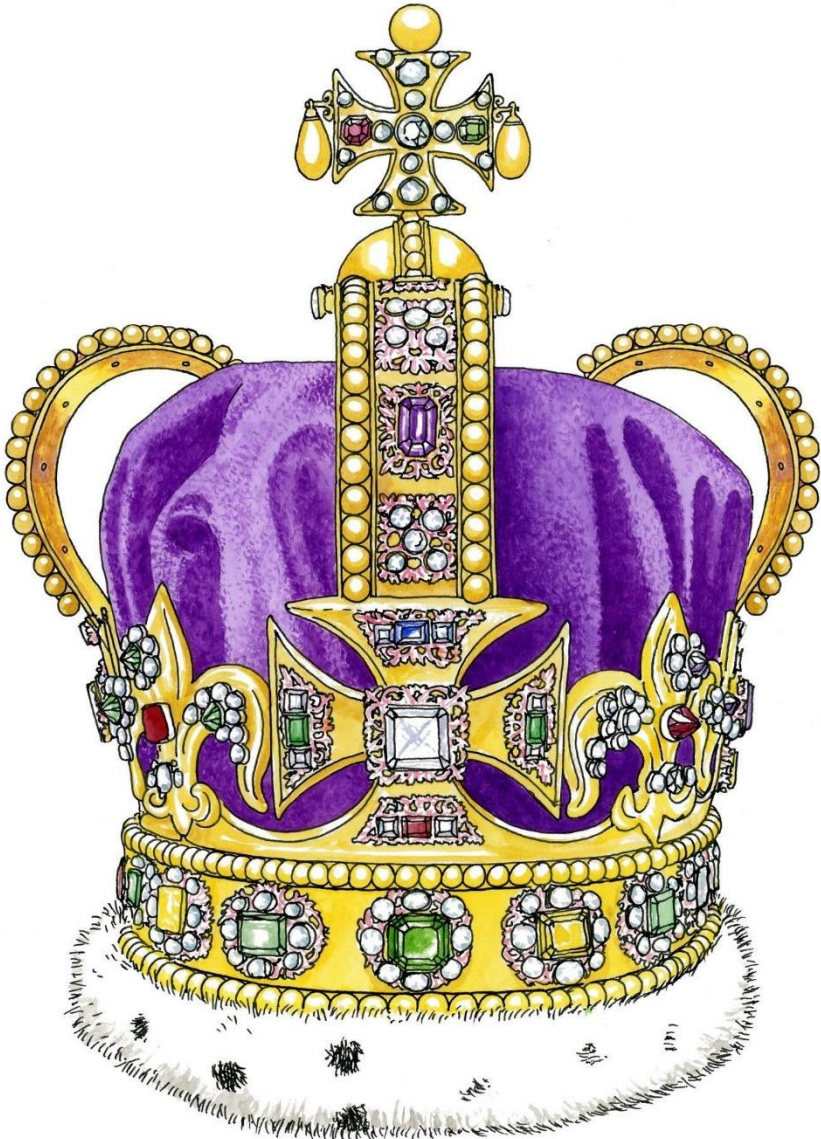


May 2023

# Rushen Parish Magazine



**Contact Details for Rushen Parish**

**Vicar:**

Rev'd Joe Heaton (rev.joeheaton@gmail.com) 832275  
Rushen Vicarage, Barracks Road, Port St Mary

**Readers:**

Mrs Margaret Galloway  
Mrs Wendy Heaton  
Mr Harry Dawson

**Active Clergy**

Rev Roger Harper  
Rev John Gulland  
Rev Ginny Viner

**Church Wardens:**

Mr Gerry Callister, 60 Ballamaddrell, Port Erin 474924/834627  
Mr Harry Dawson, Thaloo Reagh, Cregneash 478050/835770  
Mr Peter Hayhurst, Fois Fraon, Fistard 832974/464949

**PCC Secretary:**

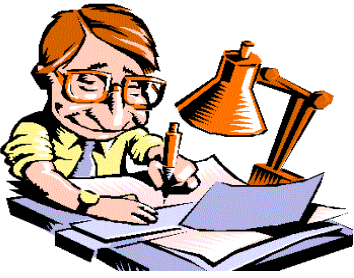
Mr David Bowman, The Old Bakery, Qualtroughs Lane, 837117/260539  
Port Erin

**PCC Treasurer:**

Mr Stephen Curtis, Clybane Cottage, Phildraw Road, 823475  
Ballasalla

**Parish Administrator and Safeguarding Officer  
for Children and Vulnerable People:**

Mrs Voirrey Baugh: rushenparishorg@gmail.com 832275



## From the Editor

Have you ever wondered about the statements we make during the 'Call to Penitence' each Sunday? I know that the wording of the confession we make to God isn't always the same, but from time to time, and especially during this period of Easter, we use the words, *"Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers."* They are words which have always troubled me because I wonder if I fall into the same category of people who are afraid to be seen as a disciple of Jesus.

Many years ago Pauline and I visited Rome, in fact throughout our lives together we went three times. During our first visit we, like many others, wanted to go to St Peter's and to visit the Sistine Chapel. We were amazed at the crowds making their way to the same destination only to find that Pope John Paul II was installing new cardinals from far and wide corners of the world. We were lucky to find a good vantage point in order to see the ceremony. We also had a huge screen to our right which was showing the televised version of the proceedings. At one point the Pope seemed to be staring at us on the screen, just us! Pauline burst into tears, it was as if the direct descendant of St Peter was singling us out from the vast crowd, and I have to say I too was visibly moved. The crowd itself was made up of people from the world over. Not one person was unaffected by the occasion, and I will remember it for as long as I live.

Each person there was devoted to the Pope and what he stood for. They cheered, clapped, sang, joined in with the service and visibly showed that they were followers of Jesus, which brings me back to the point I made earlier about being afraid to be seen as one of His disciples.

Recently I attended my grandson's wedding. I wore my suit with a silver cross on the lapel. I wondered if I would meet up with a fellow Christian who might like to talk about their Christian journey. Nobody did, which didn't surprise me. I wondered if I was not demonstrating my Christianity enough, especially as I am prompted by the confession I make from time to time. Should I be doing more? Of course I should but I, like probably many others, fail miserably. I watch 'Songs of Praise' each week and see other Christians visibly raising their hands in the air, closing their eyes, jumping up and down to the music, and I ask myself where I'm going wrong. Maybe I'm not, but I still think I could do better. However, I can truthfully admit that the next part of the confessional I thoroughly follow because like Thomas in the upper room was slow to believe, I'm not. I couldn't have a stronger faith than I have in believing that Jesus Christ is our Saviour and that I am proud to serve Him.

**David**



## Did you know 10 Facts about King Charles III?

1. He was born at 9.14pm on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1948, to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, at Buckingham Palace in London.
2. He has been heir-apparent to the throne since he was three years old.
3. He is the first monarch in British history to have earned a university degree. From 1967 to 1970 he studied history at Cambridge University.
4. He can speak Welsh. He spent two months learning the language in 1969, as he prepared to become the Prince of Wales. He still speaks it today.
5. He is a qualified pilot and diver. While serving in the military in the 1970s, he trained as a jet and helicopter pilot and became a confident diver.
6. He is a keen watercolour painter, a published author, and a music lover, who played the cello at Cambridge. He has done some TV: making a guest appearance on Coronation Street, and presenting the BBC weather forecast.
7. As Prince of Wales, he founded nearly 20 charities. Together, they raise £140million each year for good causes. He is passionate about the environment, speaking out against plastic pollution as early as 1970. He has planted many trees during royal engagements.
8. Aged 73, King Charles III is the oldest monarch ever to be crowned in British history. He became King on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, after the death of his mother, the Queen, in Balmoral.
9. As head of the Commonwealth, King Charles III is monarch of each of the 14 Commonwealth realms: Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. As King, he's also the only person in the UK who can travel abroad in the Commonwealth without a passport and drive without a licence.
10. King Charles III has two children, Princes William and Harry, and five grandchildren. Prince William is next in line to become King and was named the Prince of Wales in 2022.

## Ladies Working Party – St Mary’s



## Women's Fellowship

It's been a lively month at LWP , some good news some not so good.

Our not so good news is the way in which our prayer list for members, friends, families and others in our Parish Family and community for whom we have concern, has been longer than we would have liked.

Each Tuesday we do pray for all these individuals by name and remind ourselves that all prayers are heard by God, and the good news is that we have also had cause to rejoice and give thanks for some improvements which have resulted from the Lord partly through our petitions.

Easter of course is a busy time, and we were delighted to work closely with the Kirk Christ team preparing the church for the great celebration of Christ's resurrection. I'm sure everyone will agree that the result was beautiful, with the lovely fresh flowers bringing the springtime into the body of the church .

We have had some interesting discussions over our tea and biscuits, thoughts on the Assisted Dying Bill, we heard from Sandy about her involvement in the charity Love Russia and we have shared about some of the films and TV, and You Tube series on Biblical Subjects which we have seen and enjoyed.

We have also, in turn, been bringing in the lyrics of our favourite hymn and talking about it , so many happy memories and a few tears held in the beautiful ancient words and emotions expressed through worship.

I am the newest member of LWP, and these meetings have become a highlight of my week, this group have their finger on the pulse of our parish, ensuring that everyone is included and considered especially if they are in bad health , frail or just need a little encouragement , a call, or a visit.

**Rev Ginny Viner**

### ***Easter Decoration***

*A big "Thank You" to the ladies from Port St Mary Church and Kirk Christ who helped to decorate Kirk Christ Church for our Easter celebrations. It was a wonderful, combined operation. And also extra thanks for the coffee and cake! Also we are indebted to Stan and Pam Clucas for supplying us with the beauty Ballachurry daffodils.*

**Sylvia Wightman**

# Prayer Works



## The Spiritual Disciplines: Prayer

Editor: **Canon Paul Hardingham** continues his new series on the spiritual disciplines that help us to grow and deepen our faith

An important spiritual discipline is *prayer*, where we can both listen and talk to God. However, it's not always easy, and as Pentecost tells us, we have the Holy Spirit to help us to pray.

*'In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.'* (Romans 8: 26,27)

### *The Spirit helps us in our weakness*

We often don't know how to pray for a person or situation. The Holy Spirit is alongside to help: *'He bears the burden with us'*. He enables us to connect with God and assures us that He loves to hear our prayers: *'And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'* (Romans 8:15).

### *The Spirit helps us in our ignorance*

When we don't know what to ask in prayer, the Spirit prays for us with a perfect understanding of God's will. The Spirit pleads on our behalf in *'wordless groans'*, which go beyond mere words. We are never alone when we pray, since the Spirit takes our words and brings them to the Father.

### *The Spirit helps us in our requests*

The Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God. He translates the prayers we can't articulate or the requests we get wrong, so that they come to God in accordance with His will. In prayer we attune ourselves to the Spirit with our words or groans. Reading the Bible alongside our prayer is helpful, so that we can pray in agreement with God's Word.

When we pray, let's confidently ask: *'Come Holy Spirit.'*

## **Blessing**

*It was the five-year-old boy's first trip down to the Communion rail at church. Fascinated, he watched the vicar place a wafer in the palm of each person kneeling before him. When the vicar reached the little boy, he ignored the child's out-stretched palm, and laid his hand on the child's head in a gentle blessing instead. The boy, utterly bewildered, whispered to his father in a piercing voice; "He's put it on my head!"*



## St Mary's Sunday School



Due to the Easter holidays, our only Sunday School session in April was on Palm Sunday, but we made the most of it. With the help of 12 "resurrection eggs" (each containing an item relating to the Easter story), we went on a journey from Palm Sunday to the resurrection at Easter. It was wonderful to see how much the children knew about the Easter story (at one primary school, they had put on an Easter play) and the many questions they asked which led to interesting discussions.

We started by acting out the Palm Sunday celebration with Jesus riding through the crowds on a donkey (in our case a hobby horse) and the people welcoming him with palm branches, as we sang "We have a king who rides a donkey." The children were keen to take turns at "being Jesus."

Next we remembered the Last Supper, reminding ourselves that the Jewish people were celebrating Passover each year with a special meal, in memory of their ancestors' miraculous escape from slavery in Egypt, when God passed over their houses (marked with the blood of a lamb) and led them through the Red Sea and eventually to the Promised Land. By sharing unleavened bread and red fruit juice we remembered what Jesus told his disciples at his last meal with them: that his body would be broken for them and his blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of all who believed in him. As we ate and drank, we quietly thanked Jesus for the great sacrifice he made for each one of us.

We also remembered Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane, asking God to take this cup away from him, but ultimately choosing to do the will of his Father for our sake. We thought about his unfair trial, the mocking and beating, how he asked God to forgive those who hurt him, and his painful death on the cross.

But then we rejoiced with the women who came to the tomb 3 days later and found it empty, because Jesus had risen from the dead, just as he had said! Alleluia! We thought of the various times Jesus appeared to His disciples to make sure they all knew and believed that he had truly risen. What great joy to know that Jesus is alive today and lives in the hearts of all who believe in his death and resurrection. Praise the Lord!

To finish our Easter journey, we made a beautiful small Easter garden which was displayed at Kirk Christ during our Easter services. On Easter Sunday, the children contributed to the service by leading the congregation in joyfully singing "We have a king who rides a donkey... Jesus the king is risen!" Following the service, the children very much enjoyed our annual Easter egg hunt outside!

**Love and blessings, Claudia**



## **News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ**



The Easter Day celebrations commenced at Kirk Christ with the Dawn Service at 6.20am. After prayer in a darkened church we moved outside to watch the sunrise. It was a beautiful bright morning as we watched the sun come up in the sky. We then returned to the church to continue with a service of Holy Communion with the renewal of baptism vows. The next service, at 10am, was well attended by both Kirk Christ and St Mary's congregations. Again it was a service of Holy Communion led by the Rev'd Ginny Viner. The Sunday School sang a song and the congregation joined in with the chorus. It was lovely to see a full church to celebrate the Risen Christ. The church had been beautifully decorated by the ladies of Kirk Christ and St Mary's. For their work we offer grateful thanks.

St Catherine's also looked lovely along with Mary Gulland's silk paintings of the 'Way of the Cross', and Michal Kewley's donation of lilies which adorned the altar. The Kewley family donates these every Easter and we are so grateful to him for this. They opened up so beautifully in time for the service itself. Once again we thank the ladies and gentlemen that decorated the church so beautifully for our Easter celebrations. We were so pleased to have the Sunday School joining us for the service.

Towards the middle of the month we held the second of our Spring Concerts when 'Manx Voices' entertained us. We now look forward to warmer weather. The flowers in St Catherine's garden are springing to life and we look forward to welcoming visitors to the church.

**Gerry Callister**

### ***Kentraugh Mill***

*National Mills Weekend is the second weekend in May.*

*Kentraugh Mill will be open on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May from 10am to 5pm, and on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 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)***



**Sudoku May 2023**

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

**Mark**

*When the late Dean of York was asked why he called his stumpy-tailed fox terrier 'Mark', he explained: "The New Testament contains the life-stories of our Lord by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mark's is the shortest tale!"*

**April Sudoku Solution**

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

**April Crossword Solution**

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

## Reflecting faith – The Lectern



*Editor: The **Revd Dr Jo White** continues her series.*

Have you ever considered the furniture that we have in our churches?

Close your eyes and think what your own sitting room looks like and the furniture you have chosen to go in there.

Most of us will have chairs, a sofa, one or more tables of different sizes, a fireplace and a television. Which way are the chairs facing? What's the focal point?

Churches are no different in that they have most fixtures and fittings in common, and in set places.

In an Anglican church the focal item is the altar at the centre, with the lectern – from where the Bible is read out loud during services - on the right side as you look at it, and a pulpit on the left-hand side.

In a Methodist church the pulpit is often behind, but built higher than the altar, and probably with a mobile lectern to be placed as chosen.

This demonstrates a key difference between the two denominations. The former holds the bread and wine in greater importance whilst the latter gives that status to the preaching and the Word of God.

Such variations reveal the way in which we 'reflect our faith' through our buildings.

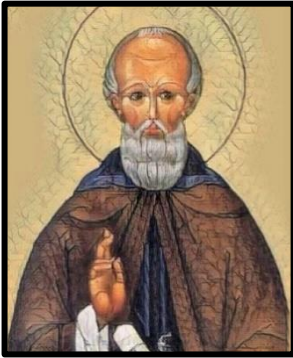
The word 'lectern' derives from 'to collect, gather', and again, 'to speak', so together it means 'to gather words, to pick out words.'

The words in church which we read from the lectern have been certainly carefully chosen and then written down. There have been centuries, indeed millennia, of time, thought, prayer and energy going into preparing the Bibles that we read today!

It is a privilege to be asked to read from the Bible during a service, as that will form the basis for the sermon, the hymns and indeed the whole theme for that day or even that week.

*This month:*

Have a look at the lectern in your place of worship or the place where the Bible readings are read from. What material is it made from? What shape is it? Does it have any distinctive features? Then consider how that passage or those passages are continued and expanded through the different elements of the service.



## The Venerable Bede – great historian

The Venerable Bede was an outstanding scholar who accomplished several ‘firsts’. He was the first historian to date events from the birth of Christ. He was the first person to write scholarly works in the English language. And, of course, his world-famous, magisterial *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, completed in 731, is still in print today.

Bede was born in about 673, and sent as a child to Wearmouth monastery, and then later transferred to the monastery at Jarrow. His was a quiet life: he probably never travelled further than Lindisfarne to the north, and York to the south. In about 692 Bede was ordained deacon, and then, in about 703, he was priested.

Bede once described his own life: “I have devoted my energies to a study of the Scriptures, observing monastic discipline, and singing the daily services in church: study, teaching and writing have always been my delight.” It sounds unremarkable, but Bede’s fruitfulness has been extravagant: his writings have informed and influenced millions of people over 14 centuries.

As a theologian, Bede translated the Gospel of John into Old English, completing it on the very day that he died. He also wrote commentaries on various books of the Bible.

But Bede’s outstanding gift was as an historian. His *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* is one of the most important sources that we have for understanding early English history. Bede was scrupulous in his use of sources, clearly identifying them. He also was careful to distinguish between fact, hearsay and legend. He had a healthy scepticism, and certainly did not believe that everything he was told was necessarily true.

His *Ecclesiastical History* tells the history of Britain up to the year 729. It starts with the story of the Celtic peoples, who converted to Christianity in the first three centuries after the death of Christ. Bede then moves on to the invasion of Britain by the pagan Anglo-Saxons, in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries. They themselves were in turn converted by Celtic missionaries from the north and the west, and by Roman missionaries coming up from the south and the east.

Bede himself lived during the time of the Anglo-Saxon church, of which he was a wise observer of its various problems. He urged that episcopal visitations, confirmations, and Holy Communions should be held more frequently – for the good of the Church.

He is remembered each year on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

## The Coronation of King Charles III



On 6<sup>th</sup> May His Majesty King Charles III will be crowned alongside Camilla, The Queen Consort, in Westminster Abbey. How can we pray for him, as he approaches this important event? Paul says: *'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.'* (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

**For God's presence** - to guide every aspect of King Charles' life as he prepares for his Coronation and future roles. At his Accession, he was proclaimed Defender of the Faith, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Charles has talked about *'the Sovereign's particular relationship and responsibility towards the Church of England - the Church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted.'*

**For God's wisdom** - as he provides leadership that will honour God and promote the wellbeing of our society. King Solomon prayed for wisdom for himself: *'So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.'* (1 Kings 3:9).

**For God's love** - to strengthen all relationships within the Royal Family; for reconciliation, understanding, forgiveness and good communication.

**For God's purpose** - to be fulfilled through the work of the King and Queen Consort and their family in the years to come. He has said: *'and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.'*

**Canon Paul Hardingham**

### Coronation Prayer 2023

*Almighty God, On the occasion of the crowning of King Charles III, we, the people, pray for him. We thank you for him and for the calling on his life and we recognise the weight of responsibility that puts upon him. We know that he will need your help, Lord. We know that he will face many challenges, as did his mother, Queen Elizabeth.*

*We ask, that, as he is anointed with oil, you will anoint him with your Holy Spirit, so that he will know in his heart, as his mother knew, that Jesus is alive and able to help him fulfil his unique vocation.*

*We pray that in all the days he serves as King, he will be aware that first and foremost he serves you, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. May his reign be one of wisdom, vision and integrity, inspired by your Kingdom values.*

*May your name be honoured and glorified throughout this land, Lord, as we pray, **God save the King!***

## Rushen Roamers

Once again we praise "the Roamers"  
See them on the scenic track!  
With head held high and shoulders back  
Rushen's landscape they attack!

Hats off! to the sturdy leaders;  
Peter, Steve and "Father Jim".  
It's all about keeping healthy –  
Sound in body, heart and limb.

If easy walking proves a strain –  
Legs and feet a little lame,  
There's always a hearty welcome  
At St Cath's hall just the same!

Revived with a tea or coffee,  
We catch up with local skeet.  
Making for laughter and respite.  
A chat and a chance to meet.

With company and exercise  
Perhaps 'roaming' holds the key,  
To peace of mind, sheer joyfulness  
And happy longevity!

### Margaret Couper

*Editor – Why not come and join us? The walk begins at 10am and refreshments at 11am on Wednesdays throughout the year*

### The Confessional

*A Roman Catholic priest was called away on an emergency. Not wanting to leave the confessional booth unattended, he asked his rabbi friend to cover for him. The rabbi protested that he wouldn't know what to say, but the priest promised to show him. So, the rabbi came over and joined the priest in the confessional booth.*

*In a few minutes a woman came in and said, "Father, forgive me for I have sinned." The priest asked what she had done. "I stole some clothes from the local boutique." The priest asked how many times she had done this. "Three times."*

*The priest thought a moment, then said: "Say two Hail Mary's, put £5 in the box and go and sin no more."*

*A few minutes later a man entered the confessional. "Father, forgive me for I have sinned." The priest asked what he had done. "I stole some stuff from the garage where I work." The priest asked how many times he had done this. "Three times."*

*The priest thought a moment, then said: "Say two Hail Mary's, put £5 in the box and go and sin no more."*

*The rabbi told the priest that he thought that he got the hang of it, so the priest left. A few minutes later, another woman entered the confessional booth and said, "Father, forgive me for I have sinned." The rabbi asked what she had done. "I stole some make-up from the pharmacist." The rabbi asked how many times she had done this. "One time."*

*The rabbi thought a moment, then said: "Go do it twice more. We have a special offer this week - three for £5."*

## All in the month of May



**250 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1773** Britain passed the Tea Act, which favoured the British East India Company over the American colonies, which led to the Boston Tea Party in December, which escalated into the American Revolution and the establishment of the USA.

**150 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1873** David Livingstone, Scottish missionary and explorer, died. Best known for his search for the sources of the Nile, and for going missing (and being found) in Africa.

**100 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> May 1923** the first Le Mans 24 hours endurance motor race was held.

**90 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1933** the first modern sighting of Scotland's Loch Ness monster was reported in the Inverness Chronicle.

**80 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May 1943** the RAF launched Operation Chastise, which became famous as the 'Dambusters' Raid'. Bouncing bombs were used to bypass anti-torpedo nets and breach dams, which caused catastrophic flooding in Germany's Ruhr Valley.

**75 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May 1948** Israel was declared an independent state as the British mandate in Palestine came to an end. Next day the Arab-Israeli War began with the invasion of Israel by Egypt, Transjordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq.

**70 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1953** New Zealand mountaineer Edmund Hilary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

**60 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1963** the folk/blues album 'The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan' was released. It included the hit song 'Blowin' in the Wind'.

**50 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1973** the Watergate hearings began in the US Senate and were televised nationally.

**40 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1983** the journal Science reported the discovery of the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

**25 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1998** in a referendum, the people of Northern Ireland voted to accept the Good Friday Agreement. 75% were in favour of a Northern Ireland Assembly.

**15 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008** the Sichuan earthquake took place in China. More than 69,000 people were killed, over 370,000 injured, and nearly five million made homeless.

**10 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2013** Bill Pertwee, British comedy actor best known for his role as the Chief ARP air raid warden William Hodges in Dad's Army, died.





## 1<sup>st</sup> May: May Day and unbridled merriment

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: 'for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?'

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day, and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was 'the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England', according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known Gam service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

*The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower  
We are here today and gone tomorrow - we are dead within an hour.*

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

## ***From the Registers***

### ***Funerals April 2023:***

1 <sup>st</sup> April	Jennifer Hirst	11am	RBG	Ashes only
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Chris Pickard	10am	RBG	Burial
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Susan C Alexandra	2.30 pm	RBG	Ashes only
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Mark Kinley	1.45pm	RBG	Burial
18 <sup>th</sup> April	Margaret P Bregazzi	12 noon	RBG	Service & Burial

### ***Pentecost Prayer***

*Heavenly Father, In these troubled times we need your help, just like those first disciples did when Jesus came back to you after his resurrection. They must have wanted him to stay with them. They must have felt puzzled and bereft – and wondered how to go on. But you, Lord, knew a better way. You sent them a helper, the Holy Spirit to fill them with your life. We thank you so much that the same Spirit will be our helper too, if we are willing to ask you for him. We will be able to face each day, each challenge, with your Spirit living in us to guide and empower us, to enable us to carry on even when we don't understand. So, we pray, come Holy Spirit, fill us, encourage us to carry on sharing your love and life and truth, in the name of Jesus.*

***Amen***

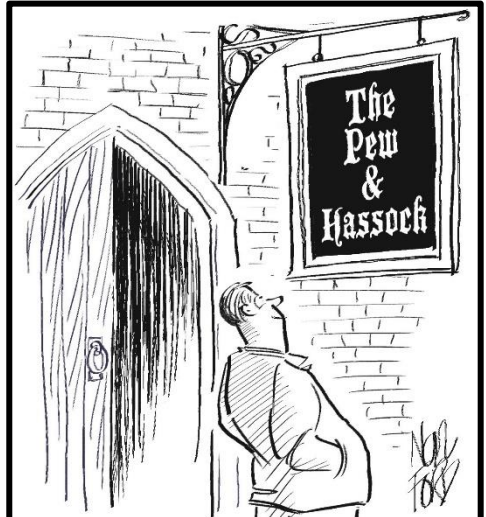
### **Safeguarding**

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](http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion)



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

## Rushen Mothers' Union



We were delighted to welcome our speaker, Rev Dr Michael Brydon, and also guests Diocesan MU President Rev Jeanette Hamer, her husband Steve, and Rev Ginny Viner to our branch meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Mrs Pat Thomson was in the chair and led our short service, including hymns chosen and played by Mrs Margaret Couper, a reading from Mrs Sue Bould and prayers from the MU Prayer Book, during which we thought of our members and friends who are not in good health at this time.

It was a delight to listen to Father Michael's fascinating talk entitled "Strings to my Bow", and to learn about so many different aspects of his life, from boyhood to priesthood. Moving to the island as chaplain to Bishop Peter at the start of the pandemic, he has since taken on further responsibilities as Priest- in- Charge at St Mathews, and now having been "discovered" by Mothers' Union as such an excellent speaker, he will be in great demand, island wide!

Mrs Sally Lewis gave an appreciative vote of thanks, and we hope Father Michael will return to share some more of his interests with us next year.

Having concluded with the Grace, we enjoyed refreshments and fellowship together, appreciating that Fr Michael found time to chat with everyone. We thank Mr Gerry Callister for his unflinching help in setting up the hall and kitchen, Mrs Elsie Faragher for organising the teas, and of course our members for their regular attendance. Our next branch meeting will be on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm in St Catherine's Hall to plan our programme for 2023-24.

With love and very best wishes to all, including our home member Mrs Edythe Bridson, and particularly to those for whom health issues have recently been demanding.

**Pat Thomson**

### ***Life abundant***

*Two students from a theological training college decided to spend part of their holiday in the countryside doing outreach. They stopped at an old farm house and proceeded up the path through a group of screaming children and a washing line heavy with wet clothes. When they got near the door, the woman of the house stopped scrubbing the steps, brushed her hair and perspiration from her brow, and asked them what they wanted. "We'd like to tell you how you can live forever," they answered. The exhausted woman hesitated for a moment, and then replied, "Thank you, but I don't think I could stand it!"*

## God and the Arts



Editor: **Michael Burgess** continues his look at great works of Christian art. 'The Madonna of the Meadow' hangs in the National Gallery in London.

### 'The Madonna of the Meadow' by Giovanni Bellini

Each year as we look at Creation we see the cycle of the seasons. The earth comes alive in spring, blossoms and bears fruit in summer, gives up its goodness and glory in autumn, and seems to die in the sleep of cold winter. Each of those seasons has its moods and feel-

ings, which we find mirrored in the turn of human life. The joy of spring and summer go hand in hand with the sadness and resignation of autumn and winter in all that life brings us. When we look at our Lady in the Gospels, and this month of May is Mary's month, we see that mixture of joy and sadness.

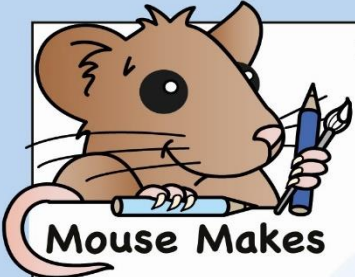
In the Annunciation and at Christmas we share in the wonder and happiness of motherhood and new birth. A Son is born, but that birth brings anxiety and strain. Those strange words of Simeon in the Temple, losing the child in Jerusalem, watching her son grow, only to be rejected and crucified – these experiences brought Mary heartache and sorrow. But her maternal love sustains her through it all, and Mary is with the disciples at the glorious moment of Pentecost.

This range of moods in creation and in the life of Mary is caught up in the painting, 'The Madonna of the Meadow' by Giovanni Bellini. He came from a family of Renaissance painters, and this work was created around 1500. It now hangs in the National Gallery in London. The background is full of the details of the world of nature and everyday life. We see some cows grazing and others resting. A farmer tends the livestock on one side of the painting, while a herdsman relaxes on the other. Mary in the centre is part of that creation with the blue of her robe like the sky above, while the russet shades beneath that blue mirror the earth on which she rests.

As we look more closely, we can see some disturbing signs of 'nature red in tooth and claw.' There is a bird to our left – perhaps a crane or egret – that is fighting with a snake. Above, on the top of a tall, thin, leafless tree there is another bird as black as death. We look at the babe sleeping in His mother's arms and sense His vulnerability for all her protective love. Some 30 years later Mary will cradle her Son in that same pose as His body is taken down from the cross: that heart-rending moment we know as the Pietà.

The Venetian landscape is like a peaceful May afternoon where spring is dissolving into high summer amid those contented signs of a clear sky and cows grazing. The serpent and the raven tell us that struggle and death can easily invade that scene. But they somehow pale into insignificance as we ponder that luminous affirmation of new life in the mother and child that dominate the canvas. They proclaim life; they proclaim life after death. The babe sleeping in Mary's arms will wake and grow through the seasons of life. Too soon we know His body will hang on a barren tree like the one where that bird of death perches. But that cycle of birth and spring leading to death and winter will be transformed as His risen body will walk into another landscape – the garden of Easter where the leaves never wither and the sky never darkens, for in that resurrection joy, all is life and light and life eternal.

Children's Page



Forty days after His resurrection Jesus appeared to the Apostles one last time. He told them that the Holy Spirit would come, then He blessed them and **ascended** into heaven.

What did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit would give the Apostles?

READ Acts 1 4-17

\_\_\_\_\_ to be Jesus' witnesses. Acts 1:8

Find the answers in the word search

What hid Jesus from the Apostles?  
a \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 1:9

Who appeared to the Apostles?  
Two \_\_\_\_\_ and what were they dressed in? \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 1:10

Where was Jesus taken up to? \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 24:51

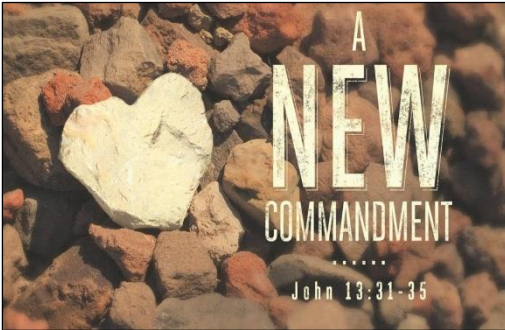
Where did the Apostles return to? \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 1:12

Where is Jesus seated?  
At the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.  
Mark 16:19

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

JESUS • CHRIST • FORTY DAYS • APOSTLES • ASCENSION • TAKEN • LOOKING  
SKY • RETURN • BLESSED • WORSHIPPED • JOY • PRAYER • GOD • SAT  
GATHERED • WITNESSES • HOLY SPIRIT

## The Story Behind the Hymn



A NEW COMMANDMENT  
I give unto you,  
That you love one another  
As I have loved you,  
That you love one another  
As I have loved you.

By this shall all know  
That you are My disciples,  
If you have love one for another.  
By this shall all know  
That you are My disciples,  
If you have love one for another.

You Are my friends if  
You do what I command you.  
Without my help you can nothing.  
You Are my friends if  
You do what I command you.  
Without my help you can nothing

I am the true Vine,  
My Father is the gard'ner,  
Abide in me and I in you.  
I am the true Vine,  
My Father is the gard'ner,  
Abide in me and I in you.

Now, Love is patient,  
Nor arrogant, nor boastful.  
Love bears all things, love is eternal.  
Now, Love is patient,  
Nor arrogant, nor boastful.  
Love bears all things, love is eternal

The author and composer of this hymn arrangement of John 13:31-35 are usually listed as "unknown" and it has not been possible to determine when it was first published.

Some more recent publications attribute it to Roy Crabtree, but no further information about him has been located. Also, recent versions of Hymns Old and New include two additional verses by Indian Roman Catholic priest, musician, liturgist and composer Aniceto Nazareth (1938-2021).

The tune does not have a name.

There are some slight variations in the words and tune in use throughout the world. The original lyrics included "by this shall all men know that you are my disciples". The word "men" is now usually omitted and the tune adjusted to fit. Some people change the whole phrase to "by this the world shall know".

There are several other hymns with very similar titles, but this particular version is widely used in liturgical churches, across various denominations.



## Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



*Lord Jesus, open our ears and hearts today to Your message so that through the power of Your death and resurrection we may walk in newness of life in accord with the teachings of Your Gospel  
Amen*



### May 2023

#### ***This is your invitation to pray day by day for:***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Anyone awaiting a diagnosis from their general practitioner or the hospital
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Those involved in bringing the news to us on radio, television, or other means
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The safety of all aid workers in places of unrest
- 4<sup>th</sup> Our vicar and readers as they relay the Word of God during their sermons
- 5<sup>th</sup> The Bishop and staff at the Diocese of Sodor and Man
- 6<sup>th</sup> All those affected by the recent natural disasters and are looking for help
- 7<sup>th</sup> The work of missionaries and evangelists
- 8<sup>th</sup> Everyone involved in the recruitment and training of clergy
- 9<sup>th</sup> Farmers as they prepare their land for a fruitful harvest
- 10<sup>th</sup> Doctors, nurses and all of the key workers trying to catch up after the pandemic
- 11<sup>th</sup> All who are anxious, distressed or discouraged
- 12<sup>th</sup> All teachers of the Christian Faith
- 13<sup>th</sup> The courage to carry Christ within us and to present Him wherever we go
- 14<sup>th</sup> Peace and stability in troubled areas of the world
- 15<sup>th</sup> Children who are hungry, orphaned or homeless throughout the world
- 16<sup>th</sup> Those who regularly read the lessons and lead our intercessions
- 17<sup>th</sup> The life and witness of the Apostles
- 18<sup>th</sup> Christ's glorious ascension to heaven
- 19<sup>th</sup> People who are lonely and isolated and would love neighbours to talk to them
- 20<sup>th</sup> Preparations being made for holidays during the summer
- 21<sup>st</sup> The war in the Ukraine and the safety of its citizens day after day
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Skills given by God to surgeons as they carry out dangerous procedures
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Students having to depend on their coursework as the only means for success
- 24<sup>th</sup> Technology that has helped to link friends and family together during the pandemic
- 25<sup>th</sup> The Rev Ginny Viner and the Christian message she shares with us all
- 26<sup>th</sup> Tourism on the island and how it affects the economy
- 27<sup>th</sup> Help in places throughout the world where food and water are in short supply
- 28<sup>th</sup> For all those hoping to be married this year
- 29<sup>th</sup> Those who live rough and who sleep out in cities throughout the United Kingdom
- 30<sup>th</sup> Charitable organisations which devote their energy and resources to those in need
- 31<sup>st</sup> Mary, the Blessed Virgin, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ

## May Services

7 <sup>th</sup> May <b>(Easter 5)</b>	10am	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> May <b>(Easter 6)</b>	10am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ/St Mary's All Age Service St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
21 <sup>st</sup> May <b>(Easter 7)</b>	10am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's All-Age Service St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
28 <sup>th</sup> May <b>(Pentecost)</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> June <b>(Trinity Sunday)</b>	10am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ/St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (EP)

This schedule may change as we await completion of the re-ordering of St Mary's Church. June's magazine will be published on 28<sup>th</sup> May and this should give a clear indication of the revised service structure for June and July.

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

## All in an Easter Garden



Thanks to the children from St Mary's Sunday School

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

**St Mary's Sunday School Leader:**

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

**St Mary's Ladies Working Party**

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

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

**St Mary's Hall Bookings:**

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

**St Catherine's Hall Bookings:**

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

**Web Site/E-mail:**

[www.rushenparish.org.uk](http://www.rushenparish.org.uk)

[rushenparishorg@gmail.com](mailto:rushenparishorg@gmail.com)

**Magazine Editor**

Mr David Bowman, The Old Bakery, Qualtroughs Lane, 837117/260539  
Ballafesson, Port Erin

*e-mail:* dbow43@manx.net

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

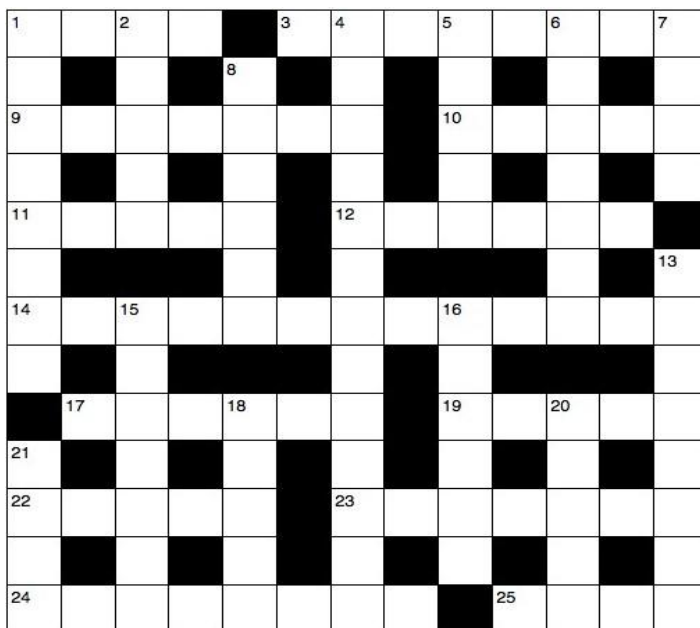
**Parish Director of Music:**

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 May 2023



## Across

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)</p> <p><b>3</b> 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)</p> <p><b>9</b> According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)</p> <p><b>10</b> Group of eight (5)</p> <p><b>11</b> The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)</p> <p><b>12</b> — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)</p> <p><b>14</b> Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)</p> <p><b>17</b> 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)</p> <p><b>19</b> Attend to (3,2)</p> <p><b>22</b> Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)</p> <p><b>23</b> Tea rite (anag.) (7)</p> <p><b>24</b> Rule of sovereign (8)</p> <p><b>25</b> Test (anag.) (4)</p> | <p><b>2</b> 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)</p> <p><b>4</b> 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)</p> <p><b>5</b> Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)</p> <p><b>6</b> Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)</p> <p><b>7</b> Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)</p> <p><b>8</b> Minister of religion (6)</p> <p><b>13</b> 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)</p> <p><b>15</b> 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)</p> <p><b>16</b> Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)</p> <p><b>18</b> 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)</p> <p><b>20</b> Establish by law (5)</p> <p><b>21</b> Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)</p> |
|--|---|

## Down

- 1** The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)