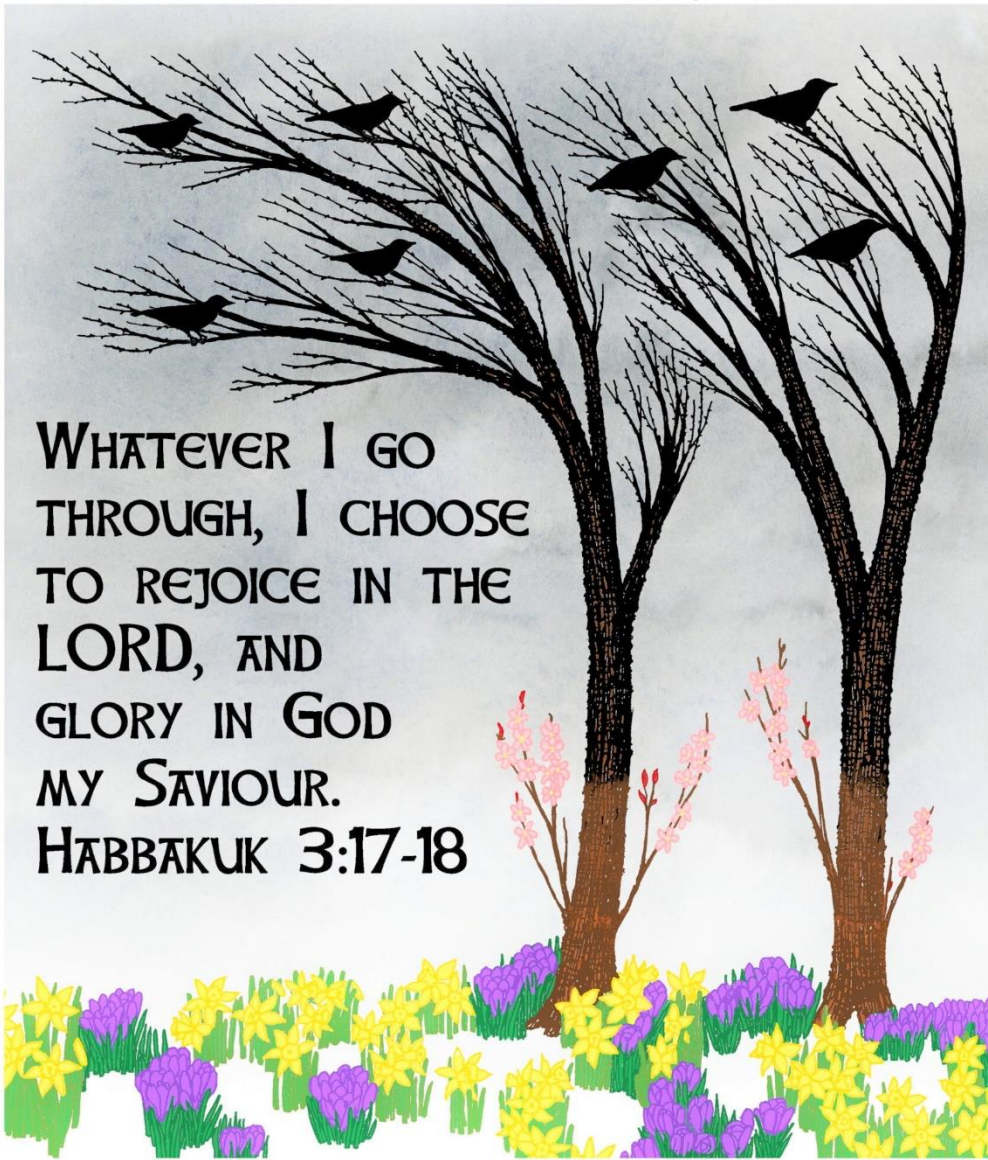




February
2023

Rushen Parish Magazine



WHATEVER I GO
THROUGH, I CHOOSE
TO REJOICE IN THE
LORD, AND
GLORY IN GOD
MY SAVIOUR.
HABBAKUK 3:17-18

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Mrs Wendy Heaton
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From the Editor

Have you ever seen a cat with a wristwatch attached to one of its front paws? So why is it that when I go out from my house I will say to Sasha (my cat's name), "I'll be back in an hour," or, "I'm only going shopping so I'll be back by three"! I'm pretty sure that she hasn't a clue what I'm saying, or has she? Our love of animals as pets is phenomenal and since Pauline died I would have been lost without her.

She is indeed a creature of habit. She seems to have a hidden sense of the time and will exhibit this by doing the same thing at the same time every day. It does make me think that she too has an 'Apple iPhone' attached to her in some way. When I get up in the morning she will join me in the bathroom and sit on my foot whilst I carry out my ablutions. She deliberately sits on the bed when I make it. She'll follow me downstairs and will miaow until I give her some biscuits. This will then trigger her wanting to go outside until its breakfast time when she will sit on the window ledge and tap her paw on the window until I respond. After breakfast she'll have a nap on my bed, but somehow know that at 12.30pm it's lunchtime. Then she'll come downstairs and follow me all over the place until I give her some more biscuits. Depending on the weather it's then time to go out. One drop of rain and she's in, a sudden noise will makes her run so fast to get in that nobody could catch her. Then it's afternoon nap time. This time she'll go into the other bedroom. I have a feeling the sun plays its part here however, at 4pm she's down again requesting yet more biscuits. The rest of the day is spent sitting on my knee, and/or on one of the chairs in the lounge. There she'll stay until bedtime at which point she'll bother me for yet more biscuits and then run upstairs and sit on my bed until I get undressed and get in it. She loves the next part of her day which is lying next to me for at least half an hour and purring in my left ear. Eventually enough is enough and she'll go back into the other bedroom for her night-time sleep. Guess what happens on the following day? You're right, exactly the same routine! By the way, in the summer when the mornings are light, she'll wake me up at some ridiculous time by tapping me on my face until I get up.

James Herriot once said, "I have felt cats rubbing their faces against mine and touching my cheek with claws carefully sheathed. These things, to me, are expressions of love." This is so true because Sasha has provided me the company I lost when Pauline died, unconditional love, and a focus during times of loneliness. Those of you who have pets will know what I mean. Those who haven't shouldn't go out and get one, however for me having Sasha to cling on to is God given, and perhaps one of the reasons that I, like you put our trust in Him for a variety of reasons. He has provided me something to live for and I will forever be grateful for that.

David



What the temptations mean for us

Immediately after His baptism in the River Jordan, Jesus faced and resisted three powerful temptations during 40 days in the wilderness of Judea. This time of testing and temptation was His preparation for the work God had sent Him to do on earth. It's the principle behind the season of Lent, which begins on 22nd February. Although the temptations were personal to Jesus, many of us will recognise their relevance in our own lives.

The first was simple. 'You're hungry. You can do miracles. Well, turn these hot stones at Your feet into loaves of bread'. It sounds quite plausible, but in fact it's an invitation to put one's own needs first. Temptation rejected.

Then came the second: 'throw yourself off a pinnacle of the Temple. You know that God will send His angels to catch you before you hit the ground'. Again, it's plausible (there was even a verse from the Bible to back it up). But this would be to substitute one spectacular publicity stunt for the hard slog of travel, preaching, healing, and touching individual lives. Temptation rejected.

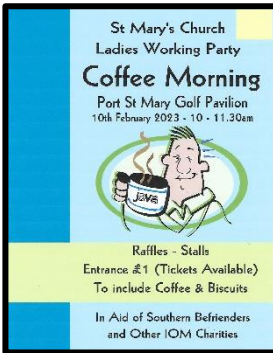
The third was outrageous. 'Fall down and worship corrupt and evil power, and You will have infinite worldly power and success'. In other words, the divine Son of God should deny His Father and worship the devil, to glean success without going to the Cross. For the third time, temptation resisted.

I know these temptations were tests of the Messiah Jesus, but can't we see in them temptations that come to all of us from time to time? Look after number one, and all will be well. Take the short cut to success and avoid all the hard slog. Compromise your integrity, in order to fulfill your ambitions. Or choose the hard way: walk the narrow path of honesty, commitment, and truth. That's really the Lenten choice.

Canon David Winter

Giving up for Lent

At the end of the pre-Lent sermon, the vicar suggested, as an example to the rest of the community, that the congregation should worship in an unheated church for the whole of Lent. As they made their way into the chill Sunday air the vicar addressed one member of the congregation, asking what she had decided to give up for Lent. "Church," she replied firmly.



Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

On 10th January, after a festive break, the ladies resumed their Tuesday afternoon meetings, now being held in St Catherine's Hall while the reordering of St Mary's church takes place. It was a very cold and windy day, but Gerry had the heating on and the tables arranged – thank you Gerry. We enjoyed our usual warm friendship and fellowship, catching up with all the news, particularly of those who have been unwell, awaiting test results or operations.

(Margaret Moore should have had her op that very day, but a shortage of beds in intensive care had caused a delay.) Two St Mary's church services in particular were discussed: the well- attended and much enjoyed Christmas Eve Crib Service followed by refreshments in the hall, and the fine Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Graham McFarlane, a lovely gentleman whose devotion to Wyn brought him into very regular contact with the LWP over many years, helping with account keeping and with many fundraising activities and events. To their son Nigel, whose heartfelt eulogy to his father was beautifully given, we extend our love and sympathy.

What a lovely photo graced the outside cover of the January magazine, marking the admission by Bishop Peter of our two new Liturgical Assistants, Gerry Callister and Peter Hayhurst – warmest congratulations from all the ladies!

Our next event is a fundraising coffee morning on Friday 10th February, from 10-11.30am, in aid of the Southern Befrienders, and other local charities. We are very grateful to David Bowman for once again so willingly printing our posters and tickets, and to the team at PSM Golf Pavilion for their support and for providing the venue. There will be raffles, a bric- a-brac stall and a cake stall. Tickets are £1 each and include coffee and biscuits. We would love to welcome you there and value your support.

As I write this, the weather has taken a turn for the worse, with a fall in temperatures and snow over much of the island. Winter has arrived – take care and keep warm!

With love and very best wishes to all

Pat Thomson

Little Teapot

Our new curate had young children and they insisted he choose for his screensaver a picture of a dancing teapot, playing the children's song 'I'm a Little Teapot'. When the earnest young Diocesan officer came to call, she sent back a message to the bishop: "The curate may be suffering from an identity disorder."

Spiritual Disciplines - Study



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

‘The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.’
(Richard Foster)

Spiritual disciplines are practices designed to develop and grow our lives as disciples of Jesus. This month we are looking at the place of *study* as a spiritual practice

‘All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.’ (2 Timothy 3:16,17). The study of God’s Word is vital if we are to grow in understanding God’s will for our lives. The discipline of study can take different forms: reading the Bible as a book or on a digital device and listening to an audio Bible. We can hear the Bible taught in church on Sundays or online any time.

One helpful way of studying Scripture is *Lectio Divina*. It consists of five steps:

Select a Scripture passage to read.

Read the passage, preferably out loud, two or three times. Use the first time to get a feel for the passage. On the second time, note any words or phrase that draw your attention.

Meditate on the word or phrase that stood out to you. How is God speaking to you through these? Take time and allow God to speak personally about your life now.

Respond to what God has been saying to you. What is your response? What is your prayer?

Rest in God’s presence and allow His love to embrace you by His Spirit.

Why not try this for yourself to hear God speak?

‘We present you with this Book, the most valuable thing this world affords.’ (words used when the late Queen received a Bible at her Coronation).





Remembering the Munich Air Disaster

The Munich air disaster took place 65 years ago, on 6th February 1958, when a plane carrying the Manchester United football team (known as the Busby Babes), plus support staff and journalists, crashed while attempting to take off from a slush-affected runway at Munich-Riem Airport. Altogether, 23 people were killed, including eight players.

The Elizabethan-class Airspeed Ambassador, British European Airways Flight 609, crashed on its third attempt to take off. It had landed at Munich on its way from Belgrade to Manchester because a non-stop flight was beyond the range of the aircraft. The Babes had just beaten Red Star Belgrade in a European Cup match.

Engine problems had caused the first two take-off attempts to be aborted, but the pilots decided to try again because of scheduling issues. This time the plane was slowed by slush and failed to take off, smashing off the runway and into a house. A parked fuel truck was hit and exploded: only 21 of the 44 on board the plane survived

The pilot began evacuating passengers, and star goalkeeper Harry Gregg helped pull survivors – including a baby, its pregnant mother and two of his teammates – from the wreckage. A devout Christian at the time – he was said to have lost his faith when his wife and daughter later died of cancer – he became known as the hero of Munich.

His courage has been hailed by many, particularly in Serbia – home to the rescued Lukic family – but also back at Old Trafford, and at his own home in Ulster. He died in 2020.

Tim Lenton

A Prayer for Candlemas - 2nd February

Dear Lord

Here we are in February – month of cold days, winter days, but days that promise hope and signs of Spring. Snowdrops and lengthening light; echoes of the hope and light that Jesus brought to Simeon and Anna all those years ago in the Temple.

Thank you Lord, that you always bring light, you always bring hope and peace and joy when we put our trust in Jesus, our Saviour. Jesus, Lord of all our days and seasons.

In his name we thank you, as we look to his Light.

Amen



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



As we enter this new year we pray that the work of the Vision Focus Group, and the PCC, to be at the heart of the community revealing the heart of God, is seen by everyone in the neighbourhoods of our two port churches, the parish church and Cregneish. Our aim is to spread the Love of God to everyone regardless of who they are.

On New Year's Day the congregations of our four churches celebrated Communion at Kirk Christ. The celebrant was Rev. Roger Harper. It was good that we could get together on this special day after recently celebrating the birth of Jesus. At the service we used the chalice donated to the memory of the late Arthur Cregeen who had been Churchwarden at Kirk Christ.

On 8th January the service at St Catherine's Church was taken by the Rev. Joe Heaton. It was a bleak day but the attendance was good. The congregation met at the end of the service to share fellowship and to enlighten everyone about their Christmas experiences.

Soup Inn was held on Thursday 5th January in St Catherine's Church Hall. It was good to share this event with three visitors who thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Gerry Callister

Number of Christmas services surged, as parishes welcome public

At the end of last year, the number of Christmas services advertised on the Church of England's church-finding website were up by more than a quarter on pre-pandemic levels.

The A Church Near You website was advertising just over 23,850 services and other gatherings. And search engines saw a surge in people searching for phrases such as 'midnight mass'. All in all, an estimated 682,000 people visited AChurchNearYou.com in December, and around 80 per cent of these visitors were on the site for the first time.

Church of England Website

In a sack

Seen in a church magazine: "Bring your old newspapers (and your neighbours), put them in a sack and tie them if possible."

Sudoku February 2023

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

Sick

During a church service my young niece had to go outside, as she did not feel well. She returned a few minutes later and admitted: 'I have been a little sick. But it doesn't matter, there's a box at the door marked 'for the sick'.'

January Sudoku Solution

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

January Crossword Solution

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



Reflecting faith - What animals can remind us about our faith

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series.

There are various rather peculiar ‘creatures’ that are used in decorations in and on church buildings.

Around the outside of many larger churches and cathedrals you may well have found some downright scary beasts! They are usually used as downspouts off the roof or at the head of vast columns. Often, they were intended to scare away anything or anyone who was evil from entering the church building, and therefore kept all those on the inside safe.

When we go to worship – especially somewhere we haven’t been before – we want to be assured that what will be said during the service will be ‘of God’. We want to be able to relax and just be ourselves and secure in God’s presence. And that was the thinking behind those beasts.

There are, however, plenty more welcome creatures often found inside the building. Jesus is often spoken about as ‘The Lamb of God’. Indeed, we use that phrase within most Communion services during the Gloria as well as just before we go to receive the bread and wine: ‘*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.*’ So, we can see a lamb as representing innocence, purity, vulnerability and sacrifice itself.

This month:

Have a look to see if there are any other ‘creatures’ on show in a church near you. What do they ‘say’?

Revd Dr Jo White

Judgement?

This true story concerns the visit of a visiting preacher to a little village chapel...

‘He was a few minutes into his sermon when, without warning, about twenty square feet of thick and decayed Victorian plaster fell from high on one wall and crashed into a group of empty pews below. As the dense fog of dust began to settle, and it became clear no one was injured, the minister prepared to resume his sermon. Then he paused, and looked heavenward and in a slightly pained voice, asked: “Was it something I said?”’

Looking back on the Space shuttle Columbia



Twenty years ago, on 1st February 2003, the US space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas during re-entry, killing all seven astronauts.

It was the second space shuttle disaster after Challenger, which saw a catastrophic failure during launch in 1986. In both cases the “organisational culture” at NASA was blamed, because engineers’ advice was ignored.

This second disaster led to the suspension of the space shuttle programme. Instead, US astronauts fly to the International Space Station on Russian Soyuz rockets or aboard commercial spacecraft.

The Columbia disaster was caused by a large piece of foam falling from an external tank and making a hole in the aircraft’s wing during launch. This allowed gases to get into the shuttle during re-entry, causing its disintegration and the death of the astronauts, who almost certainly lost consciousness before the shuttle broke up.

It would have been possible to examine pictures of the breached wing and look at possible remedies before re-entry, but NASA officials declined the opportunity. The search for debris over 2,000 square miles took weeks. Some 84,000 pieces were eventually recovered – nearly 40 per cent of Columbia by weight. Enough human remains were found to identify all crew members by DNA.

Seven asteroids discovered in July 2001 were named after the astronauts. The landing site of the Mars rover Spirit was named Columbia Memorial Station, and it included a plaque to the Columbia crew. Many other memorials are in place elsewhere.

Columbia had been the first space shuttle to fly in space – in April 1981 – and it completed 27 successful missions.

Tim Lenton

Number of Christmas services surged, as parishes welcome public

At the end of last year, the number of Christmas services advertised on the Church of England’s church-finding website were up by more than a quarter on pre-pandemic levels.

*The **A Church Near You** website was advertising just over 23,850 services and other gatherings. And search engines saw a surge in people searching for phrases such as ‘midnight mass’. All in all, an estimated 682,000 people visited **AChurchNearYou.com** in December, and around 80 per cent of these visitors were on the site for the first time.*



Ash Wednesday; mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They

mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for the day goes back to the Prayer Book, and it stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for the day are often Joel 2:1-2, 12-18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 - 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. On this day, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly, the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for the day. The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

St Valentine's Day, a poem



Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh

there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).



*To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.*



The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):



*The rose is red, the violet's blue
The honey's sweet, and so are you.
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.*



2023 World Day of Prayer Service

This year's ecumenical World Day of Prayer Service is being held on Friday 3rd March 2023 at Living Hope Church, Port St Mary. The service has been prepared by Christian women of **Taiwan TW** and the theme is 'I have heard about your faith'. The people of Taiwan are very much in need of our prayers at this time.

Everyone is most welcome to attend and Scoill Phurt Le Moirrey choir will start the service off at 10.45am. Refreshments will be served from 10am prior to the service.

Sheila Preston

All in the month of February



175 years ago, on 21st Feb 1848, the Communist Manifesto was published in London. It was written by Karl Marx, with the assistance of Friedrich Engels.

150 years ago, on 7th Feb 1873, Thomas Andrews, Irish/British shipbuilder and businessman was born. The naval architect in charge of the plans for the RMS Titanic, he perished along with 1,500 others during her maiden voyage.

100 years ago, on 16th Feb 1923, British archaeologist Howard Carter opened the sealed doorway to Tutankhamen's tomb in Thebes, Egypt. The following day he entered the burial chamber and discovered a wealth of treasures.

70 years ago, on 28th Feb 1953, British scientists Francis Crick and James D Watson announced that they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA.

65 years ago, on 6th Feb 1958, the Munich air disaster took place. A plane carrying the Manchester United football team ('the Busby Babes'), plus support staff and journalists, crashed while attempting to take off from a slush-covered runway at Munich-Riem Airport. 23 people were killed, including 8 players.

65 years ago, on 17th Feb 1958, St Claire of Assisi (1194-1253) was declared the patron saint of television by Pope Pius XII – on the basis that she had been too ill to attend Mass, but had reportedly been able to see and hear it on the wall of her room.

50 years ago, on 8th Feb 1973, the US Senate established a select committee to investigate the Watergate scandal. This led to US President Richard Nixon's resignation in August 1974.

40 years ago, on 8th Feb 1983, champion racehorse, Shergar, was kidnapped in Ireland and a £2million ransom demanded. The horse was never seen again.

30 years ago, on 24th Feb 1993, Bobby Moore, British footballer and captain of the England team that won the 1966 World Cup, died.

25 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1998, Osama bin Laden issued a fatwa against all Jews and Crusaders.

20 years ago, on 1st Feb 2003, the US space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas during re-entry, killing all seven astronauts.

15 years ago, on 29th Feb 2008, Prince Harry was immediately withdrawn from active service in Afghanistan, after the media revealed he was serving a tour of duty with British troops there.

10 years ago, on 1st Feb 2013, the Shard, a 72-storey skyscraper in London, was officially opened. It is the tallest building in the UK and the sixth tallest in Europe.

Statistics for Mission 2021 published



Attendance at Church of England parishes rose sharply in 2021, compared to 2020, but continued to be affected by Covid measures, new statistics from the Church of England show.

Average weekly attendance, which includes Sundays and midweek attendance, grew to 605,000 in 2021 compared to 345,000 in 2020. But it was lower than in 2019, when average weekly attendance stood at 854,000 people.

The number of baptisms and weddings grew in 2021 compared to 2020, with 26,500 marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriage and 55,200 baptisms or thanksgiving services for a child.

Many churches continued to provide 'church at home' services in 2021, offered online, by phone, post, email, and other means amid a range of Covid restrictions.

It comes as separate figures show the number of people praying online has continued to grow sharply over the past year with downloads of the Church of England's Daily Prayer audio at 3.2 million so far in 2022 – 62% higher than 2021 when it was launched. Total downloads now stand at 5.2 million.

Daily Prayer audio – across the Daily Prayer podcast and app – has now reached more than 1.1 million unique listeners.

Meanwhile, figures from the Church of England's digital channels show that social media content – prayers, Bible verses, reflection content, good news stories and encouragement – have been seen more than 65 million times this year so far.

This amounts to approximately 1.3 million impressions per week, with content seen roughly 190,000 times a day.

And the Church of England's national online service averages around 150,000 views a week, with an average of 300 written comments a week from regular online worshipping communities.

The summary adds: "The pandemic continued to have an impact on the life of the Church of England, with some churches being closed for worship for parts of 2021 and some members of congregations continuing not to attend in-person services. This report indicates the extent to which things have 'bounced back,' but notes that further bouncing back is expected."

Church of England Statistics

From the Registers

Funerals 2023:

3 rd January	David Lever	RBG	Burial
5 th January	Olive Dawson	Kirk Christ/RBG	Service & Burial
11 th January	Ann Breheny		Crematorium
17 th January	Michael Ogglesby	RBG	Ashes Burial
25 th January	Shirley Dixon	St Catherine's Church	Service & Crem.
27 th January	Annie Briggs	Kirk Christ/RBG	Service & Burial

(RBG Rushen Burial Ground)

Blessing

One Sunday, when my granddaughter was about two years old, her daddy and mummy made their Communion at my local church and took her up with them for a blessing. Arriving back in our pew she said in a loud voice: "Granny, the man has said his prayers on my head, and he has a lovely dress on."

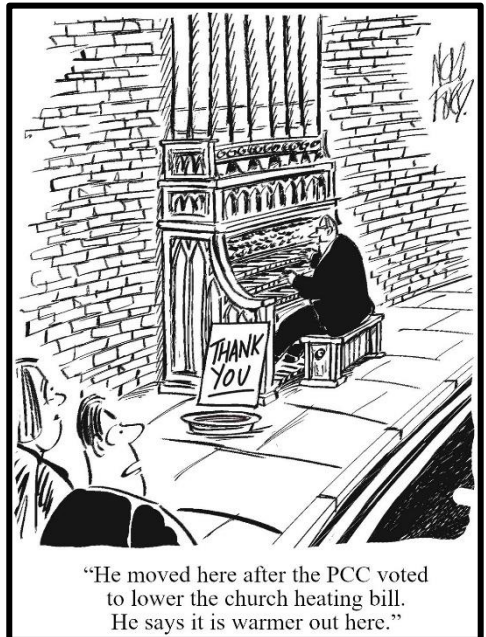
Safeguarding

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 first meeting of 2023 was well attended despite the dreadful wind outside, with 16 members and our two speakers Jim and Ann Cottier. Mr Gerry Callister had thoughtfully ensured that the hall was warm for our arrival. Mrs Lesley Scott, in the chair, as Mrs Peta Mills was recovering from her accident, warmly welcomed everyone and wished us all a Happy New Year. Our short service

included prayers for those unable to be with us, and for our home member Mrs Edythe Bridson, hymns chosen and played by Mrs Iris Mitchell, prayers led by Lesley and readings given by Mrs Pat Thomson and Lesley.

Our talk was entitled "An Armchair Treasure Hunt", and involved our recognising or guessing where on the island each of the slides in the Cottiers' presentation had been taken. Some proved quite tricky as they had been taken from odd angles, but it was a most entertaining and enjoyable quiz. Pat thanked Jim and Ann very much for such a fun afternoon, and we all agreed that we should take more notice of what is around us on this beautiful island! Refreshments were provided by Mrs Elsie Faragher and Mrs Jane Gunn and enjoyed by all, along with the opportunity to catch up after the Christmas break.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 13th February at 2pm in St Catherine's Hall, when Jane will be in the chair and we shall hear about "Housing Matters", the MU charity of the year. As always, guests will be made very welcome.

With love and very best wishes

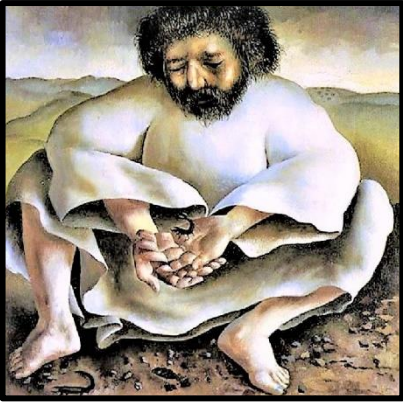
Pat Thomson

Answer to prayer

A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. So after a few weeks, he didn't bother to ask anymore.

Some months later, his dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. The little boy stood still for a moment, and then cautiously observed: "It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did."

God in the Arts



Editor: *The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at:*

‘Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions’

(<https://www.wikiart.org/en/stanley-spencer/christ-in-the-wilderness-the-scorpion>)

Forty Days and Forty Nights

At the end of this month we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the Wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory. In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is this month’s painting from 1939: ‘Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.’ It is held in a private collection.

Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village’s inhabitants his models. Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. ‘Angels and dirt’ he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

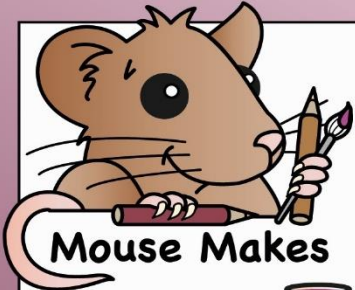
Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with His head, His hands and His feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about Him, apart from His tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert?

During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God. He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.

Children's Page



Mouse Makes

What did Jesus give thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?

His Matthew 26:27-28

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take, bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say this represented?

His Matthew 26:26



Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in



of me."

1 Corinthians 11:24-25



- SUPPER
- LAMB • LORD
- DISCIPLES
- TOGETHER
- EVENING
- ROOM • JAR
- WATER • TWELVE
- JESUS • CHRIST
- NIGHT • TOOK
- THANKS
- BLESSING
- BROKE • GIVEN
- COVENANT
- DRINK • EAT
- FORGIVENESS
- SINS • HOLY
- COMMUNION
- EUCHARIST

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



Find the words from the questions too!

The Story Behind the Hymn



Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there is hatred let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness ever joy.

Oh, master grant that I may never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace,
It isn't pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Oh, master grant that I may never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness ever joy.

The anonymous text that is usually called the Prayer of Saint Francis, or Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, is a widely known Christian prayer for peace. It has been frequently set to music by notable songwriters and quoted by prominent leaders, and its broadly inclusive language has found appeal with diverse faiths encouraging service to others.

The earliest known record of the prayer is its appearance, as a "beautiful prayer to say during Mass", in the December 1912 issue of the small devotional French Catholic publication *La Clochette*, "the bulletin of the League of the Holy Mass". Although the prayer was published anonymously, it was concluded that, with few exceptions, the texts in *La Clochette* were generally written by its founding editor, Father Esther Bouquerel (1855–1923).

The most-prominent hymn version of the prayer is "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace", or simply "Prayer of St. Francis", adapted and set to a chant-like melody in 1967 by South African songwriter Sebastian Temple (1928–1997). The hymn is an anthem of the Royal British Legion and is usually sung at its annual Festival of Remembrance. In 1997 it was part of the Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, and was performed by the Irish singer Sinéad O'Connor on the Princess Diana tribute album.

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*



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

Amen

*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*



February 2023

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

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

Services February/March 2023

29 th January (Epiphany 4)	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Morning Prayer
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
5 th February (Proper 1)	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Holy Communion
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
12 th February (2 before Lent)	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's All-Age Service
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
19 th February (Sunday before Lent)	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Holy Communion
	11am	St Catherine's All-Age + Baptism Service
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Evening Prayer (BCP)
26 th February (1st Sunday of Lent)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion
5 th March (2nd Sunday of Lent)	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Holy Communion
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
	6.30pm	Kirk Christ Mariners' Service
12 th March (3rd Sunday of Lent)	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Morning Prayer
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
19 th March (Mothering Sunday)	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's All-Age + Communion
	11am	St Catherine's All-Age Service
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
26 th March (5th Sunday of Lent)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion
2 nd April (Palm Sunday)	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Holy Communion
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)

Dates and times of services/activities subject to alteration/or cancelled
 All Services *Common Worship* except those marked (BCP) *Book of Common Prayer*

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

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

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

St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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

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

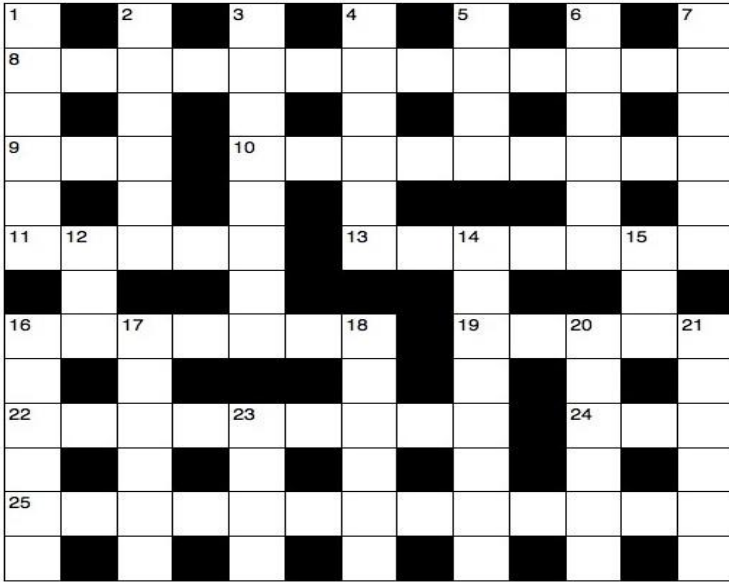
Parish Director of Music:

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

Churchyard Enquiries:

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

Crossword February 2023



Across

- 8** Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9** 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10** Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11** Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13** Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16** Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19** 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22** David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24** Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25** How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1** Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2** One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3** Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

- 4** 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5** One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6** Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7** God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12** Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14** 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15** The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16** Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17** How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18** What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20** Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21** Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23** Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1)(4)