading this article in January 2023, may I start by wishing you all a very happy and blessed New Year!

At the time of writing, the season of Advent is drawing to a close and Christmas is nearly here! Towards the end of November and in early December, we spent some time in Sunday School reflecting upon the meaning of Advent, the time of waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ, both His first and His second coming! We also thought about small

acts of kindness we could each do in Advent to help others and to brighten up their day.

One example of a joint act of kindness would be the Christmas shoebox we packed for a child in a Ukrainian orphanage. It's good to know that all shoeboxes have safely been delivered to the orphanage, and the children have very gratefully received them. The following Sunday, as well as preparing for our all-age service, we spent some time doing a variety of Christian Christmas crafts.

We all enjoyed our Parish Christingle service in early December, with special thanks to everyone who helped to make the Christingles, including the Guy Family.

Our December all-age service was led by Rev. Erica Scott, the Chaplain at the Buchan School and King Williams' College. Her talk challenged us all to be more like John the Baptist in spreading the Good News of Jesus and preparing the way for His second coming. She also shared a personal story of how God recently reassured her that He knows her, loves her and cares for her, and she wanted us to know that God knows and loves and cares for each one of us just the same.

The Sunday School contributed to the service with readings and prayers and by leading the congregation in the song 'Prepare the Way of the Lord.' Many thanks to all who took part, including Thomas who came all the way from Glen Vine to read the first lesson and read it beautifully.

We finished the year with our annual Sunday School Christmas Party, enjoying fun games and Margaret Moore's legendary Christmas story pass-the-parcel, as well as lots of delicious party food.

We still have our Crib Service on Christmas Eve to look forward to and then a well-deserved rest for the school holidays, with some families travelling across to spend time with relatives in England. We pray that everybody has a wonderful time and look forward to meeting again in January.

**With Love and Blessings
Claudia**

**** Picture to be found on next page**



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



The Christmas tree at Kirk Christ has now been erected and decorated alongside many other decorations for the festive season. The church looks lovely thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who helped to decorate it. We had a lovely Carol Service at Kirk Christ on 18th December. As usual the congregation was full, and those who formed the choir sang beautifully making the occasion so atmospheric and a delightful beginning to the Christmas season. Our thanks to our organist Michael Porter and the support he received from John Binns. As I write this our other Christmas services have yet to take place, but I am sure they will all be well attended and enjoyed.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking everyone who has been helpful to me during the past year. You can rest assured that I am very grateful for all that you do. We have been privileged to hold many weddings and baptisms at Kirk Christ which I know have been well received by all of the participants.

At St Catherine's, on 4th December, we had a well-supported Christingle Service. This, as usual, was an atmospheric occasion when just the candles on the Christingles were lit. Amongst the hymns sung were 'Jesus Bids us Shine' and 'The Spirit Lives to set us Free', both of which added to the occasion. The Port Erin Commissioner's Carol Service was held at St Catherine's on 15th December. The Rushen School Choir joined us with readings from Rushen Scouts. The final reading was read by the chairman of Rushen Commissioners. Our final service of the year was held at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. This was well attended with our friends from the Methodist Church joining us.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has helped to decorate St Catherine's so beautifully for the Christmas Season. Similarly I would like to thank everyone who has assisted me throughout the year. Without your help we would not be able to enjoy our weekly services.

I would like to take this opportunity in wishing you all a very happy and joyous New Year.

Gerry Callister



St Mary's Sunday School children showing the shoebox full of goodies for those less fortunate living in the Ukraine. Thank you so much for thinking of others during the Christmas period.

Sudoku January 2023

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

A dog's life

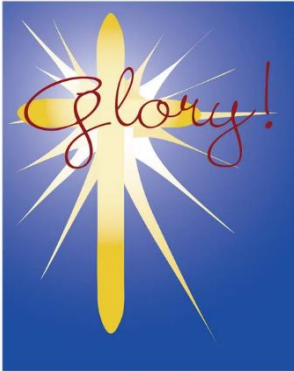
A couple had gone to their minister for counseling because their marriage was in trouble. The husband began by complaining that he led a dog's life at home. To the minister's surprise, the wife immediately agreed. "After all, he rushes into the house with muddy feet, tracks across my clean floors, barks at nothing, growls at his food and makes himself comfortable on the best furniture. Then he falls asleep and snaps at you if you disturb him."

December Sudoku Solution

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

December Crossword Solution

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



Reflecting Faith To the Glory of God - Part 2

The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series.

Last month I wrote about the use of flowers to decorate the church during Advent and Christmas and how they reflected our faith and the time of year. Did you manage to see any of the three I mentioned: poinsettias, lilies or even irises?

They each have a 'meaning' which tells you part of the story of faith; the iris demonstrating light and hope by its very colourful face, while the lily symbolises Jesus' mother Mary, as well as the Easter resurrection, chastity, innocence, and purity.

The various parts of the poinsettia emphasise different aspects of Christmas. The shape of the flower and leaves resemble the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red coloured leaves represent the blood of Christ shed for the world. The white leaves represent His purity.

This month I wanted to think about 'creatures' in church.

I don't mean whether dogs should or shouldn't be allowed in the building or how to deal with an infestation of woodworm or bats - but rather how creatures are used to decorate the interior of church buildings, giving hidden symbolisms.

What animals, birds or insects have you noticed? You will often find them carved in stone or wood as well as within paintings and pictures. It's not that the craftsmen are wanting to include their pets, but rather each creature brings its own natural meaning.

Bees and their hives are a great example.

The bee is symbolic of tireless activity. It represents a good work ethic and being diligent at a task. Because the worker bees do not mate, they symbolise virginity and chastity. (Though I'm never sure how that relates to the queen bee!)

Because the bee appears to die in the winter and reappear in the early summer, it symbolises rebirth. The bees' hard work is connected to the beehive, which symbolises order. The bee represents the Christian and the beehive symbolises the church.

This month

Have a look at the 'creatures' used in a church near you. What do they 'say'? What aspects of their way of being, speak to you of the glory of God?



Remembering Lewis Carroll, creator of Alice in Wonderland

Just 125 years ago, on 14th January 1898, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, an English author, poet, photographer and mathematician, died of pneumonia. His pen name was Lewis Carroll, and he was best known for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass* and the poems *Jabberwocky* and *The Hunting of the Snark*.

A brilliantly inventive writer, Carroll was also a deacon in the Church of England, and a firm Christian – some have even claimed that *Alice* is a biblical allegory, with the Cheshire Cat as God. (Carroll was born in Cheshire.)

Carroll was a maths lecturer at Oxford, and Alice Liddell – who provoked the story of Alice – was the daughter of one of his colleagues. She had two sisters, Lorina and Edith, who were also close to Carroll, a bachelor who remained celibate throughout his life. He was known to be good with children, unsurprisingly for an eldest son with eight younger brothers and sisters – and at one point was invited to entertain two grandchildren of Queen Victoria.

The book *Alice in Wonderland* and its sequel have been subject to huge numbers of unlikely interpretations, ranging from drug use to being the outpouring of migraine aura symptoms. But most people continue to regard them as masterpieces of fantasy literature, produced by a highly intelligent and sensitive man.

The *Alice* books might never have seen the light of day, had not novelist Henry Kingsley come across the first version on a visit to the Liddells, and urged Alice's mother to persuade the author to publish it. Carroll consulted another author – his friend George Macdonald, whose son Greville, aged six, apparently said he "wished there were 60,000 volumes of it".

By the time of Carroll's death, the two-volume *Alice* was the most popular children's book in England.

Tim Lenton

Conscientious

A minister walked into his church office and found his eager young assistant minister had emptied a huge box of various teaching resources that had been sent to the church, including a Noah's Ark for the very young children. The assistant had most of the animals lined up along the desk, and he was searching for more. "Whatever are you doing?" asked the minister in bewilderment. The assistant minister looked up eagerly. "The box clearly said: 'Do not use if seal is broken'. So - I'm looking for the seal."

Christmas Quiz Answers



1. No Vac Novak became No Match Novak because Novak Djokovic was due to play at the Australian Open but prevented because he had declined a covid vaccination.
2. *35 years ago ITV wanted a detective story set within 50 miles of the Midlands to rival BBC's Agatha Christie stories. They chose the Morse stories.*
3. Meatloaf was the rock star who died in January and would do anything for love, but not that.
4. It snowed at the Winter Olympics caused problems as the organisers had not expected it.
5. *Actor and singer Michael Flanders would have celebrated his 100th birthday in March and was one of a duo who wrote the hippopotamus song 'Mud, mud, and glorious mud.'*
6. Before he entered politics the President of Ukraine was a comedian.
7. *At the Oscars Will Smith had an incident with the comedian, Chris Rock. Smith go on to get an Oscar for the film called King Richard*
8. **Partygate** was the furore about parties held in Downing Street.
Tractorgate was the alleged incident when an MP looked at inappropriate material online during a session of the House of Commons.
Beergate was a political controversy concerning allegations that an event in Durham in April 2021 could have been in breach of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. The police, after investigating, cleared the attendees.
9. *In May footballer Diego Maradona's shirt was sold for the record breaking £7.1 million.*
10. The two places outside the United Kingdom that gained city status this year were Ramsey on the Isle of Man and Stanley in the Falklands. Before you google it the Isle of Man is not part of the United Kingdom.
11. *There was a television series this year called Infamy. The line, "Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for me!" comes from Carry on Cleo 1964 and was spoken by Kenneth Williams.*
12. A surprise guest of Her Majesty for tea over the jubilee was Paddington Bear. Paddington was played by Ukrainian President in the Ukrainian language version of the film.
13. *The actor who played Rev Timothy Farthing passed away this year. He was Frank Williams in the BBC television sitcom Dad's Army. He became a prominent lay leader in the Church of England.*
14. At the age of nearly 90, Bernard Cribbins published an autobiography looking back on his years in show business in 2018. Its title was *Bernard Who? 75 Years of Doing Absolutely Everything.*
15. *Nichelle Nichols who played Uhura in the Star Trek franchise was ordered not to quit a science fiction series by Martin Luther King.*
16. Dan Snow reportedly urge tourists to visit Durham instead of (or possibly as well as) Stonehenge.

Hope you enjoyed the quiz and remembered some of these events and people from 2022

Oops!

A father had given his daughter a young puppy for Christmas. Next day, he found her in the kitchen, looking sadly at a puddle in the centre of the floor. "Look Dad," she said, "My pup runneth over!"



St Paul, the first Christian intellectual

This month, on 25th January, the Church celebrates probably the most famous conversion of all. At least, what happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus has become a byword for all instant conversions - what is known as a 'damascene' moment. Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a very new sect on the religious scene.

On his way to Damascus to start a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He asked the identity of the voice, and was told: 'Jesus, whom you are persecuting'. Stunned by the experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul's sight was restored.

The experience convinced Paul that Jesus - crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier - was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and indeed eventually recognised as an 'apostle', a 'special messenger' of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East, largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65AD.

Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially His death and resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. 'You would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me!' he writes to the Christians at Galatia. As for the charge that Paul disliked women, even a quick read of his letters will reveal how large a role women played in his churches. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal! So, all in all, the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25th January.

Parish Pump



All in the month of January



250 years ago, on 17th January 1773, Captain James Cook's ship, the *HMS Resolution*, became the first ship to cross the Antarctic Circle, during his second voyage.

200 years ago, on 26th January 1823, Edward Jenner, the British physician and immunologist who created the first vaccine, died. The vaccine was for smallpox.

175 years ago, on 24th January 1848, the California Gold Rush began, when a construction worker, James W. Marshall, found flakes of gold in the South Fork American River near Sacramento.

125 years ago, on 14th January 1898, Lewis Carroll died. Best known for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass* and the poems *Jabberwocky* and *The Hunting of the Snark*.

100 years ago, on 8th January 1923, the first BBC outside broadcast took place, at the British National Opera Company's production of *The Magic Flute* from Covent Garden London.

90 years ago, on 18th January 1933, David Bellamy, the botanist, TV presenter and environmentalist was born. (Died 2019)

80 years ago, on 30th January 1943, on the 10th anniversary of Adolf Hitler becoming Chancellor of Germany, the British RAF launched a massed air raid on Berlin, disrupting major speeches by Goring and Goebbels which were being broadcast on the radio. Major propaganda coup for the Allies.

70 years ago, on 31st January and 1st February 1953, the North Sea flood took place. North-western Europe was hit by extensive flooding when severe gales, combined with a spring tide. Over 1,800 people were killed in the Netherlands, over 300 in Eastern England, and 28 in Belgium. A further 133 people were killed when the Princess Victoria car ferry capsized off Scotland, and many fishing boats sank.

65 years ago, on 1st January 1958, Chinese leader Mao Zedong announced the Great Leap Forwards, a 5-year plan to transform China from an agrarian economy into a socialist society via rapid industrialisation and collective farming. The plan failed and within three years tens of millions of people had died from mass killings, starvation and forced labour.

60 years ago, on 23rd January 1963, the British Intelligence Officer and Soviet Spy, Kim Philby, defected to the Soviet Union.

50 years ago, on 30th January 1973, the Watergate scandal began when seven men were convicted of conspiracy, burglary and wiretapping at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate Complex in Washington DC.

40 years ago, on 17th January 1983, Breakfast Television was launched in the UK with the BBC's Breakfast Time programme. The ITV's TV-am followed on 1st February.

30 years ago, on 5th January 1993, the Liberian-registered oil tanker *MV Braer* ran aground off the Shetland Islands, spilling 84,700 tons of crude oil into the sea, and causing massive ecological damage.

25 years ago, on 23rd January 1998, the film *Titanic* was released in the UK.

20 years ago, on 24th January 2003, the US Department of Homeland Security began operating. It was formed in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. **Also, on 31st January 2003**, the British born terrorist Richard Reid (the 'shoe bomber') was sentenced to life imprisonment in the USA, after he attempted to blow up a transatlantic flight using explosives concealed in his shoes. He later declared his allegiance to al-Qaeda.



The Man who made the First-ever Vaccine

Two hundred years ago, on 26th January 1823, Edward Jenner, the British physician and immunologist who created the first vaccine (for smallpox), died of a stroke.

He was the son of a Gloucestershire clergyman and the brother of another – who brought him up when his father died. He was also a violinist, a poet and a naturalist, but he chose medicine and became the pupil of a distinguished surgeon, John Hunter, at St George's Hospital in London. Hunter also had wide interests, and the two kept in touch for many years.

Jenner, a committed and sincere Christian, married a near neighbour, Catharine Kingscote, in 1788. He was described as amiable and quiet, but his work in creating a smallpox vaccine was said to have saved more lives than any other man on earth, though his treatment in making inoculations using cowpox lesions, initially from a dairymaid in 1796, was laughed at by some to start with.

The word 'vaccination' (relating to cows) stems from this experiment. Previous smallpox inoculation attempts were known as variolation and were both less successful and dangerous to health. Jenner himself had received this treatment as a child.

Jenner was a member of the Royal Society, primarily because of his work as a naturalist. He published valuable observations and interpretations on, for instance, the life of the cuckoo, which was little understood at the time.

But in the end, he gave so much time to vaccination work that his personal affairs suffered badly, though he was voted a total of £30,000 by Parliament.

His wife died of tuberculosis in 1815, after which he retired from public life. In 1980 the World Health Organisation said that smallpox had finally been eradicated from the world, though a few lab samples were kept.

Tim Lenton

Ministry on ice

As a chaplain to the local hospital, I sometimes get called out early. In a rush to work one morning, with no time for breakfast, I pulled up to the drive-through window at a fast-food restaurant, determined to at least grab some coffee. Because I was in a hurry, I asked them to put a couple of ice cubes in the coffee so it would cool down more quickly and I could drink it faster. I sat there at the pick-up window for a few minutes, wondering where they had to go to get my coffee, when a frustrated teenager finally came up and said, "I'm sorry for the delay, but the ice you wanted in your coffee keeps melting!"

From the Registers

Funerals December 2022:

7 th December	Maisie Lakin	RBG	Ashes Burial
13 th December	Pamela Watterson	RBG	Burial
16 th December	Kevin Wood	RBG	Burial
17 th December	Pamela Brown	RBG	Ashes Burial
30 th December	Graham McFarlane	St Mary's Church	Service & Crem.

(RBG Rushen Burial Ground)

When church bulletins don't get it quite right:

During the absence of our minister, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

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



Our Christmas party on 12th December was also our last meeting of 2022, a happy event enjoyed by all who were able to attend. Mrs Lesley Scott began with our MU prayer during which we also thought of our members who were unwell, including Mrs Peta Mills and Mrs Jane Gunn, and our good friend Miss Margaret Moore. Lesley reported on the Advent service held on 6th December in Braddan church, Revd Daniel Richards and Revd Ruth Walker officiating, at which donations were received for the charity Housing Matters. The Autumn/Winter newsletters were distributed and two cards were passed round; a thank you card from Mrs Elsie Faragher and a Christmas card from our patron, Lady Lorimer.

Thereafter, our afternoon consisted of a variety of readings, poems and stories, interspersed with a delightful selection of carols chosen and played for us by Mrs Iris Mitchell. Her lovely voice also encouraged us to sing enthusiastically, if not so well as she! We also enjoyed the challenge of Lesley's Christmas Quiz and the fun of Mrs Althea Morris's Snowman Bingo. A delicious Faith afternoon tea was the finishing touch to a great party. Huge thanks to all who helped to make it so enjoyable.

Mr Gerry Callister had kindly brought along some coins gifted to the parish for us to examine and we presented him with a thank you gift for all he does for us throughout the year.

With love and very best wishes to everyone for health and happiness in 2023.

Pat Thomson

Dates for Diaries in 2023:

Next Rushen branch meeting: 9th January, 2pm, in St Catherine's Hall, Speakers Ann and Jim Cottier who will entertain with an Armchair Treasure Hunt. Guests always welcome.

Spring council Meeting and AGM: 13th March, 6.30pm St John's Hall

Festival Service: 19th April, 7pm, the Cathedral

Quiet Evening: 15th June, 6pm, Maughold Church

Founders Day Service: 7th August, 7pm, Patrick Church

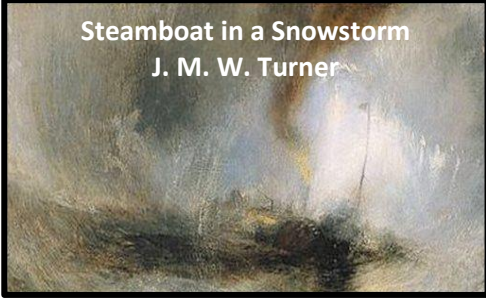
Autumn Council Meeting: 12th September, 6.30pm St John's Hall

MU Annual Gathering: 22nd September, York

MU Advent Service: 5th December, 7pm, St Catherine's church, Port Erin

God in the Arts

Steamboat in a Snowstorm
J. M. W. Turner



‘He gave us eyes to see them’ Joseph Turner (1775-1851)

Amid the hectic, busy lives we lead, many people fall under the control of ‘the hurry syndrome.’ We have to do ‘A’ as soon as possible, and we have get to ‘B’ as soon as possible. And along the way, we have phone calls to make, emails to open, and Facebook and Twitter and all the social media to check.

It means that we often go through the world without giving that world a second glance. This year in these articles we are going to pause, and, as the poet says, ‘stand and stare.’ Each month we shall be looking at a painting that celebrates the wonder, the joy, the mystery, and the marvel of the created world in which we live.

Joseph Turner (1775-1851) was one of the great artists of the 19th century. But he did little to conform to that accolade. But no matter – he was passionate about his vision of the world around which inspired his art. Wherever he went, he sketched and painted.

The ending of the Napoleonic wars meant that people could travel safely through Europe, and he visited Italy many times. That country and its scenery taught him the place of light in art, which in many ways was the foundation of the paintings of his last 15 years.

Ruskin hailed Turner as ‘a great angel of the Apocalypse....sent as a prophet of God to reveal to men the mysteries of the universe.’ Turner was not particularly religious himself, but in the paintings of his old age, he was like a creator grappling with the elemental forces of light and sky, of water and sun.

In 1842 he painted ‘Steamboat in a Snowstorm.’ We see the water and the sky and the snow all cascading around each other. The clouds and driving snow, the churning of the water - all are there in abundance, and in the midst there is the steamboat trying to keep afloat and make its way through the forces of nature. Without that title we might think this painting is a modern abstract. With the title, we sense the wildness and wonder of the great forces of sea and sky, snow and clouds.

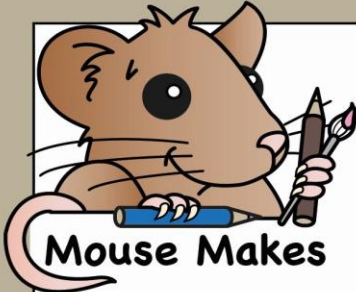
This month of January can bring snow which stops the traffic and maroons us in our homes. Here in the painting the snow and wind beat around the steamboat: it could be an image of human life tossed around by circumstance and event.

But I think Turner wanted us to see something of the extraordinary power the great forces of nature have over life – not to make us fatalistic and gloomy, but to proclaim that here in our world are mysteries and marvels that can stop us in our tracks.

It is like the voice of God speaking to Job, who has questioned the justice of God’s ways in His world. ‘Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?’ God asks Job. ‘Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion?’ Job’s response is to question no more. He puts his hand over his mouth and looks out at the world God has created in wonder and amazement.

Michael Burgess

Children's Page



A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

When the **Magi** (wise men) came to **Bethlehem** where had they travelled from?

The _____

Why did they make the journey?

What did they follow to get there?

A _____

What did they see?

Read *Matthew 2:1-12*



Why did **Joseph** and **Mary** travel to **Bethlehem**?

Read *Luke 2:1-4*

When **Samuel** came to **Bethlehem** who sent him? Who did he go to see?
_____ and his sons.

Who had he come to anoint as king?

 Read *1 Samuel 16:1-13*

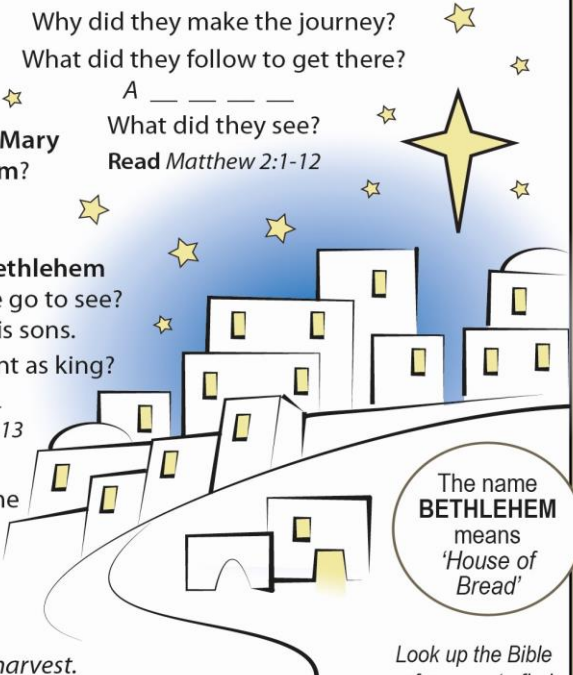


Naomi and **Ruth** came to **Bethlehem** where had they travelled from?
_____ and why?

When did they arrive?

At the _____ harvest.

Read *Ruth 1:22*



The name **BETHLEHEM** means 'House of Bread'

Look up the Bible references to find the missing words, find them and these words below in the wordsearch

- JOURNEY
- BETHLEHEM • GOD
- JOSEPH • MARY
- JESUS • BORN
- MAGI • MESSIAH
- NAOMI • RUTH
- FOOD • HARVEST
- SAMUEL • ANOINT
- KING • BREAD

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

The Story Behind the Hymn



We Three Kings

We three kings of orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. (*Chorus*)

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God most high. (*Chorus*)

Myrrh is mine, Its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in a stone cold tomb. (*Chorus*)

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,
Heaven to earth replies. (*Chorus*)

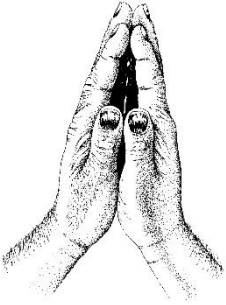
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. (*Chorus*)

The giving of gifts is one of the most enduring traditions of Christmas. It has its origins in the story of the Wise Men who followed a star to the place where the baby Jesus lay in his manger. They presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Odd gifts for a baby but appropriate for the baby Jesus. Gold was a gift fit for a king, and Jesus was born king of the Jews. Frankincense was used in by the priests in worship, and Jesus would become our priest, the one who enables us to come to God. Myrrh was used for anointing bodies for burial, and would be used to anoint Jesus' body after his death. So each of these gifts had a symbolic meaning for Jesus' life and death!

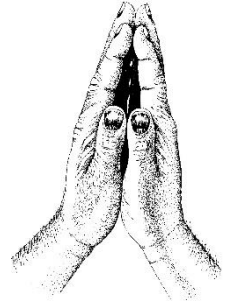
But I am convinced that these gifts also had a very practical and urgent purpose, one that the Wise Men could not have imagined. Because Herod feared the baby born king of the Jews, he would soon send his soldiers to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem. God warned Joseph to take his little family and flee to Egypt lest Jesus be killed. Joseph got up in the middle of the night, gathered his family and a few possessions, and fled. They stayed in Egypt until the danger had passed. How could Joseph, a simple carpenter, afford to make such a trip? How could he provide for his family in a foreign land? Gold, frankincense, and myrrh were expensive, and could be easily sold. They were also compact and portable, which meant that Joseph could take them along on the journey. I believe that God inspired the giving of these particular gifts as a way of providing for Joseph and his family on their journey.

The hymn specifies that there were three kings. Matthew doesn't specify the number, but we have guessed that there were three because of the three gifts. Speaking of gifts, Jesus was God's Christmas gift to us, the greatest gift that God could give. The Wise Men brought the best gifts to Jesus that they could offer. The question is what we can bring to Jesus as a gift. Our time, talent, and money are three candidates, and they are all important. But the gift that Jesus really wants is the gift of our hearts. That is the best gift that we can offer Jesus at Christmas, or anytime! - *Richard N Donovan*

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



Dear Father, as we stand together on the threshold of a new year, we ask that you watch over us in the year ahead; guide us when we falter; and re-direct us when we lose our way. But above all, pour down on the whole world Your Love and Peace, so that all may know that you are our Father, and Lord of all. Amen



January 2023

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st A happy and peaceful year ahead
- 2nd The Diocese of Sodor and Man and the work undertaken by all its employees
- 3rd All people who are expected to work outside in adverse weather conditions
- 4th People in residential care homes across the island
- 5th People awaiting treatment in our hospital
- 6th Preparations being made for the return to school
- 7th Wildlife throughout the island as it seeks food and shelter during the winter
- 8th Travellers having to drive on sometime treacherous roads during the wintertime
- 9th The work of the Royal Lifeboat Institution
- 10th People who live in isolation with little contact with the outside world
- 11th Noble's Hospital and the doctors and nurses dedicated to making people well
- 12th The Ladies Working Party and its charitable work in the parish
- 13th Those who entertain, whether on the stage or on television
- 14th People who are suffering financial hardship after the Christmas season
- 15th Everyone who has a birthday this month
- 16th The work of the Mothers' Union and the recipients who benefit from it
- 17th Those who enjoy watching and/or partaking in sporting activities
- 18th The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which commences today
- 19th Music and the part it plays in everyone's life whether it is modern or classical
- 20th All the Home Groups which meet each week throughout the parish
- 21st The beauty of this wonderful island on which we live
- 22nd People mourning the loss of loved ones
- 23rd New mothers and fathers looking after their children
- 24th The PCC meeting taking place at 7.00pm in St Catherine's Church Hall this evening
- 25th The Headteacher and staff of Rushen Primary School
- 26th Messy Church and its continued success in bringing Jesus into people's lives
- 27th The Headteacher and staff of Scoill-Phurt-le-Moirrey
- 28th Those parishioners who read the lessons or intercede at services in the parish
- 29th The work of aid organisations at home and overseas
- 30th The work of the Isle of Man government in maintaining services for us all to use
- 31st Our determination to serve God in as many ways possible

Services January/February 2023

1st January <i>(Circumcision of Christ)</i>	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
8th January <i>(Baptism of Christ)</i>	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's Morning Paryer St Catherine's Holy Communion CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
15th January <i>(Epiphany 2)</i>	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's All-Age Service St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
22nd January <i>(Epiphany 3)</i>	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
29th January <i>(Epiphany 4)</i>	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer
5th February <i>(Epiphany 5)</i>	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
12th February <i>(Epiphany 6)</i>	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's All-Age Service St Catherine's Holy Communion CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
19th February <i>(Epiphany 7)</i>	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's All-Age Service St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
26th February <i>(Last Sunday of the Epiphany)</i>	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)

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

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

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Mrs Claudia Koenig, Fois Fraon, Fistard, Port St Mary 832974/495630

St Mary's Ladies Working Party

Mrs Lesley Scott, 20 Rhenwyllan Close, Port St Mary 832919

(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

Web Site/E-mail:

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rushenparishorg@gmail.com

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Ballafesson, Port Erin

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 January 2023

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
8					9							
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14							15					
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22											23	

Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)