



Rushen Parish Magazine

March 2023



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From the Editor

It does annoy me when the 'powers that be' tinker around with tradition to make it more user-friendly or more modern. In their eyes they like to take a more contemporary approach so that what they are changing will be more appealing. I'm going to take the Lord's Prayer as an example.

As a boy I used to go to Sunday School, and as I got older I attended a youth group organised by St John's Church, Old Trafford at which my parents and I worshipped. It was there where I was confirmed and took my first communion. Throughout that period, and during my school days, the Lord's Prayer was said using 'thy kingdom come, thy will be done', instead of 'your kingdom come, your will be done', 'which art in heaven' instead of 'our father in heaven' and so on. In fact the version I was taught is still imprinted on my heart today, and I would suggest on many of yours too.

Things became more complicated when I became headteacher of a Church of England primary school in Kent. Of course I had to meet many new people, and was invited for many an evening meal by those who were inquisitive to know more about this alien creature from the north west whose northern twang was far different from theirs! It was on one of these occasions I was asked which version of the Lord's Prayer I used. My answer was quite clear, 'It was the one that I was taught when I started school, and the one I still use today.'

To compound matters the Alternative Service Book had two versions, one for 'Rite A' Communion, a more modern service, and another for 'Rite B', a traditional service. This prompted the governors at my school to question which version should be used at the school, in fact it caused quite a commotion! Despite the arguments for and against which version to use I held firm, and until I retired in 2003 the school continued to use the version I was taught. Hopefully it still does.

What next? I know that we use the modern version at three of our four churches, but I still hear the people around me reciting it in the way they were taught, and not using the one presented to them. I agree with them whole heartedly. Now I read that the Church of England are considering the Lord's Prayer being written in a gender neutral way in order to ensure that it is all inclusive and does not relate to our Lord as being a male. What are we coming to? Why can't we continue to recite it in the way it was first written and appears in the Bible? Perhaps we ought to spend more time worrying about what's going wrong in the world rather than meddling with words that are so sacred and imprinted on our hearts.

David



Mothering Sunday & Mother Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigours of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

It is a day of mixed emotions. For many it's a happy, joyous day, but for others it's one of pain and grief. A day to celebrate love, while acknowledging those who cannot have children or have lost them and those who have no relationship with their mother.

In the dying moments of His life, Jesus honoured Mary his mother by showing her love and care. He entrusted His mother to John's protection: *'When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'* From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.' (John 19:26,27). While affirming the importance of mothers, Jesus reminds us that the love we show on Mothering Sunday is just a token of our continuous appreciation of them.

Jesus also creates a new way of being family, marking the beginnings of the church. He invites us into this new family of love and mutual belonging, where we can find a place, irrespective of our own family circumstances.

Church is not always an easy place to be, because we are shaped by our own experience of mothering. We may find it hard to give or receive love without ourselves getting in the way. However, God's help is available to change things, *'because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.'* (Romans 5:5)

The mother of three difficult youngsters was asked whether she'd have children if she had it to do over again. 'Yes,' she replied. *'But not the same ones.'*

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



Great teamwork and an amazing turnout helped to make the coffee morning on 10th February a success, raising £710 for the Southern Befrienders (and other IOM charities). Huge thanks to everyone who supported and helped us in any way. Also, grateful thanks are extended to the PSM Golf Pavilion team for their support and for providing the venue. It was interesting to hear about the work of the Southern Befrienders and we appreciate Mandy, Debbie and Suzanne giving up their time to join us.

Our joint services at 10am in Kirk Christ are allowing us to meet and share fellowship together and we are very grateful for the warm welcome we have all received, and for the refreshments after the service provided by the Kirk Christ team. We are looking forward to helping to make up posies for Mothering Sunday on 19th March, and say an appreciative thank you to the Clucas family for providing the daffodils both for this and also for decorating the church at Easter when we hope to add some other spring flowers to make up colourful posies for the window sills. We are happy to help in any way we can.

Paul Moores left The Leprosy Mission in the autumn but a new manager is coming over to the island in March. We hope to get more details soon from Elly Duchars. Meanwhile, we have been told that this is the last year TLM will be able to accept used stamps.

It was lovely to have Inger join us again, to have Peta back after her nasty accident before Christmas, and we have Jude to thank for the St Mary's flower rota for 2023. We are all pleased to have Helen and Ginny with us too, and when our much missed leader, Margaret, is able, we will be delighted to welcome her back.

Meanwhile, we pray for her full recovery after her operation, for others who have health concerns at this time, and for those suffering from the dreadful effects of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

With love and best wishes to everyone

Pat Thomson

Adam and Eve's true nationality

A Brit, a Frenchman and a Russian were viewing a painting of Adam and Eve frolicking in the Garden of Eden. "Look at that garden they are maintaining so well," mused the Brit. "They must be British."

"Nonsense," the Frenchman disagreed. "They're naked, and so beautiful. Clearly, they are French."

"Ah, but no clothes, no shoes, no shelter," the Russian pointed out, "they have only an apple to eat, and they're being told this is paradise. They are Russian."

Spiritual Disciplines - Fasting



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.

Spiritual disciplines are practices designed to help us grow as disciples of Jesus. This month we are looking at the practice of *fasting*.

Fasting can be a neglected discipline, but plays an important part in the Christian life, especially during Lent.

Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught His disciples to fast: *'when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen.'* (Matthew 6:17,18).

Why Fast?

Firstly, giving up something in my life underlines my desire to put God first in my life. Secondly, fasting shows me how much I depend on things other than God in my life, so I can surrender my idols to Him. Thirdly, fasting encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God in my life. Therefore, fasting gives me space to focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom and leads to a more intimate relationship with Christ. It also enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to repentance, and a transformed life and a more attentive heart towards God.

How can I fast?

Usually fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, although some can't abstain for medical reasons. It might also include abstaining or limiting the time I give to television, alcohol or social media. However, Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study group, *'random acts of kindness'*, or giving more time to prayer and Bible Study. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'
(Matthew 5:6)

The Bible according to children

Children's version of biblical stories and events have a charm all their own. The following efforts have not been retouched or corrected (i.e. bad spelling has been left in).

- ~ Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
- ~ Noah built an ark, which the animals came on to in pears.
- ~ Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
- ~ The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
- ~ Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

St Mary's Sunday School



Share God's Word

In January we started a new series of lessons about Joshua. Our first session focused on Joshua chapter 1, in which God chooses Joshua as the new leader of the people of Israel (after the death of Moses) and tells him to lead the people into the Promised Land. God encourages Joshua to be strong and courageous and promises that He will always be with him. To help us imagine what it was like for the people of Israel, who had set up camp on the banks of the river Jordan, we built tents for us to sit in and reflect on God's words to Joshua. We thought about situations in our own lives, in which we have needed to be brave and strong, eg

after a fall or before an operation. To help us remember that God is always with us we made barbells with balloons as weights, with the key verse written on the bar: "Be strong and courageous, for the Lord is with you wherever you go."

Our next session focused on Joshua chapter 2, in which Joshua sends two spies into Jericho and God keeps them safe by means of Rahab, a woman of 'bad choices.' We played some 'spy' games before reading the story together with accompanying actions. We thought about how the spies would have felt in enemy territory and how God chose the most unlikely person to help keep them safe, an act for which God would later protect Rahab and her family. As a reminder of the rope Rahab used to help the spies escape and the red rope she tied to her window, we used red wool to make braids, which we attached to bookmarks with God's promise: 'I am always with you.'

The following Sunday we spent the lesson preparing for our February all-age service, centred around Matthew 6:25-34: "Do not worry..." As well as making some lovely pictures of birds and flowers for the service, we thanked God for all the good things He gives us (food, clothes, homes, family, friends, pets, toys etc.) and thought about which ones are essential and what we could do without. Interestingly, the children agreed that they could survive without toys! We learnt that while God doesn't necessarily give us everything we want, He will always give us what we need, including strength and peace.

Our all-age service at Kirk Christ was led by the Rev. Ginny Viner, who taught us the difference between worry (about things that may or may not happen) and concern (about things that have happened or are happening now), and the futility of worrying and how it robs us of peace. Although we each need to play our part, eg revise for tests and exams or work in order to earn money and budget with our finances, we can leave the rest to God and trust that He will provide for our needs. God knows what is best for us and will give us what we need at the right time, so we can give all our worries to Him and completely let go off them (like letting go off a balloon), and we can receive God's peace in return. The Sunday School contributed to the service by reading the lessons, illustrating the gospel reading with pictures of birds and flowers, by leading the congregation in 'Our God is a great big God' (with actions!) and by leading the prayers of intercession. Everybody did very well! Thank you!

We are currently having a short break from Sunday School during Half Term, but look forward to continuing our lessons about Joshua in March.

With love and blessings, Claudia



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



At both churches there are signs of spring in the grounds, especially when the snowdrops appear. It is lovely to see them after the dark days of winter. At Kirk Christ we have welcomed the congregation from St Mary's Church which are unable to worship in their church whilst it is being re-ordered. Everyone involved has enjoyed the fellowship during this period, even though it has meant a change of time to 10am for services for the congregations at both churches. At Kirk Christ a new sound system has been fitted which appears to please everyone as they can hear lesson readers, intercessors and the minister taking the services.

There was a lovely atmosphere at St Catherine's Church on 19th February when Theo Tyrer was baptised. It was a lovely occasion with Theo's family, and the other children, all coming together in church and afterwards for fellowship together in St Catherine's Church Hall with refreshments served.

We are now looking forward to the Mariner's Service at 6.30pm in Kirk Christ on Sunday 5th March. Please come if you can.

Gerry Callister

National Day of Reflection and Great Daffodil Appeal 2023



For the third year running, Marie Curie will lead the National Day of Reflection on Thursday 23rd March.

It is a day for everyone to remember loved ones who have died, and to support people who are grieving. There will be a minute's silence at noon, a nationwide network of Walls of Reflection, and a series of grief-themed online events. Taking place on the third anniversary that the UK went into lockdown, the National Day of Reflection raises awareness of the impact of grief on our lives and of the need for better support. Millions of people across the UK, adults as well as children, are arievina now and need support. whether in the workplace, at home, in schools or across communities.

The National Day of Reflection also ties in with the charity's flagship annual fundraising appeal in March – the Great Daffodil Appeal – with people donating and wearing one of their iconic daffodil pin badges. Every year thousands of supporters from across the UK come together to raise money to support the charity's nurses, doctors, and hospice staff so they can continue to provide expert care to people at end of life, and their families.

Sudoku March 2023

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

Present

For their elderly vicar's 70th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. The vicar was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, "Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit."

February Sudoku Solution

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

February Crossword Solution

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



Reflecting faith – what birds can remind us about our faith

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series.

There are many depictions of ‘creatures’ used in decorations in and on our church buildings. Some are beautifully carved in the highly decorated ends of choir stalls. Others can be found on the pew-ends.

Sometimes there are human caricatures, perhaps of people the craftsmen knew in real life – their priest or bishop; or even their foreman!

Sometimes there are carvings of birds, such as the pelican and peacock.

The peacock is known for its magnificent tail feathers, which it displays to both impress and deter aggressors. From the early days of Christianity, the peacock has been used to symbolise eternal life, and so is often seen carved into memorial stones in the churchyard. This is because it renews itself each year, by shedding its old feathers and growing new ones. Of course, this also links to Christ’s resurrection, as the peacock is visually reborn and whole again.

The pelican is a less obvious Christian symbol, although quite common in all art forms. It’s seen as a symbol of atonement because when observed by naturalists many centuries ago, they misinterpreted the red tip on its long bill.

They saw the pelican started to prune its feathers, and it appeared to them to be ripping open its breast, so as to feed its young with its own blood. This story became symbolic for the Atonement, where Jesus allowed Himself to be pierced so that we may live. And although ornithologists view the red tip differently today, the pelican continues in its representation.

This month: Have a look at what other ‘creatures’ you can see in a church near you; but also think about what flowers might be most suitable in church for next month – April.

St Catherine’s Church Spring Concert

23rd March 2023

Rushen Silver Band

St Catherine’s Church

7.45pm

Retiring Collection

Refreshments in the Hall following concert



Time for some good news?



If you can't bear to watch or read the news, you're not alone.

Newly published research shows that more than seven out of ten news publishers are concerned about increasing levels of 'news avoidance.'

More and more people are turning away from the news because it's just too difficult to take. And that may present an opportunity for Christians to present our life-giving gospel message.

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism has published its '*Journalism, media, and technology trends and predictions 2023*' report, based on a wide-ranging survey of 303 news leaders in 53 countries. It explores the latest developments in journalism and the priorities for the year ahead.

One area of deep concern was increasing levels of 'news avoidance' with 72 per cent of publishers worried about the phenomenon. Many readers and viewers were avoiding news, especially, says the report "around important but often depressing topics like Ukraine and climate change."

Does this widespread 'news avoidance' have any messages for the Church and for Christians generally? Well, maybe two.

The first is for ourselves. How guilty are we of scrolling past bad news on our social media feed, switching off the TV or radio, or pausing a podcast when the subject matter becomes tough to take?

That's tempting to do, but it's important for Christians to be aware of events and trends across the globe, to enable us to pray intelligently, and to be able to support organisations and people working to make the world a better place.

The second is about how we present our gospel message. We have 'good news' to proclaim, while we are living in a time when people are turning away from news of any kind, seeking instead to look for entertainment and distraction.

In our preaching, in our personal testimonies and in the wide range of ways that we communicate the gospel message of 'abundant life' through Jesus Christ, we are called to be positive and upbeat.

In a world that is turning away from bad news, we have good news to offer. Our mission is to present this good news in ways that can catch the attention of a distracted world that's tired of the gloom and looking for something better.

Church of England's links to Historic Transatlantic Slavery on display at Lambeth Palace

Enslavement: Voices from the Archives, was recently opened to the public at Lambeth Palace Library, in central London, and will run until 31st March 2023.

Items in the exhibition are from the library's archives, which were studied in detail for research by the Church Commissioners for England into links to historic transatlantic chattel slavery.

The display includes early 18th century ledgers from Queen Anne's Bounty that was founded in 1704, a predecessor fund to the Church Commissioners' endowment, and an anonymous letter written by an enslaved person in 1723 to the 'Archbishop of London', the earliest known such advocacy for freedom. A missionary book from 1808, published specifically for enslaved and former enslaved people, is also on display. This book contains selected sections of the Bible, deliberately edited to remove all references to freedom from slavery.

In 2019 the Church Commissioners decided to conduct research into the source of its endowment fund, to know its past better, in order to understand its present, and to ensure that the Church Commissioners continues to support the Church of England's work and mission in the future as best it can. The Church Commissioners worked with forensic accountants to review financial ledgers and other original documents from the archives.

Lambeth Palace Library is the historic library of the Archbishops of Canterbury and preserves the national archives of the Church of England. More information at: www.lambethpalacelibrary.org.

A new oversight group will be formed during 2023 with significant membership from communities impacted by historic slavery. This group will work with the Church Commissioners on shaping the response.

The Church Commissioners says it "is deeply sorry for its predecessor fund's links with the transatlantic slave trade."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, who is also Chair of the Church Commissioners, said: "I am deeply sorry for these links. It is now time to take action to address our shameful past. Jesus Christ calls us to face our present and future with integrity. It is hard to do this at a time when resources in many parishes are so stretched, but by acting rightly we open ourselves to the blessing of God."

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: St Mary's, Bury St Edmunds, is one of the larger parish churches in the country, but any church is replete with little hidey holes where an absent-minded clergyman can place things and mislay them:

The Vicar's lost his iPad!

The Vicar's lost his iPad –
Disaster's come to church!
His sermon's on that iPad
It's left him in the lurch!

He's been looking for that iPad
For most of half an hour,
He's searched the chancel and the nave
So now he's up the tower!

Oh! Where's he put that iPad?
He had it when he came!
He's searching high and searching low
It's driving him insane!

The angels in the hammer beams
For several hundred years
Have witnessed proper order
But now they're all in tears.

For chaos reigns below them
Upon this modern day
For everyone is searching now –
Both clergyman and lay!

The Vicar found his iPad
Tonight, we'll all be sleeping!
He sent a message from his phone
And set his iPad beeping!

And as he holds his iPad
We feel his happy glow;
But could he not have done that trick
That half-an-hour ago?

The answer comes upon us
That trick he could not do!
For, in the caverns of our church
He'd lost his smartphone, too!

Nigel Beeton

Referendum and bombs

Fifty years ago, on 8th March 1973, the citizens of Northern Ireland voted in a referendum to remain within the United Kingdom. That same day the IRA carried out its first bombing in Britain since World War II, planting car bombs in London. One person died, and about 200 were injured.

Many nationalists and Roman Catholics refused to take part in the poll, which meant there was a huge majority in favour of remaining in the UK: 98.9 per cent on a voter turnout of 58.7 percent (meaning there would have been a majority even if all who abstained had voted against). It was the first constitutional referendum in the history of the United Kingdom and was held nearly four years after the beginning of The Troubles, which had brought violent sectarian conflict to Northern Ireland.

The aim of the Heath government was to "take the border out of politics" by introducing periodic plebiscites, phasing out internment and transferring responsibility for law and order from Belfast to London. The last of these proved unacceptable to the Northern Ireland Government despite the poll result, and at the end of the month direct rule from Westminster was introduced.

Meanwhile in England the Provisional IRA was attacking London, using car bombs which exploded outside the Old Bailey and the Ministry of Agriculture – plus two others that were found and defused.

Called the Old Bailey Bombing, or Bloody Thursday, the attacks resulted in about 200 injuries and one death, which was in fact from a heart attack. All except one of the bombers were arrested before they could leave the country and one of them was freed and given a new identity after providing information to the police.

Tim Lenton



All in the month of March

300 years ago, on 8th March 1723, Sir Christopher Wren, English architect, died. Best known for designing St Paul's Cathedral.

125 years ago, on 16th March 1898, Aubrey Beardsley, British illustrator, died. His black ink drawings, influenced by Japanese woodcuts, contributed to the development of Art Nouveau.

100 years ago, on 4th March 1923, Patrick Moore, the amateur astronomer, TV presenter, writer and musician was born. Best known for presenting the TV astronomy show *The Sky at Night* for over 50 years. (Died 2012)

80 years ago, on 13th March 1943, the final liquidation of Krakow Ghetto in Poland took place. 8,000 Jews were transported to Plaszow labour camp, 2000 more were simply killed in the streets, and the rest were sent to Auschwitz.

70 years ago, on 19th March 1953, the Academy Awards ceremony (the Oscars) were televised for the first time. **Also, on 26th March 1953**, Dr Jonas Salk announced that he had completed the first small-scale test of a polio vaccine. Larger tests began in February 1954, and mass vaccinations began in April 1955.

65 years ago, on 2nd March 1958, the first land crossing of Antarctica was completed by the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, led by Vivian Fuchs. The team of 12 men travelled 2,158 miles from Shackleton Base to Scott Base (via the South Pole) in 99 days, using six vehicles.

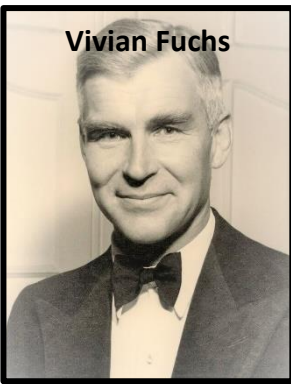
60 years ago, on 22nd March 1963, the British Secretary of State for War, John Profumo, made a statement in the House of Commons in which he denied there was any impropriety in his relationship with Christine Keeler, a model who was also in a sexual relationship with a drug dealer and a Soviet naval attaché. (In June he admitted he had lied, and resigned.)

50 years ago, on 8th March 1973, the citizens of Northern Ireland voted in a referendum to remain within the United Kingdom. That same day the IRA carried out its first bombing in Britain since WWII, planting car bombs in London. One person died, 200 were injured.

40 years ago, on 6th March 1983, Donald Maclean, British-born Soviet spy died. He was a member of the Cambridge Spy Ring. **Also on 26th March 1983**, Anthony Blunt, British art historian and Soviet spy, died.

25 years ago, on 16th March 1998, Rwanda began mass trials for the country's 1994 genocide. There were 125,000 suspects for 500,000 murders.

20 years ago, on 1st March 2003, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the al-Qaeda terrorist who masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the USA, was captured in Pakistan. **Also 20 years ago, on 12th March 2003**, the World Health Organisation issued a global alert about a severe form of pneumonia (now known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome – SARS) that was affecting people in China, Hong Kong and Vietnam.



Vivian Fuchs

First crossing of Antarctica

The first land crossing of Antarctica was completed 65 years ago, on 2nd March 1958, by the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, led by Vivian Fuchs. The team of 12 men travelled 2,158 miles from Shackleton Base to Scott Base (via the South Pole) in 99 days, using six vehicles.

The journey – nearly 22 miles a day, much of it in appalling conditions and obstructed by huge crevasses, started from the Weddell Sea and ended at McMurdo Sound. It was well prepared and strongly supported. The advance team at the Shackleton Base had to over-winter in weather much more severe than they had anticipated, but still they remained healthy.

Mount Everest conqueror Edmund Hillary, starting at the ‘end’, was responsible for laying supplies for the crossing party and forging a route for vehicles through the western mountains, but he and his group also made an unscheduled dash for the Pole, becoming in the process the third group to reach it, and the first to do so in vehicles.

The expedition had been timed to cash in on the worldwide interest created by the International Geophysical Year, a global project designed to stimulate scientific co-operation. Under the patronage of Queen Elizabeth II, the expedition was funded by the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. The continent was not crossed again until 1981.

Fuchs, whose determination was key to the expedition’s success, was the son of a German immigrant and his British wife. He was educated as a geologist – a profession he chose so that he could pursue his interest in the outdoors. He was knighted on his return to the UK and became one of very few explorers to whom the Royal Geographical Society has awarded a Special Gold Medal. He also became Director of the British Antarctic Survey until 1973 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society the following year.

Tim Lenton

Kentraugh Mill

National Mills Weekend is the second weekend in May.

Kentraugh Mill will be open on Saturday 13th May from 10am to 5pm, and on Sunday 15th May from 11am to 5pm.

The Mill is the first building up the road from, the Shore Hotel, Gansey. Guided Tours will be given of the Mill, Chapel Garden and the Mill Dam.

Refreshments are available. No charge is made, but donations are invited for the ‘United Society, Partners in Global Mission’. This is an ancient building and the machinery will be running. Visitors come at their own risk.

From the Registers

Baptism February 2023:

19th February Theodore Reuben Tyrer 11am St Catherine's Church

Funeral February 2023

1st February Patricia Holdsworth 9am Crematorium

A Prayer for Lent

Dear Father in Heaven

In this month, when Lent begins, we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness. The world today can seem like a wilderness. So many difficult, incomprehensible things going on. It is tempting to turn away in horror or denial, tempting to look out for ourselves, tempting to take the easy path, to pay attention to whatever the culture dangles before our eyes. Lord, please help us. We need your word to guide us. We need your Holy Spirit to fill and strengthen us. Help us to give our attention and our worship only to you. Lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. Thank you, Father, for Jesus, who by his death and resurrection, opens the way to you. Help us to renew our trust in him and through him, to walk with you every day.

Amen

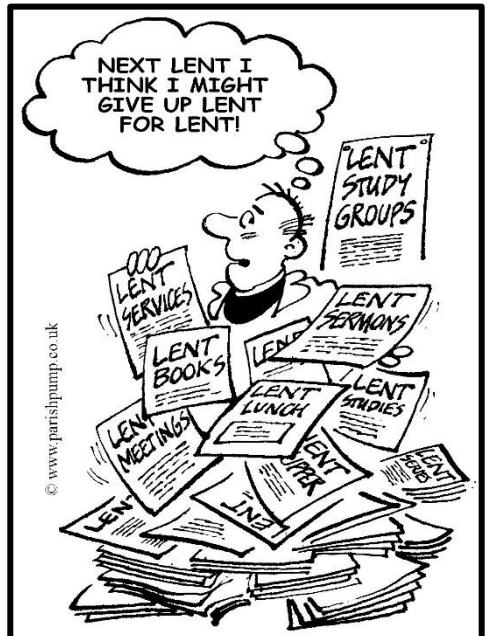
Safeguarding

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



We had been expecting to hear a talk from a representative from Housing Matters on Monday 13th February but this had to be postponed. (We have gratefully received 6 kettles and 4 toasters so far for Housing Matters which will be delivered to their office in Douglas.) We are indebted to Rev Ginny Viner who stepped in at the last moment to treat us to a lovely afternoon of laughter!

Jane Gunn welcomed us all, thanked Ginny, invited us to sing the first hymn chosen by Mrs Iris Mitchell, and then to read together from the MU prayer book and the MU Prayer for the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Mrs Sue Bould gave us two well-chosen poems by Helen Steiner Rice; The Magic of Love and The Golden Chain of Friendship. Jane advised that she is standing down from the MU creche at the prison, having given many years of active service in this important and rewarding aspect of MU work. A volunteer to replace her would be welcomed.

“God’s Gift of Laughter” was the title of Ginny’s talk which began with her experience of hearing on the radio during a long road trip in South Africa, about the pioneering work of Dr Madan Kataria in India. She was intrigued by his Laughter Yoga, subsequently attending an intensive 3-day course in Johannesburg to learn about the many health benefits and also how to lead groups. Laughter Yoga is now found in 53 countries throughout the world, and thanks to Ginny we too have experienced our first session!

After the vote of thanks from Mrs Pat Thomson, we sang our second hymn and finished with The Grace. Welcome refreshments were served by Mrs Elsie Faragher, Jane and Sue during which much of the earlier laughter was continued!

Our next branch meeting will be on 13th March at 2pm in St Catherine’s Hall, when Mrs Margaret Couper will be in the chair and our speaker will be Ms Emma Callin from the charity Isle Listen. Guests are always welcome.

Further dates include the Spring Council Meeting & AGM at 6.30pm in St John’s Hall on 13th March, and the Festival Service on 19th April at 7pm in the Cathedral.

With love and best wishes to everyone

Pat Thomson

GO!

A teenager was always asking his father if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit, the father asked his son why he thought that God had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied, "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."

God in the Arts

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Sandro Botticelli’s ‘Primavera’

Editor: Michael Burgess continues his look at great works of Christian art.



Each month we are exploring a painting that celebrates the glory and wonder of creation. In this month of March the world around us is moving from the cold and harshness of winter to new birth as the earth comes to life again in the season of spring. It is the theme of ‘Primavera’ by the 15th century Florentine artist, Sandro Botticelli. His work in the Sistine Chapel in Rome brought him to the attention

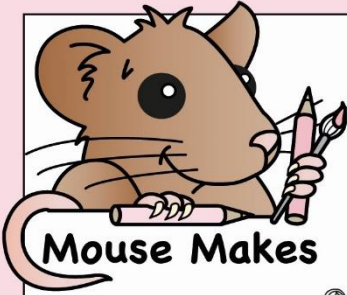
of the Medici court, which commissioned this painting in 1482. The Medici dominated the political life of Florence, but Cosimo and his descendants were also great patrons of the arts. Humanism, which debated the place of reason in a world of faith, was the mood of the day in court life, and the work of artists at that time expressed the human form in all its beauty.

Scholars have never agreed on the exact meaning of ‘Primavera,’ but it is certainly a celebration of beauty and fertility. We can identify a host of classical figures: Mercury on the left of the canvas separating the clouds so that Spring may come; Zephyr, the west wind, on the right, who is pursuing Chloris; Flora, the goddess of abundance robed in a colourful dress and adorned with flowers. In the centre we see Venus, the goddess of beauty, with a blindfolded Cupid above, preparing to shoot an arrow at the three Graces, whose arms are joined in a stately dance. The setting is a wooded garden where the trees are filled with oranges, myrtle surrounds Venus, and wondrous flowers spring up from the earth.

At first glance the sensuousness and fruitfulness seem almost profane. But we look again and think we see not Venus in the centre, but the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose own fruitfulness gave birth to the Saviour. The three figures by her side could be the Christian virtues of beauty, truth and goodness who dance in her honour, while all around God’s creation blossoms forth to bring joy and new life. It is the world of the Song of Solomon, which the early Fathers could only accept as an allegory of Christian love, where the individual soul seeks the Saviour. But that book of the Old Testament was written in praise of the love that moves human life, as much as it moves the universe. And that can only be good because God the creator is good.

The writer invites the beloved to accompany her to the fields and vineyards and find fruits in blossom and plants in bloom: a wilderness transformed by growth and goodness. Just so, we enter the garden of this painting. The characters may be classical, some may be Christian, but as we look we see a creative Love that transforms the winter of death and darkness into light and Spring – the birthday of creation.

Children's Page



Mouse Makes

WHO IS MY MOTHER?



- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| CAIN | ELIZABETH |
| ISAAC | HANNAH |
| JESUS | RACHEL |
| JACOB | REBEKAH |
| TIMOTHY | EVE |
| JOSEPH | MARY |
| SAMUEL | SARAH |
| JOHN | EUNICE |



BIBLE MOTHERS
Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?

___ ___
Genesis 4:1-2

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?

___ ___
Genesis 17:19

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?

___ ___
1 Samuel 1:20

Who was Ruth's Mother-in-Law?

___ ___
Ruth 1:1-5

Eunice was Timothy's mother, but who was her mother?

___ ___
2 Timothy 1:5

Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

___ ___
Exodus 6:20

Look up the Bible verses and find out who the Bible mothers are.



M ___ ___
Matt 1:16

O ___ ___
2 Tim 1:5

T ___ ___
1 Kings 1:11

H ___ ___
1 Sam 1:20

E ___ ___
Gen 34:1

R ___ ___
Gen 30:22

How many other words can you make from:

MOTHERING SUNDAY



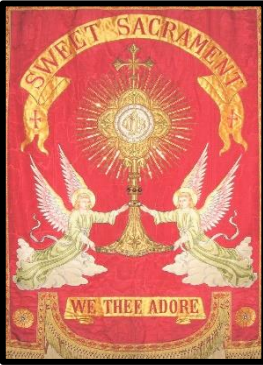
Look up the Bible verses then find the answers and the names below in the word search

- REBEKAH
- ELIZABETH
- EUNICE
- RUTH
- MARY
- RACHEL
- LEAH
- ZIPLAH
- MOTHER
- MUM



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

The Story Behind the Hymn



Sweet Sacrament Divine

Sweet sacrament divine,
Hid in thine earthly home;
Lo! Round thy lowly shrine,
With suppliant hearts we come;
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise,
In songs of love and heartfelt praise
Sweet sacrament divine (2)

Sweet sacrament of peace,
Dear home of every heart,
Where restless yearnings cease,
And sorrows all depart.
There in thine ear, all trustfully,
We tell our tale of misery,
Sweet sacrament of peace (2)

Sweet sacrament of rest,
Ark from the ocean's roar,
Within thy shelter blest,
Soon may we reach the shore;
Save us, for still the tempest raves,
Save, lest we think beneath the waves;
Sweet sacrament of rest (2)

Sweet sacrament divine,
Earth's light and jubilee,
In thy far depths doth shine,
Thy God head's majesty:
Sweet light, so shine on us, we pray
That earthly joys may fade away:
Sweet sacrament divine (2)

Francis Stanfield (1835 – 1914) was an English Catholic priest, composer and hymnodist who worked in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Westminster and is noted for having written and composed several hymns including *Sweet Sacrament Divine*. He was the son of the painter Clarkson Stanfield.

Stanfield was born in London, one of the sons of the marine painter, and friend of Charles Dickens, Clarkson Frederick Stanfield.

He was educated at St Edmund's College, Ware. After ordination, he was stationed in Hertford. He then became principally in conducting missions and retreats. He was later priest in charge at Old Hall Green.

Stanfield wrote over a dozen hymns for various occasions. He is noted as the author of the hymn *Sweet Sacrament Divine* for which he also composed the music, the tune being called "Divine Mysteries." His hymn "Hear Thy Children Gentle Jesus, While We Breathe Our Evening Prayer" uses the tune *Drakes Broughton* by Elgar.

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



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

March 2023

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

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

Services March/April 2023

5 th March (2nd Sunday of Lent)	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	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 (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	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)	10am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
2 nd April (Palm Sunday)	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
9 th April (Easter Sunday)	6.15am	Kirk Christ Dawn Service
	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
16 th April (Easter 2)	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's All-Age Service
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
23 rd April (Easter 3)	10am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
30 th April (Easter 4)	10am	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)

Dates and times of services/activities subject to alteration/or cancelled
 All Services *Common Worship (CW)* 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)

St Mary's Hall Bookings:

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

St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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

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

Parish Director of Music:

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Please contact Mr Harry Dawson: 478050/835770

or Mr G Callister: 474924/834627

Crossword March 2023

	1	2		3		4		5		6		
7												8
9								10				
						11	12					
13			14		15				16			
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22									23	24		
				25		26		27				
28						29						
	30											

Across

- 1** These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9** 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10** King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11** Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13** Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16** High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17** He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18** A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20** Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21** 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22** 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23** Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25** 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28** Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29** 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been —, he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30** Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2** 'That was why his parents said, "He is —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3** Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4** 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5** Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6** 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7** Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8** 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12** 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14** This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15** Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19** He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20** 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24** 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25** Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26** 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27** Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)