



April 2023

Rushen Parish Magazine

Passion Flower



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From the Editor

One of my failings has been perfectionism. Whatever task I have been asked to do throughout my life I have tried to do it in such a way that the end product looks good. Even at school I did my best to impress, making sure there were no flaws, spelling mistakes, or dodgy illustrations to spoil the end product. However there was a brief time at primary school when my teacher criticised my painting of Mount Everest. I was ten when the late Queen Elizabeth was crowned. Those of you who remember that time will also recall that on the same day as the coronation it was announced that Everest had been climbed for the first time. My task had been to paint a picture of the mountain so that it could form a display in the classroom. I was so proud of the finished article because in my mind it looked like the photographs depicted in the newspapers. Miss Spooner, my teacher, thought differently. I had dared to paint some rocks amongst the snow so that it looked authentic. To her mind the mountain would have been completely covered with snow and that rocks laid beneath it. I was devastated, especially as my painting was never displayed.

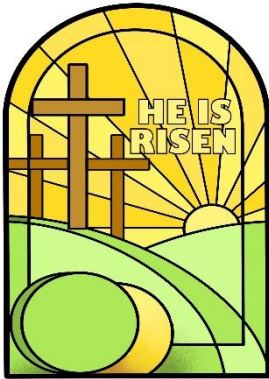
The following year, my last at the school, I was given the part of a king's servant in the Christmas Nativity. My role was to escort one of the three kings to the manger where Jesus lay so that he could present his gift. At first I was front of stage, a very important part! However it appeared that my singing was so bad and rather loud that I was banished to the back of the stage and only emerged when I heard a chorus of 'Jesu joy of man's desiring'. Not only was I unhappy, but my confidence took a severe blow! My parents were looking forward to seeing their dear little treasure front of stage, but it was not to be. The first step on my journey to stardom was no more. The fact that my teachers appeared to have no confidence in me, and my singing, made me wonder what the future would hold. Nevertheless it didn't hold me back.

At secondary school my literacy teacher (*it used to be called 'English'*) gave me the task to write a report on a sporting event of my choice. No surprise there! My report gave a graphic account of a match between Manchester United and Everton that I had attended. United were dominant throughout and as such my report was somewhat biased. However I was proud of it, only to be criticised about the bias and the use of the phrase 'It was all United', To this day I felt that I was unfairly treated by the teacher!

Recently, at an awards ceremony, Mary Earps the England lioness, and goalkeeper of Manchester United's Women's Football team, was honoured as the best European goalkeeper of the year and received recognition from the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). In her acceptance speech she concluded with these words: *"This is for anyone who has ever been in a dark place, just know that there's light at the end of the tunnel. Keep going, you can achieve anything you set your mind to. Sometimes success looks like this, collecting trophies, sometimes it's just waking up and putting one step in front of the other. There's only one of you in the world, and that's more than good enough. Be unapologetically yourself."* So I make no apologies for feeling upset about my mountain picture, or singing so loudly, or writing so passionately about my favourite football team. We are all individuals in God's eyes. He knows that we should be proud of our achievements, and does not discriminate between one person and the next. Continue to be the people you are, treasured by God, who we know values us all as we are.

I would like to take this opportunity in wishing you all a Very Happy Easter.

David



An Easter Meditation

*Editor: Here is an Easter meditation by **Dr Herbert McGonigle**, formerly Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.*

In the New Testament the resurrection of Jesus is presented as a simple historical fact. He did rise from the grave on that first Easter morning.

The four evangelists, and Paul, carefully lay out the evidence. They record for us the details of the empty tomb, the names of those who visited it, the various appearances of the risen Jesus and how He was seen by more than five hundred witnesses. But the New Testament tells us more than that.

It tells us, not only of the power of God that raised Jesus from the grave (eg. Romans 1:4) but also of that same power being invested in the Church. Christians are new people! We are 'made alive' in our Risen Head (Ephesians 1:1). His victory has become our victory! As Jesus promised: 'Because I live, you will also live' (John 14:19).

Until our Lord returns again one day, Christians will die physically, but their victory over death is already guaranteed. As Paul demonstrates in 1 Corinthians 15, death is 'swallowed up in victory'! Death's sting is abolished! And so Paul proclaims our victory anthem. 'Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ' (vv.55-57)!

Down through 2,000 years Christ's people have lived in that glorious victory. One example was Donald Cargill (1619-1681). Cargill was a Presbyterian minister and a Covenanter in the years known in Scotland's history as 'the killing times.' The Covenanters opposed all attempts by the English parliament to impose Episcopacy on Scotland. With other Covenanters, Cargill strongly denounced the immorality and irreligion of the court of King Charles II. Hundreds of Covenanters were imprisoned at this time, and many were executed, both men and women.

Cargill's fearless itinerant preaching made him a marked man. He moved from place to place, preaching in cottages, fields, and town squares, protected by loyal friends. Then in July 1681 he was arrested and imprisoned. The outcome of his trial was never in question. The government of the day was determined to silence this influential 'rebel.' He was sentenced for execution on July 27th of that year.

On the scaffold in Edinburgh, Cargill spoke to the large crowd that had come to support him. "I climb this ladder," he declared, "with less fear than ever I entered a pulpit to preach." Then, raising his eyes to a blue July sky over his beloved Scotland, he cried out: "I have gotten me Christ and Christ has gotten me the victory." The blade fell and the brave soul of Donald Cargill joined the martyrs who lived and died in the victory of the Risen Christ.

Thanks be to God indeed! That glorious victory is not only for all the brave martyrs, but for all of us who belong to Christ. Death is defeated. The grave is conquered. Christ lives for ever in the power of an endless life. And we live in Him! We can all say: '*I have gotten me Christ and Christ has gotten me the victory.*'

St Mary's Ladies Working Party



The Leprosy Mission have advised that after this year, they will not be accepting used stamps, but thanks to Graeme Easton, we were able to send all we had collected this year, from the parish, and from the Inner Wheel Club of Rushen and Western Mann, to their rep Michael Hardie in Douglas. Many people wish to keep on collecting and so next year we shall support the Manx Wild Bird Aid, a charity that accepts both used stamps and any coins.

We spent a very worthwhile couple of hours cleaning and sorting out the kitchen cupboards in St Mary's Hall before the new nursery moves in, in April. As Ginny remarked at the end, "Well, we really were a "working party" this afternoon!". Thanks to Joe, Gerry and Peter for all their help.

Flowers have been coming into our discussions a lot recently: posy making for Mothering Sunday, floral Easter decorations in Kirk Christ and the Flower Festival taking place in Kirk Christ in July. Each of these involve us all happily in team work, and we are grateful to Jenny Corrin for volunteering to decorate the sanctuary for the festival.

Various instances of ill health have plagued our group and friends over the last few weeks, and we have been blessed with Ginny's meaningful prayers at the start of our meetings, bringing focus to our thoughts. To all who are in poor health, in hospital, recovering from operations and awaiting results, we send our love and very best wishes. We also remember those affected by war and natural disasters.

Pat Thomson

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 14th 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.

Elizabeth Sheen (832406)



Spiritual Disciplines - Confession

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.

This month we are looking at the practice of *confession*. 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1:9). Confession enables us to enter fully into God's grace, as we are assured of forgiveness for our sin and shame.

It is the death and resurrection of Jesus that makes this a reality. On the cross he bore our sin in himself to put us right with God: 'God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.' (2 Cor. 5:21).

In 'Celebration of Discipline', Richard Foster describes three aspects of confession:

Be Specific: It's easy to say, 'God, please forgive me because I sinned today,' rather than being specific, 'God, I spoke angrily today... please forgive me.'

Be Sorrowful: Confession is not primarily about feelings about sin, but having a deep regret at having offended the Father's heart.

Be Determined to Avoid Sin: Confession gives us a yearning for a holy life and avoiding sin. It is the *will* to be delivered from sin that we seek. This is a gift, as it can only be done in God's strength, not ours.

Some practical tips: Make confession part of our regular prayer time, using the pattern ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication).

Reflect on what you need to confess, asking God to speak into the situation and then pray with a trusted friend.

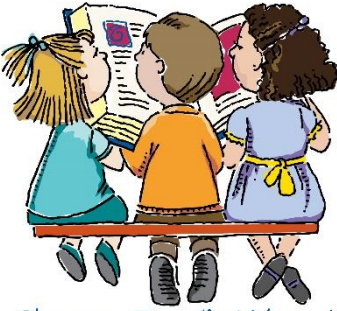
Write down those things that are making you feel guilty, pray and then tear the paper up into pieces. This is a physical reminder of the sin being taken away.

'At the heart of God is the desire to give and to forgive.' (Richard Foster)

Palm Sunday visit

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Bobby was kept home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds and Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father explained. Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

St Mary's Sunday School



Share God's Word

In March we continued our series of lessons about Joshua with the crossing of the river Jordan (chapter 3-4). We started by learning about the Ark of the Covenant, the special golden box containing the 10 Commandments, which God had commanded Moses and the people of Israel to build and to carry with them as a sign of God's presence. To help us act out the story, we built our very own Ark out of cardboard, covered in gold paper, complete with carrying poles and two angels on the top, as well as the 10 Commandments inside! We chose two 'priests' to carry the Ark to the banks of the 'river' ahead of the people, and then we

acted out how God miraculously stopped the river from flowing as soon as the priests with the Ark had stepped into the water! Amazing!

We realised that the priests could have been too scared of drowning or losing the Ark, but they trusted God and believed in His goodness and His faithfulness to keep His promise, just as He had done for Moses 40 years earlier, when He split the Red Sea for the Israelites to walk through! As the Ark signified God's presence, the priests had to stand in the (dry) river until all the people had crossed over to the other side. As God had commanded Joshua, we took 12 large stones (1 for each of the 12 tribes of Israel) from the 'river bed' into the Promised Land, as a memorial for future generations.

As well as acting out the story, we also thought about times in our own lives when we've experienced God's goodness and faithfulness or when God made a way where there seemed to be no way (as happened to our family several years ago on the M6 on our way to the Liverpool ferry terminal!). To help them remember the Bible story, the children decorated pebbles and their own memory or treasure boxes, in which to put their own reminders of God's goodness and faithfulness.

For our Mothering Sunday service, led by the Rev Ginny Viner, the children made paper flowers and wrote on the petals why their mums were special to them, e.g. because they arrange sleepovers for them, take them to parties, cook their favourite food, put up with their picky eating or look after them when they're hurt. Ginny reminded us in her talk that God is not only our Heavenly Father, who guides and protects us, but He also loves and comforts us like a mother, or like a hen gently gathering her chicks under her wings.

A special Thankyou to Thomas and Cameron for reading the lessons so beautifully (it was Cameron's first time!) and to all the children for reading the prayers and leading the congregation in joyfully singing "He's got the whole world in his hands," accompanied by actions and percussion instruments (with Lukas on the mandolin). The children also gave out beautiful daffodil posies, which had been lovingly prepared by ladies from St Mary's and Kirk Christ. Many thanks to all who contributed to this lovely service, including Mike Porter on the organ, and to the ladies from Kirk Christ for serving refreshments afterwards.

We're now looking forward to our Easter Messy Church at the end of March and to celebrating Palm Sunday and Easter in Sunday School as well as in church.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter,
full of joy in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Claudia



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



Kirk Christ hosted a Mariner's Service on Sunday 5th March at 6.30pm. 108 people attended. The service was enhanced by the singing of the Mariner's Choir. It closed with refreshments which were provided by and given freely by members of our four churches in the parish. The food was plentiful and my thanks go to those who generously gave of their time in providing the food and serving it to those who had attended. After the refreshments the evening closed with community hymn singing. We thank the Mariner's Choir once again for such an enjoyable evening of fellowship with them.

St Catherine's was the venue for the visit of the Archbishop of York to our parish on Saturday 18th March. Archbishop Stephen Cottrell was visiting the island from 16th – 19th March and coming to St Catherine's to meet and talk with us. We met as Southern and Western Mission Partnerships and everyone was welcome to come along and join us on the day. Refreshments were served in the hall from 10am, and these were followed by a talk by the Archbishop in the church. It was lovely to get together with the archbishop and the members of both partnerships. After the Archbishop had left us on the day we as the four churches of the parish got together to prepare posies for Mothering Sunday the following day. Thank you to everyone who helped serve refreshments and assisted in the making of the posies.

As we approach the close of Lent we look forward to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection in our Easter services.

Gerry Callister

"Just Listen"

1. Listen, let your heart keep seeking.
Listen, to the constant speaking.
Listen, to the soft persuasive plea.
Listen for its inspiration.
Listen to the invitation.
Listen to surrounding sounds; be free.

2. They're in the whisper of a breeze;
In constant swaying of the trees;
Listen to the pitta-pat of rain - - -
They're in sweet laughter's light refrain;
In the deep cries of mental pain,
Listen, and be healthy-whole again.

3. Begin to understand God's plan,
For through His grace, we surely can;
Listen, life's demanding pace review:
Listen to the Easter story
With its Resurrected glory.
"Just Listen"
Enormous love is calling you!

James 1:19 R.S.V.

*"- - - be quick to listen, slow to speak,
and slow to anger;"*

Margaret Couper

Sudoku April 2023

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

Out West

A devout cowboy lost his Bible while he was mending fences out on the range. Three weeks later a cow walked up to him, carrying the Bible in its mouth. The cowboy couldn't believe his eyes. He took the book out of the cow's mouth and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Well, hardly that," said the cow. "Your name was written inside the cover."

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	E
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 – Easter Flowers



Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series.

Many types of flowers are used in churches, but during Easter, there is one that is especially loved: the Easter Lily. It is a tall, stately flower topped by large, graceful, white trumpet-shaped blooms.

While commercial bulb production of Easter lilies only began in the 19th century, Easter lilies make many appearances in both the Old and New Testaments, emphasising the flower's importance to Christianity. King Solomon spoke of them, and Christ referenced them, too.

These strikingly beautiful flowers are highly perfumed, with the central stamens covered in bright yellow or orange pollen. Unfortunately, the pollen can be a hazard, as it can permanently stain cloth due to chemicals it contains! For this reason, good florists and especially church flower arrangers will remove all the stamens before bringing them anywhere near church fabrics, or near to where ministers wearing white might brush against them.

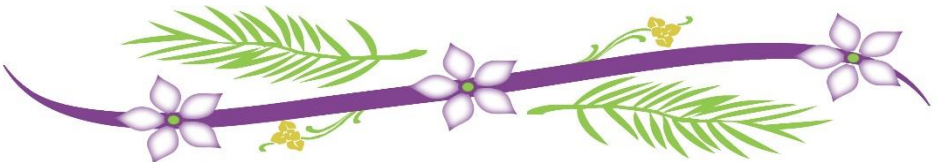
It's thought that Easter lilies came to symbolise Christ because they embody purity - the trumpet-shaped blooms recall the horns that heralded the resurrection of Christ. This is also why lilies are identified with the Virgin Mary, and in artworks depicting the Annunciation to the Virgin they are often found in the angel Gabriel's hand.

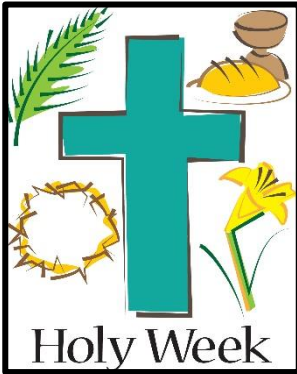
The second reason that Easter lilies represent Christ is because of their life cycle. Each one grows from a bulb that for several years has lain quietly beneath the earth, before growing tall and stately, and blossoming into magnificent flowers. What a picture of Jesus' life and resurrection!

This month

Have a look around the church over Easter. Daffodils and Easter lilies are often displayed, because they are the first flowers of spring, when Nature is being reborn. Their life after the death of winter reminds us of the Resurrection. For we cannot imagine the death and the passion of Christ without having in mind the empty tomb, radiating hope. Christ's death has no meaning without His Resurrection.

Revd Dr Jo White





An overview of Passion Week (2nd - 9th April 2023)

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week. It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following.

On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates His death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records Him praying, '*Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done*'. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

**Editor: This overview is an edited version of an article that comes from:
<https://christianity.org.uk/article/the-first-easter>**

A Close Shave



Two pictures showing Ian Galloway being shaved before and after. This achievement was undertaken whilst raising money for the Prostate Cancer charity. I know that he raised over £1,000 through sponsoring himself to achieve this amazing result. Thank you Ian. You've helped medical scientists to conquer this life threatening disease.



Ukraine: church leaders targeted by Russian forces



Church leaders in Ukraine are being singled out for persecution by Russian forces in occupied areas. Some pastors have been arrested, interrogated, tortured, and even expelled from their towns by the Russian military and their supporters. Occupying forces have confiscated church buildings and Christians have received harsher treatment at Russian military checkpoints, say partners of Release International, which serves persecuted Christians around the world.

According to reports, Russian forces broke into a Baptist place of worship in occupied Berdiansk, in Zaporizhzhia. After checking the identity of everyone present, they searched the church and sealed it. The next day they seized another Baptist church nearby. Later that month, according to Forum 18, Russian forces seized a priest of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in occupied Kherson.

In the following account, names have been changed to protect the individuals:

Before the war Pastor Ivan led a growing congregation of more than 200 people in a town in the Kharkiv region. He also supported a thriving network of five evangelical churches in the area. Last spring when the Russian military were poised to take the town many fled, including families with young children. Only some elderly people remained. Pastor Ivan and his wife Viktoriya stayed behind too. They felt called by God to serve the elderly and vulnerable in their occupied town. So, they did what they could to provide those who remained with food, prayer, and comfort from the Bible. But the Russian forces came to Pastor Ivan's home to arrest him. They threw him into prison and tortured him, accusing him of being an American

spy. They are suspicious that evangelical pastors are agents of the West.

Enduring their beatings, Pastor Ivan tried to talk about God with them. And when he was stuck in a tiny cell with eight other prisoners, he prayed for them. Two days later the Russian soldiers interrogated him again and beat him so badly he thought he would die. "Other prisoners tried to help me and called for help. The Russians sent me to a hospital, which I believe was divine grace and intervention. I believe God saved my life through the Ukrainian doctors who helped me." After two weeks, Pastor Ivan was allowed home where he recovered slowly. And, as the Russians tightened their grip, Pastor Ivan and Viktoria left for Poland. As soon as their town was liberated by Ukrainian forces, they returned.

Says Release International CEO Paul Robinson: "Pastor Ivan is again leading a congregation of more than 300 people, many of whom are new to church. God is using him and others like him to share the gospel and to help people in practical ways in the liberated areas of eastern Ukraine."

Release International has launched an appeal to help Christians in Ukraine and around the world who are suffering oppression for their faith. If you would like to help, please go to: <https://releaseinternational.org>

The Parish of Rushen

Thursday Spring Concerts 2023
St. Catherine's Church, Port Erin

Thursday 13th April 2023 – 7.45pm
Manx Voices

Thursday 18th May 2023 – 7.00pm
Manx Children's Choir
and
Scoill Phurt Le Moirrey

Retiring Collection

Refreshments in St Catherine's Church Hall
following concerts



All in the month of April



150 years ago, on 4th April 1873 the Kennel Club was founded in London. It oversees dog shows and dog agility competitions and operates Britain's national register of pedigree dogs. The Kennel Club licenses dog shows throughout the UK, but the only dog show that it actually runs is Crufts. The Kennel Club recognises 221 breeds, of which the Labrador Retriever is probably most popular.

100 years ago, on 15th April 1923 insulin became generally available for the treatment of diabetes.

Also on 26th April 1923 Prince Albert, Duke of York (later King George VI) married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (later Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother) at Westminster Abbey in London.

90 years ago, on 3rd April 1933 the first flight over Mount Everest took place. British pilots the Marquis of Clydesdale and Donald McIntyre flew two biplanes over the summit.

80 years ago, from 20th April to 13th May 1943 the final phase of World War 2's Tunisia campaign took place. An Allied victory, and the Axis forces were ejected from North Africa. **Also on 30th April 1943** the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp was established in Germany. The former prisoner-of-war camp was converted into a holding camp, mainly for Jews. Tens of thousands of people died of starvation and disease in the overcrowded, unsanitary conditions.

75 years ago, on 7th April 1948 the World Health Organization (WHO) was founded in Geneva, Switzerland as a specialist agency of the United Nations. **Also on 30th April 1948** the Land Rover, a British all-terrain vehicle, was officially launched at the Amsterdam Motor Show. According to Yougov.co.uk, nowadays 95% of us have heard of them, and 58% of us admire them.

70 years ago, on 16th April 1953 Queen Elizabeth II launched the Royal Yacht Britannia. It was decommissioned in 1997. The Royal Family no longer owns a royal yacht.

60 years ago, on 16th April 1963 American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jnr. wrote his famous 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' while imprisoned in Alabama. He stated that the Black community was forced to protest when the white power structure left them no choice.

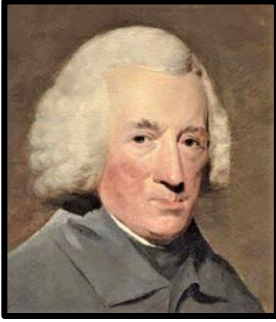
50 years ago, on 4th April 1973 the World Trade Centre in New York City was officially opened. It was destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001. **Also on 8th April 1973 Pablo Picasso**, Spanish artist died. Co-founder of the Cubism movement, he is considered one of the greatest artists of the 20th century.

40 years ago, on 1st April 1983 tens of thousands of anti-nuclear weapons protestors formed a 14-mile human chain in Berkshire. They linked the US airbase at Greenham Common, the nuclear research centre in Aldermaston, and an ordnance factory in Burghfield.

30 years ago, on 22nd April 1993 Stephen Lawrence, an 18-year-old British teenager, was murdered in a racially motivated attack while waiting for a bus in Eltham, London. The high-profile case was widely covered by the media, and an inquiry found that the Metropolitan Police Service, which originally investigated the crime, was institutionally racist. **Also on 29th April 1993** Queen Elizabeth II announced that Buckingham Palace would open to the public for the first time, to raise funds to repair fire damage at Windsor Castle.

25 years ago, on 10th April 1998 the Good Friday Agreement was signed in Northern Ireland.

20 years ago, on 9th April 2003 US troops took control of Iraq's capital city, Baghdad. Jubilant Iraqis celebrated the end of Saddam Hussein's regime.



William Law

William Law, spiritual writer extraordinary

William Law is the saint for anyone forced to choose between losing their job or losing their integrity.

It had all begun so straightforwardly. Born in King's Cliffe, Northamptonshire in 1686, William had studied at Emmanuel College Cambridge, been ordained a deacon, and been made a Fellow of the college in 1711.

But soon politics interfered. At his ordination, William had made his Oath of Allegiance to the House of Stuart. But with the accession of the first Hanoverian monarch, King George I in 1714, William found he was now expected to make his Oath of Allegiance to King George I. This he felt he could not do, with any integrity. But without the Oath, William lost his Fellowship, and was unable to be priested.

It would have been a bitter blow to anyone wanting a career in the Church, but William did not change his mind. He wanted more than a career in the Church, he wanted to live a holy life before God, and to keep his conscience clear. And so he spent many years as a simple curate (he was not priested until 1728), living by tutoring, but also writing extensively.

And it was through his writings that William Law went on to make a lasting impact on the spirituality of the nation. One of his numerous books, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, is recognised as having had more influence on the English people than any other English post-Reformation spiritual work, except Pilgrim's Progress.

William Law's writing greatly influenced the leaders of the evangelical movement of his day, including John and Charles Wesley, and George Whitefield. Law was also praised by Enlightenment thinkers such as the writer Dr Samuel Johnson and the historian Edward Gibbon.

And 20 years after his death in 1761, William Wilberforce, the politician, philanthropist, and leader of the movement to stop the slave trade, also paid tribute to the effect Law's writing had had on him.

Law's spiritual writings remain in print even today – nearly 300 years later.

Parish Pump

Sea of Galilee

A vicar planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land was shaken when he found it would cost him £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. He protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. "That might be true," replied the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked."

"Well," said the vicar, "at £50 an hour for a boat, I am not surprised!"

From the Registers

Funerals/Memorial Service March 2023:

3 rd March	David Antony May	11.45am	St Catherine's Church & Crematorium
10 th March	Jean Sweetapple	12 noon	Kirk Christ Memorial Service
18 th March	Elizabeth Gilmour	11 am	Kirk Christ Burial only

Sunday School Pictures



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



"Police? This is St Mary's Ladies' Knitting & Vigilante Circle. We've detained two gents trying to nick the church silver."



Rushen Mothers' Union

Mrs Margaret Couper was in the chair for our branch meeting on Monday 13th March, and after our usual short service, including prayers, hymns chosen and played by Mrs Iris Mitchell, and a reading from Mrs Maureen Hartley, Margaret introduced our 2 speakers, Mrs Emma Callin and Mrs Rebecca Macnair from the charity Isle Listen.

From Emma, head of fundraising, we learned that in 2019 Isle Listen was launched as a self-funding early intervention positive mental health initiative which aims to highlight the importance of mental health and its equal importance to physical health. Isle Listen provides a range of mental health support services and training in the workplace, community and within the island's schools. Rebecca, part of the mental health training team, led us all in an interactive exercise to focus our thoughts on the impact of positive and negative influences on our lives. In his appreciative vote of thanks, Mr David Bowman described the presentation as "brilliant", adding what a difference it must make to young people, their families and teachers. Mrs Jane Gunn provided the refreshments, after which we sang our second hymn, closing with saying the Grace together.

Our next branch meeting will be on Monday 17th April, in St Catherine's Hall at 2pm when Mrs Julia Vanderpump will be in the chair and our speaker will be Father Michael Brydon. Guests are always welcome.

Our branch has been asked to bring cakes and savouries to the MU Festival Service on Wednesday 19th April at 7pm in the Cathedral. If anyone would like a lift, please contact either Lesley or me.

With love and very best wishes to all

Pat Thomson

Outside

A little boy had spent all afternoon playing outdoors, and accidentally left his jacket at the end of the garden. When his mother realised this a couple of hours later, she told him to go back and get it. But by now the garden was dark, and so the little boy hesitated. "Don't be frightened," she said. "The Lord is out there too."

That gave the little boy an idea. He opened the back door and called softly: 'Lord, please could you pass me my jacket?'



God and the Arts

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Poussin’s ‘The Funeral of Phocion.’

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

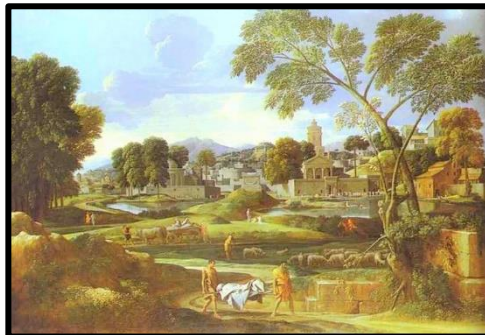
In the 17th century the name Arcadia evoked an earthly paradise that was celebrated in art and literature as an idyllic place of peace and harmony where humanity and nature were at one. To live in such beautiful surroundings was to find heaven on earth. We often have that feeling when we are out in the countryside amid the hills and woods, the valleys and lakes. The sun shines benevolently down on the scene, and we feel nothing can destroy that happiness and sense of unity we have with creation around us.

That is the mood shown to us when we first look at this month’s painting, ‘The Funeral of Phocion.’ It is by the Baroque artist, Nicholas Poussin, who was born in France but spent most of his working life in Rome, where he died in 1665. In the distance are friendly hills, and then closer at hand we see the trees and bushes, a winding river, the shepherd and his sheep, a couple walking and talking, and the farmer and his cart. There are also signs of civilization – it is the city of Athens with its temple and buildings, a place where harmony and reason rule. Poussin presents us with a calm, ordered landscape.

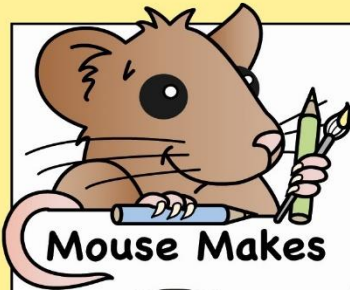
But in the foreground, we see something that jolts us out of this reverie. Two slaves carry off a body for burial. It is Phocion, an Athenian general. He was known as ‘Phocion the good,’ admired for his honesty and integrity and for his simple way of life. In the 4th century BC Phocion argued for peace when the city around clamoured for war with Macedon. His enemies won the day and they intrigued to have him condemned. As a traitor, Phocion was denied a burial in Athens, and so his body is being taken outside the city.

The world of civilization and the world of nature seem oblivious to this tragedy of a moral life cut down by others. In this month of Eastertide we can think of a similar scene of nature and civilization. The garden of Joseph of Arimathea where a body is brought for burial – someone, who like Phocion, stood out for goodness and peace, but who fell victim to the forces of hatred and jealousy within the city walls of Jerusalem.

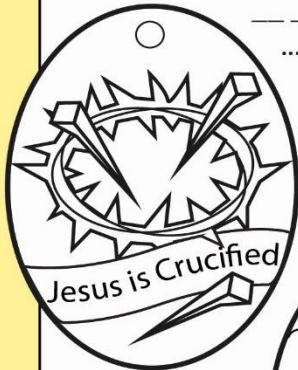
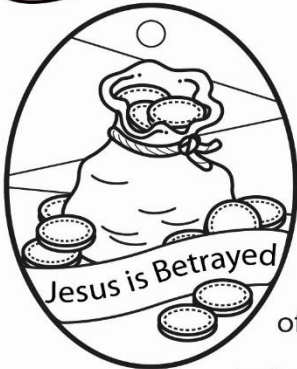
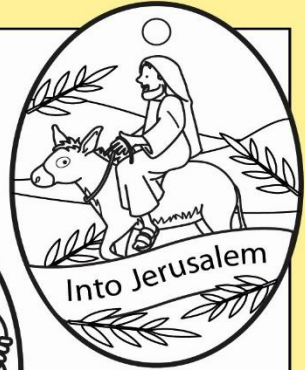
Poussin painted a second canvas where the ashes of Phocion are returned to his grieving widow – a sad end to a good life with no hint of hope for a better future. In this season we rejoice in a different end to the story of Jesus. On Good Friday His body is laid to rest in a tomb. Two days later the Lord of Easter walks again in that garden to tell a grieving Mary Magdalene that there is hope for her future. There is the promise of transformation – a new creation and a new world where eternal life is triumphant. In such a world, the human heart within, the dwelling places of people and the countryside around can never be the same again. The Easter Alleluia rings out to embrace them all.



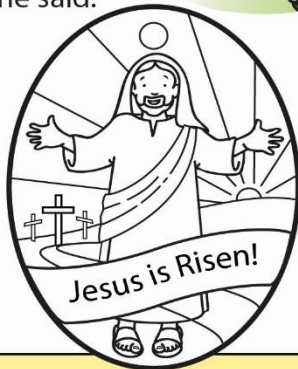
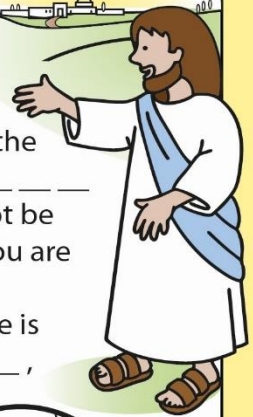
Children's Page



HE IS RISEN!
 Read the story of
 The Resurrection in
 Matthew 28:1-20



An _____
 of the Lord came down from
 _____ and going to the
 _____ rolled back the _____
 ... the _____ said, "Do not be
 _____, for I know you are
 looking for Jesus who was
 _____, He is
 not here; he has _____,
 just as he said."



Glue this page onto
 card. Cut out the
 ovals then colour in.
 Punch a hole at the
 top and hang up
 for Easter

The Story Behind the Hymn



How deep the Father's love

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Writing this song was an unusual experience for me. I'd already written quite a few songs for worship, but all in a more contemporary worship style, drawing from my own musical background. But I distinctly remember getting this feeling one day that I was going to write a hymn! Now, like most people, I am familiar with hymns – they form part of my church background, and I love the truth contained in many of them. But I don't go home at the end of a busy day and put on a hymns album! So I don't think of hymns as where I'm at musically at all!

Nevertheless, I'd been meditating on the cross, and in particular what it cost the Father to give up his beloved Son to a torturous death on a cross. And what was my part in it? Not only was it my sin that put him there, but if I'd lived at that time, it would probably have been me in that crowd, shouting with everyone else 'crucify him'. It just makes his sacrifice all the more personal, all the more amazing, and all the more humbling.

As I was thinking through this, I just began to sing the melody, and it flowed in the sort of way that makes you think you've pinched it from somewhere! So the melody was pretty instant, but the words took quite a bit of time, reworking things, trying to make every line as strong as I could.

Now I'm finding it gets used all over the world, by all sorts of churches; it seems to be as accessible to a traditional church as it is to a house church, and I'm excited by that. But it has perhaps branded me as an old man before my time. It was fed back to me that at a conference a couple who loved the song were surprised to hear I was still alive...

Stuart Townend

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



Dear Lord, we thank you for the seasons and the changing weather we experience in each one of them. We look forward to the warmer weather now that April is here, for the spring flowers and the changing countryside that you have created for us to enjoy. Help us to realise that without you none of these things would occur. Amen



April 2022

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st The beauty of springtime and the new life that it brings to us all
- 2nd Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a humble donkey
- 3rd Gerry Callister for all his work as churchwarden, and his devotion to the parish
- 4th Engaged couples preparing to be married this year
- 5th The work of the Royal Lifeboat Institution in its aim to save lives of people in distress
- 6th The gift of love, given to us by God
- 7th Our sidespeople who work tirelessly for the parish
- 8th All the work carried out by those involved in the parish with the Mothers' Union
- 9th Our Lord's resurrection and the hope of our own eternal lives
- 10th Those who have served the parish for many years and now reside in care homes
- 11th The responsibility given to people who care for those who are terminally ill
- 12th The use of talents, given by God to us, as we pursue our daily lives
- 13th All people who are persecuted for their beliefs
- 14th Help for all those around the world who are hungry
- 15th Peace throughout the world
- 16th Those who intercede at all services within the parish
- 17th Children who have been orphaned and their hope for the future
- 18th The work of teachers and their assistants in our primary and secondary schools
- 19th Those who decorate our churches with floral displays
- 20th Those people in need of financial help in times of trouble
- 21st All those who attend the home groups that are arranged within the parish
- 22nd Those elected into positions of responsibility on the Parochial Church Council
- 23rd St George, the Patron Saint of England, who is remembered today
- 24th Farmers and farm workers, preparing the land for profitable harvests
- 25th The Children's Society and the wonderful work that it does
- 26th Stephen Curtis for all the work he's doing as Treasurer to the PCC
- 27th Young sportsmen and women preparing to partake in sporting activities
- 28th Parishioners and others who give of their time to keep our churches clean
- 29th People who are moving to a new house either here on the island or across the water
- 30th The tourist industry and the preparations being made for the summer months

Services April 2023

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)

This schedule may change as we await completion of the re-ordering of St Mary's Church. May's magazine will be published on 30th April and this should give a clear indication of the revised service structure for May and June.

All Services *Common Worship (CW)* except those marked *(BCP) Book of Common Prayer*

Easter Prayer 2023

Thank you, Father, that you raised Jesus from the dead on that first Easter Day and that He is alive now and forever. Thank you that whoever believes in Him and turns away from selfish living and towards you can be forgiven through His name. Thank you that Jesus is the same today as He was then and will always be.

Thank you for the Bible - your inspired, unchanging, and living Word to guide us. Help us to hold fast to Your teaching and not to be led astray. Your Word is truth. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, Lord, that we might be Your faithful, fruitful Resurrection People.

In the name of our living Lord, Jesus.

Amen

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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Ballafesson, Port Erin

e-mail: dbow43@manx.net

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

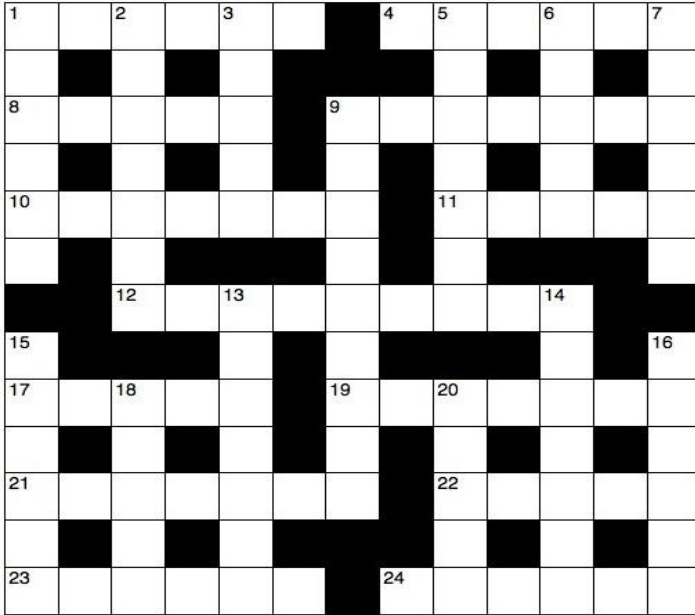
Parish Director of Music:

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

Churchyard Enquiries:

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

Crossword April 2023



Across

- 1** Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4** The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8** ‘Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it’ (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9** He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah’s message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10** Baptist minister and controversial founder of America’s Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11** ‘Look, here is — . Why shouldn’t I be baptized?’ (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12** Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17** Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19** ‘Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord’ (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21** Roonwit, C.S. Lewis’s half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22** Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23** ‘The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles’ (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24** ‘I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me’ (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1** Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2** Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3** Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5** For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6** 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7** He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9** Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13** Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14** They must be ‘worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine’ (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15** The human mind or soul (6)
- 16** ‘O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ’ (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18** ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not — ’ (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20** Bared (anag.) (5)