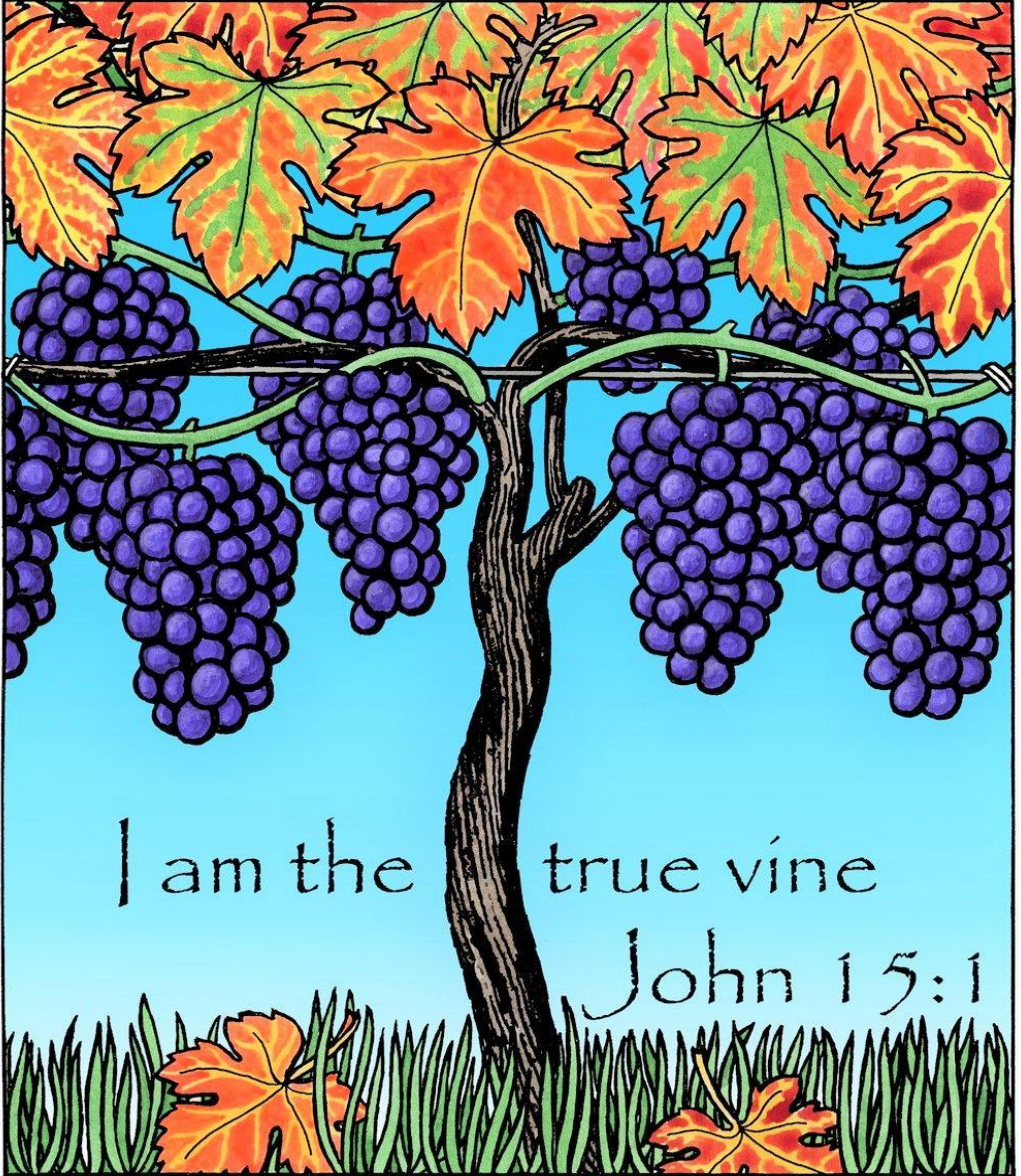




September 2023

# Rushen Parish Magazine



I am the true vine  
John 15:1

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## *From the Editor*

When I first started teaching 56 years ago I was introduced to the Cheshire Agreed Syllabus. This was a document which set out how Religious Education should be taught. It was split into three terms with the first concentrating on old testament stories, the second on new testament stories with Jesus being central to them all, and the third on people who have made a difference by following the teaching of Jesus. We were expected to spend an hour each week concentrating on these themes and working from a framework which ensured that as each child progressed through their primary school years they would never repeat work in religious education that they had covered before. It also guaranteed that the subject was taught.

Where is the teaching of religious education in our schools now? I tried to find the Isle of Man Agreed Syllabus on the internet and couldn't find it. That isn't to say it isn't there but it certainly is not prominent. In fact I find it a little disconcerting, because in my opinion I think that the children of today are not being given a solid background on how to develop their lives, and to follow the teaching of the leaders from whatever religious conviction they are from. It is also important that children learn about other religions as well as Christianity so that they can form their own opinions about living good and honest lives.

Is this perceived concern of mine the reason why we no longer have many children, or young people, attending church? I suspect it is and why I commend our Parochial Church Council in employing a Family Youth Worker to work with families, and children of school age, to learn more about our religion and the fellowship that can be derived from it. We have not seen a sudden influx of children from the recent Beach Mission, nor will we because there is no way that in two weeks you can influence young minds to learn more about Jesus, His teaching, and the joy of knowing Him as their saviour. Attendance at our four churches is falling. This is because the older ones amongst us are either no longer able to attend or they have died and are not being replaced. I don't expect that there will be a sudden change in attendance over the next few months, but with prayer and a will to succeed I can see change ahead and our churches beginning to be filled with more young families and children. We have to give our new family youth worker our support and blessing to work with our younger folk so that the religious education in schools, or lack of it, does not affect our ability to encourage more to come to our churches and learn about Jesus as their saviour

**David**

## Meet our new Family Youth Worker

Natalie Heaton



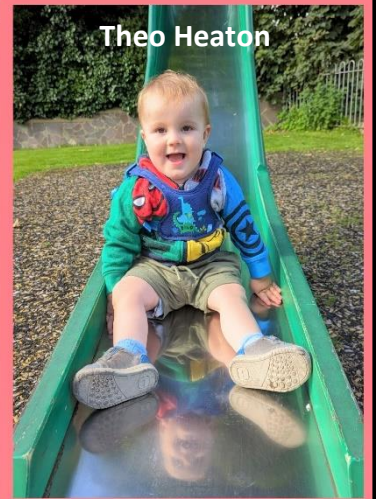
Hello there! I'm Natalie, and I'm positively thrilled to introduce myself as the Family Youth Worker for Rushen Parish. Let's not forget my partner in crime, Isaac (you might already know him), and our lovely son, Theo! As a family, we're eagerly diving into the wonderful world of Rushen Parish, excited to connect with all of you.

My last 12 years have been a whirlwind of working with children and young people in various amazing capacities. During that time I worked for Scripture Union Ministry Trust (SUMT) and this was full of incredible experiences which revealed to me my true passion for guiding young hearts on their faith-filled journey.

Now that Beach Mission has just finished, this is the first thing I have had the opportunity to get stuck into! I was part of the Sharks, a lively group of year 6/7s, some of whom are right here in our parish churches. It was an absolute blast getting to know them and other local young people.

Here's my plan for the coming months: I would love to get to know as many of you as possible, I would love to explore the Parish and get to know the community in and around it. I would love to explore new ways to communicate faith to a variety of people. One thing that is incredibly important to me is to find out what you want to be happening with families and young people in our Parish.

Theo Heaton



Isaac Heaton

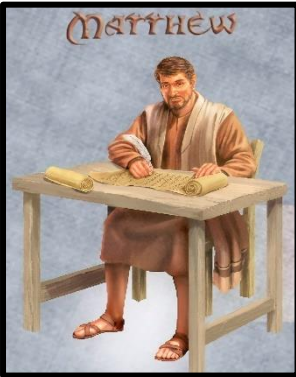
Benji



I'm all ears and would absolutely love to chat over a cup of coffee about your vision. Guess what I have already found out in my first few weeks? Our Parish is already buzzing with fantastic initiatives, and I can't wait to dive in and learn all I can about them! If you would like to get in contact with me please send an email to: [rushenparishyouth@gmail.com](mailto:rushenparishyouth@gmail.com)

**God Bless  
Natalie**





## Saint Matthew the Tax Collector

**Editor:** *Canon Paul Hardingham considers the choosing of Matthew*

Jesus saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him. (Matthew 9:9).

This month we remember Matthew's call as one of Jesus' 12 apostles. It consisted of a simple invitation, 'Follow me', and an immediate response. The resulting meal at Matthew's house also helps us to understand the challenge of His call.

### **Jesus' welcome:**

At the dinner many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. Jesus welcomed each person unconditionally, in a way that most Jews would not! In the same way, Jesus welcomes us and shows us how we should welcome others. Our welcome cannot be conditional, expecting people to be like us or to behave as we expect.

### **Jesus' challenge:**

When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' The Pharisees were upset and avoided sinners, because they believed only the pure and untainted could have access to God. However, Jesus reminded them that they were witnessing God's love in action: 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill.' When God is at work in the lives of those we don't expect, we need to let Him open our hearts to embrace and encourage what He is doing.

### **Jesus' compassion:**

But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners. The Pharisees were so committed to keeping the law, that they had forgotten God's heart of compassion. Our religious practice is meaningless without love and mercy towards others. In what ways can we express love towards others, especially those outside the community of faith?

### ***The Children's Society***

*Mrs Doreen Callister has for the past 20 years been the Coordinator for the Children's Society House Collection Boxes for Rushen Parish. Doreen now feels it is time for someone else to take this role on and I have agreed to do so. The Church of England Children's Society is a charity that supports young people who are vulnerable, exploited, neglected and unsafe and gives them hope for a better future. If anyone still has a collection box or would like one can you please contact me on 822122 or 456239. Many thanks.*

***Sheila Preston***

**Rushen Flower Festival  
Kirk Christ Church  
2023**

*"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever -----  
It will never pass into nothingness -----"*  
J. Keats

Resplendent was Kirk Christ this day,  
With festive blooms and music's sway.  
Roses, lilies and daisies graced  
Each available window space.

Stocks and lavender, thistles too!  
Revealed creative art anew.  
Interwoven with each display  
Were chosen tunes of yesterday.

As though this 'wonderland' we tread,  
"The King and I" stand at the head;  
While 'Little Mermaid' lying there,  
Attracts attention with her stare.

A rich plethora of 'tales told,'  
Through melodies and flowers bold!  
Thanks to the minds and hands of care  
Their priceless loveliness to share.

Lift up the voice! Joyfully sing!  
To our creator Lord and King!

*Psalm 67 v 3 "Let the Peoples praise you, O God,  
Let all the peoples praise You" NRSV*

**Margaret Couper**

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*Editor: I inadvertently forgot to acknowledge that Margaret was the author of the poem about the Port St Mary Beach Mission in last month's magazine. For this I apologise.*

**When Autumn Comes**

*Editor: **Nigel Beeton** writes:  
September, of course, is the time of  
the autumnal equinox, that point in  
the calendar when the nights become  
longer than the days, and the summer  
is technically over, and it can be a  
poignant moment, but should it be?*

Should we be sad  
When autumn comes  
And winter looms ahead?  
Is it so bad  
That days grow short  
And verdant leaves grow red?

We'll miss the sun  
And long, hot days  
We'll miss the sea and sand;  
But soon will come  
The starry nights  
And wintry landscapes grand!

Perhaps it's best  
That nature sleeps  
And things no longer grow;  
We get a rest  
From vibrant weeds  
And grass we need not mow.

So celebrate  
The equinox  
The autumn season's here!  
It is a date  
To mark, with joy  
The turning of the year.



## St Mary's Ladies Working Party

We were delighted to be able to meet for the first time in our beautiful, reordered church. Many thanks to all those who made this possible. Although we are on a summer break at the moment a meeting was necessary to organise the celebrations for our return to St Mary's. The LWP spent Friday decorating the church with flowers for the joint service on Sunday. This was followed by a very successful Open Day on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August when we enjoyed serving teas and coffees from our new kitchen area – complete with it's wonderful folding tap!

The joint service was wonderful, such a happy occasion and it was so good to see our church full again. We met afterwards in the hall for a faith lunch. It's amazing how these always work out well with plenty of varied food dishes. Thanks to Peter Hayhurst for sorting out the tables and chairs for us.

The Ladies Working Party will meet again, in St Mary's Church on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August when we will start the planning and preparing for our coffee morning.

The coffee morning will be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September in St Catherine's Hall from 10 - 11.30am. It will raise funds to support Crossroads Young Carers and we are hoping that a representative will come and tell us a little more about the work of their charity.

We would welcome all the support we can get from buying/selling tickets (which are only £2 and includes coffee and a biscuit) to raffle prizes, bottles of any description for the bottle stall, cakes and bric-a-brac. If you can help in any way please contact me or any member of the LWP.

Above all please come and enjoy the morning having coffee with friends.

**Lesley Scott**

### ***Prayer for September 2023***

*Dear Father in heaven, September is a time of change, a change of season, changes in many areas of our lives as a new term begins and new opportunities present themselves. It can be a time of challenge and uncertainty for many of us as well as excitement. Thank you Lord, that You never change, Your promises never change, Your Holy-Spirit inspired Word never changes. You are constant and rock-solid, always. Help us to remember that You make all things new when we put our trust in Jesus, You give us new life and new ways of understanding, but help us also to remember that You never contradict Your revealed self. Help us always to check out our thinking with what You say in Your Word. Help us to be faithful to You as we take each step forward, each new day. In Jesus name:*

***Amen***



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



On 6<sup>th</sup> August, the other congregations from the other three churches in the parish joined with St Mary's for the re-opening of the church after reordering. It was a moving and very enjoyable service. We were joined by members and team leaders of the Port St Mary Beach Mission.

The church at St Mary's looked so good and bright with its new carpet, the choir singing an anthem so beautifully and a very large congregation. Everyone looked so happy on this day over 140 years after it was consecrated and its first service held. The hymns chosen were those sung at that first service.

Following the service a lovely Faith Lunch was served in the hall. We are so grateful to those who provided the refreshments and especially St Mary's Ladies Working Party which organised the food and drinks and a warm welcome to those who attended. We now look forward to worshipping with St Mary's Church congregation from time to time in the future.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August we enjoyed our monthly Soup Inn in St Catherine's Church Hall, and on 26<sup>th</sup> July we welcomed the boys from Broughton Church Choir to join us for Choral Evensong at Kirk Christ. The boys also joined in with Choral Evensong at St Peter's Church on the following Sunday afternoon. On both occasions the singing was beautifully performed and enhanced the services, and those who attended had nothing but praise for the boys and their choirmaster.

On the final Sunday in July the congregation of St Mary's presented the Kirk Christ congregation with a beautiful display of flowers for its kindness and fellowship it had offered whilst the refurbishment of St Mary's had been taking place over a seven month period.

Because of David having to undergo a hip replacement I was unable to provide a report in August's magazine. So belatedly I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Flower Festival in July. The church was resplendent with beautiful displays of flowers each depicting a theme. Those who designed the displays have a wonderful God given talent which was evident in what they presented. Thank you too to those of you who kindly provided cakes and biscuits for those who visited the church throughout the week of the festival. Similarly to those of you who manned the church throughout each day and provided drinks for our visitors. We raised a significant amount of money which will be used to support our vision which is to be at the Heart of the Community revealing the Heart of God.

**Gerry Callister**



**Sudoku September 2023**

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

***In Common***

*I was the supply teacher for a class that was learning about groups. In one exercise, pupils were asked to label a group of items according to their common characteristics. Pictured were onion rings, doughnuts, and party biscuits. The correct answer would have been that all the items have holes in the centre.*

*But one health-conscious boy pointed out: "All of those things contain far too much cholesterol."*

**August's Sudoku Solution**

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

**August's Crossword Solution**

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

## Charles Fuge Lowder, 'slum priest'



The slums of the East End of London in the 1800s were not for the faint-hearted. Hopelessly overcrowded, with open running sewers in the streets, the slums bred disease, crime, and violence. Infant mortality soared, and labourers were often dead by the age of 19.

Everyone who could do so, avoided the slums of Victorian London. Everyone except for one man. Charles Fuge Lowder was surely the most unlikely resident of the slums imaginable. Born in Bath in 1820, he had grown up as the son of a prosperous banker and been educated at Exeter College in Oxford.

Ordained in 1843, Lowder ministered in the West Country before moving to Pimlico in London. Here he helped found the Society of the Holy Cross, 'to defend and strengthen the spiritual life of the clergy, to defend the faith of the Church, and to carry on and aid Mission work both at home and abroad.' And it was here, in due course, that the slums of East London caught Lowder's attention.

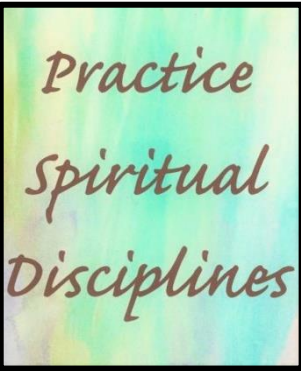
He had read a life of St Vincent de Paul and had been inspired by it to also do urban mission. And so, in 1856, he moved across London, to become curate of St George's in the East End. That would have been bad enough, but his job was to run the St George's Mission in Wapping, at that time one of the worst slum areas of the whole East End.

Lowder's courage and sense of calling to such loathsome streets were nothing short of heroic. Especially as he took on the job not for a few weeks, but as a way of life. For Lowder believed that 'mission' should not be a short-lived campaign, but instead a permanent Christian presence in an area where the Church had no previous foothold. That was certainly true of the reeking, crime-infested streets of Wapping. And so it was that St George's Mission in Wapping began with a single room, and a priest determined to bring the love of Christ to some of the most unlovely-people in London.

As the years went by, the mission grew into renting a local iron church, and then eventually it moved into its own brick-built building. And during those years the local people learned to respect and love the man who lived so kindly and sacrificially among them, called him Father Lowder, and seeking his help in the calamities of their lives – especially the East End cholera outbreak. Father Lowder's efforts were recognised when in 1866 a new parish, St Peter's London Docks, was carved out of St George's parish, with Lowder as first vicar.

14 years later, in 1880, Lowder finally resigned. 24 years of hard labour in the slums had taken its toll, and his health was gone. He retired to Chislehurst, where he soon died. Many thousands of mourners attended his large funeral in the East End, wanting to remember the priest who had loved them and served them so faithfully. Lowder had become the most famous 'slum priest' of Victorian London.

## Spiritual Disciplines: Service



Editor: **Canon Paul Hardingham** continues to his year-long series on the *Spiritual Disciplines*.

*'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.'* (John 13: 14-15).

We are all familiar with those requests for more to 'serve on a team' at church, whether the coffee rota or with the children.

However, these can hinder our understanding of the spiritual discipline of service.

The discipline of service involves learning from Jesus' example, when He washed the disciples' feet. Like His disciples, we are all called to take the place of a servant and be willing to serve those around us. Richard Foster in *'Celebration of Discipline'* contrasts 'self-righteous service', human effort wanting to impress others and be rewarded, with 'true service', which is rooted in our relationship with Jesus and delights in the service itself.

In his book, Richard Foster highlights the value of small, everyday sacrificial acts of service which flow from the place of being a servant: *'service is not a list of things to do, though in it we discover things to do. It is not a code of ethics, but a way of living.'* He goes on to highlight a number of acts of service, including: hiddenness (working behind the scenes); small acts of service; guarding the reputation of others; being willing to be served ourselves; practising hospitality; listening and bearing the burdens of each other. We need to pray for wisdom and discernment, so that we know when to say 'yes' and 'no' to serving. If we say 'yes' too much we can easily find ourselves becoming bitter or burned out!

Why not make it your prayer each morning: *'Lord Jesus, if it would please You, bring me someone today who I can serve?'*

### ***A grain of sand at a time***

*This autumn, do you feel overwhelmed with all the things that you need to get done? Then think of your life as an hourglass. There are thousands of grains of sand in the top of the hourglass; and they all pass slowly and evenly through the narrow neck in the middle.*

*We are like that hourglass. When we start in the morning, there are hundreds of tasks which we feel that we must accomplish that day. But if we do not take them one at a time, and let them pass through the day slowly and evenly, as do the grains of sand passing through the narrow neck of the hour glass, then we are bound to break our own fragile physical and mental structure. Do not attempt more than God designed you to do.*

## How not to be a Grumpy Old Man (or Woman)



### **Marvel.**

Marvel every time you see a child learning to walk and speak at the same time. Share in their delight. Wonder at the dawn of each new season: sunshine and shadows, falling leaves, frost, sudden new growth. You are still alive to take it all in. That's an unexpected bonus.

### **Appreciate.**

Have a look around your living room and concentrate on items designed for your comfort and entertainment, which your forbears never had. Think of someone you don't like; now ponder a couple of their good points. Try to desire their welfare more than their downfall.

### **Forgive.**

(That's a condition for being forgiven). You may have to do it over and over again for the same person. Unearth grudges which have been lying under the surface. Are they worth preserving that much? Think of the damage they are doing you.

### **Married or Single? Don't envy.**

The grass on the other side of the street isn't greener, it's just different. Count your blessings - some will be uniquely yours. Be concerned for the welfare of someone whose circumstances are unlike yours.

### **Deal with disappointment.**

If you have become grumpy it's probably caused by a deep-down dissatisfaction with yourself. Stop raking over past failures. Each morning when you wake up, say with the Psalmist, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

### **Change.**

No, it isn't too late. It will only be too late to change when you are in a coffin. In the meantime, there's still room for manoeuvre. Remember John Henry Newman's words, "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

**The Venerable John Barton**



## Reflecting faith – pews and chairs

*Editor: The **Revd Dr Jo White** continues her series on finding faith in the fabric of our church buildings.*

Most of us think of pews as having been installed at the same time the church building was built, with occasional upgrades over time. But that's not the case.

Originally church floors consisted of little more than stone flags or beaten earth on which grasses or rushes were lain as a renewable winter covering for cleanliness and insulation. Each year, in late summer, the old and rotten rushes were cleared out and new ones taken to the churches in carts. There are still a number of English towns, in particular in the north of England, that celebrate 'Rushbearing' each year.

The people stood for all the services. However, it was recognised that the infirm and elderly needed support, and stone benches - often backless – were placed by the walls for them. It was not until the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s that wooden pews were introduced for everyone to be able to be seated.

Naturally, people being people, there were pews and then there were *pews*!

Society was organised in classes or hierarchies and the richer and more important folk had the best seats near the front so they could hear what the priest was saying and watch the service.

One's place to sit was arranged by your place in Society, so the poorer and least important were at the back.

Sermons alone could be lengthy; two hours was not unusual, and if you could pay for privacy to doze off and some form of personal heating for winters, then clearly that made sense.

### ***This month***

Have a look at the seating in a church near you. Are all the chairs or pews the same? Are some more elaborately decorated or larger? Is there a difference between the pews in the nave for the congregation and those for the choir and different again in the sanctuary? Does any of this reflect your faith?

## **Cat**

*I know, I know, when people see a cat's litter box, they say, "Oh, have you got a cat?". But someday, just once I want to say, "No, it's for visitors."*



## All in the month of September



**100 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 1923** Noel Coward's musical revue *London Calling!* was first performed, in London. It was his first publicly produced musical work. **Also on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1923** Interpol, the International Criminal Police Organisation, was founded. **Also, on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 1923** the British Mandate for Palestine came into effect. Britain took control of Mandatory Palestine (formerly part of the Turkish Empire) until 1948, when Israel became an independent state.

**80 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 1943** the Germans occupied Rome, Italy, and took over the protection of the Vatican City.

**75 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1948** the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was established, headed by Kim Il Sung.

**70 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 1953** the discovery of rapid eye movement (REM) sleep was published in the journal *Science*. It had been discovered in 1952 by Eugene Aserinsky and Nathaniel Kleitman at the University of Chicago.

**50 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep 1973** JRR Tolkien, British fantasy writer, poet, scholar, and educator died. Best known for his novels *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. **Also on 29<sup>th</sup> Sep 1973** W H Auden, British born American poet, died. Regarded as one of the greatest writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**25 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 1998** Google, the internet search company, was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, both students at Stanford University in California. The company was originally based in a friend's garage at Menlo Park.

**15 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 2008** the Financial Crisis erupted. The troubled US mortgage-financing giants, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, were put into government conservatorship under the Federal Housing Finance Agency. On 15<sup>th</sup> Sep 2008 the global investment company Lehman Brothers filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. It was the largest bankruptcy filing in US history.

### *Portion creep*

*Bet you didn't notice this, but dinner plates have got bigger. In the 1950s, a dinner plate measured 25cm across; now the usual is 28cm. And take a look at those very old wine glasses in the charity shops: our grandparents served wine in what looks like liqueur glasses to us now. These days, many wineglasses seem to hold nearly half a bottle....*



## The Divine Gardener

*Editor: Our Harvest Festival services are being held on 8<sup>th</sup> October this year. Some churches seem to do so in September; others, like us, wait until October. Just to make sure that we are in good time, we are offering this article with a Harvest theme....by Lester Amann.*

This is the time of year for many churches to hold their Harvest Festival services. No doubt, there will be displays of food, some grown in local gardens. While gardeners have pleasure growing fruit and vegetables, it can be hard work tending to them.

Jesus knew about the care given to vines. In John 15:1-8 Jesus compared Himself to a vine and referred to God as the gardener. In this parable, God is responsible for pruning the vine. He sees what parts are useful, and what parts useless. The unproductive parts are cut away, so that growth is encouraged. Jesus is telling us that God will prune our lives, not to harm us, but to encourage our spiritual growth.

God's pruning cuts away wrong attitudes and wasteful behaviour, all of which serve no useful purpose in our lives. This pruning is required so that we become more fruitful. And the fruit God wants is love, joy, patience etc. (see Galatians 5:22-23) These holy qualities are intended to influence the world to change it from the bad to all that is good.

To encourage its growth, a vine has regularly to be cut back. The effect looks drastic, but it is still essential. When God cuts away the dead wood in our lives, He does it because He knows how our lives can grow. The pruning knives are in the hands of our Father God who only desires the best for us. This pruning process can be painful, but Jesus says that it is vital if the Holy Spirit is to flow through us to produce the fruit that God wants.

Also in this parable, Jesus said He was the Vine, and we are the branches. We have no existence apart from Jesus. We can do nothing for God on our own and must be joined to Jesus. In the same way a vine utilises the life-giving sap to flow into the branches, so we need the Holy Spirit to flow His life into us. It is only by us remaining in Jesus, that He can give us the inner resources for an effective fruit-producing life.

Jesus said, '*Abide in Me*' (John 15:4 King James Version). Abiding speaks of sustenance, being upheld and supported, enduring and withstanding. So, if we are to reap a harvest of holiness, may we be prepared for God's pruning, and continue to abide in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.



## From the Registers

### Funerals July 2023:

|                            |                     |         |                                      |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023 | Alan Cregeen        | 12.45pm | Kirk Christ and Crematorium          |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 | Alan Cregeen        | 11.30am | Ashes Rushen Burial Ground           |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 | John Ronan          | 11.30am | Kirk Christ and Rushen Burial Ground |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 | Juan Guy            | 11.00am | Ashes Rushen Burial Ground           |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 | John Guy            | 11.00am | Ashes Rushen Burial Ground           |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 | Gerrie Hornsby      | 10.00am | Kirk Christ and Rushen Burial Ground |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 | Maureen Watterson   | 11.45am | Burial Rushen Burial Ground          |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 | Winifred Coulthurst | 10.00am | Crematorium only                     |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023 | Verna Watterson     | 1.30pm  | Kirk Christ and Rushen Burial Ground |

### Weddings July 2023:

|                            |                                                       |     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 | Isobel Rosemarie Morgan and Ethan Taylor Kiernan      | 1pm |
|                            | Kirk Christ                                           |     |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2023 | Tabitha Holly Wright and Benjamin Miles Robert Quayle | 1pm |
|                            | Kirk Christ                                           |     |

### 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:

The **Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser** is **Lisa Morris**. Should you wish to contact her the details can be found on Page 2 of this magazine

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)



"Er... vicar – does the church have a position on the donation of GM vegetables for the Harvest Festival?"



## Mothers' Union Rushen Branch

Just a note to remind everyone that the Rushen 'Corporate Communion' is at 2pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Kirk Christ and.....

There is also an JMP Corporate Communion at Kirk Michael at 2pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Kirk Michael. There will be a Bring and Buy and cake stalls.

**Lesley Scott**

## 25 Years of Google

It was 25 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1998, that Google, the internet search company, was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, both students at Stanford University in California. The company was originally based in a friend's garage at nearby Menlo Park.



It began in January 1996 as a simple research project which employed links to decide the importance of individual pages on the world wide web. The two students – both Jewish – worked from their college rooms and called the search engine BackRub, a name fairly rapidly abandoned. Google is a slight misspelling (or reinvention) of the word googol, which is the mathematical term for a 1 followed by 100 zeros.

This turned out to be quite appropriate, given the amount of information involved. Google is now the world's most used search engine by far, leaving such "competitors" as DuckDuckGo, Bing and Yahoo! floundering distantly in its wake.

Google Inc was born officially in late summer 1998 when Sun co-founder Andy Bechtolsheim wrote Page and Brin a cheque for £100,000. There was a third founder, Scott Hassan, who wrote much of the original code, but he left before Google was officially founded as a company. Today, however, he is described as a serial entrepreneur with a net worth of around a billion dollars.

Being a huge company, Google has plenty of critics, but its code of conduct, stated in 2004, was "Don't be evil" because "we believe strongly that in the long term, we will be better served – as shareholders and in all other ways – by a company that does good things for the world, even if we forgo some short-term gains".

**Tim Lenton**

## God in the Arts

### *'Vase of Flowers' by Jan Davidsz de Heem*



In this month of September, we give thanks for God's blessings in all that the earth yields us. Those blessings are focused in this wonderful painting of Jan Davidsz de Heem. He was born in Utrecht in Holland in 1606 and studied art under his father's guidance. De Heem then moved to Antwerp, where for the rest of his life he created paintings of such beauty and depth that one of them – a portrait of Prince William III surrounded by blossoms and fruits - received the highest price ever paid for a painting at that time.

In the 'Vase of Flowers' de Heem has gathered together a bouquet of variegated flowers and plants for our delight. Time stands still in his painting in two ways. First, these thirty-one blooms could never have flowered at the same time, but through the magical touch of the artist, they do for us. Caught on canvas, they are as fresh and vibrant as the day they were painted in 1645.

But there are signs that the gifts of nature do wither and die, as we look closely and see on the marble slab a snail. Nearby is a salamander eyeing his next meal as a spider hangs on a thread from one of the flowers. In the centre, another snail looks at his food, the beautiful and rare red and white tulips. Yet we look again and see also signs of new life: the reeds of wheat are symbols of the Eucharistic bread; the caterpillar and butterfly on the striking white poppy at the top are signs of resurrection; and the peas in their pod and the blackberries mark out the fruitfulness of creation.

The artist shows us a glorious range of flowers - some well-known, others more exotic and brought back to Holland through the colonial expansion of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Tulips and poppies dominate, but to the left are some small-scented roses. Each is a testimony to the beauty and goodness of the world we live in.

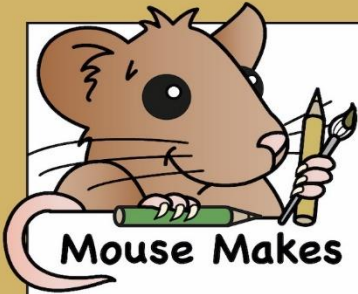
A 100 years later, Christopher Smart wrote in 'Jubilate Agno': 'For the flowers are great blessings...for the flower glorifies God...for the flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.'

And 200 years later Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote: 'I do not think I have ever seen anything more beautiful than the bluebell I have been looking at. I know the beauty of our Lord by it.'

And we, in our own century, can echo poet and painter as we praise God, the author of such flowers and plants that make up a world of 'all things bright and beautiful.'



# Children's Page

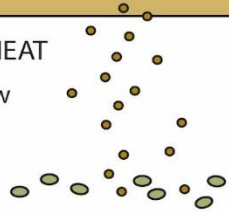


## Mouse Makes

### THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT

What did the enemy sow among the wheat?

Matthew 13:25



#### READ

the parable in

At harvest time the weeds are gathered, bundled then

but the wheat is stored

in the

Matthew 13:30

Who sows the good seed?

Matthew 13:37

Matthew 13 v24-30, and v36-43

What does the field represent?

the \_\_\_\_\_ and who is the good seed?

The people of the \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 13:38

Who sows the weeds?

The \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the harvesters?

The \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 13:39

"He who has ears, let him \_\_\_\_\_"

Matthew 13:43

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

PARABLE • HEAVEN • SOWED • GOOD • SEED • FIELD • ENEMY • WHEAT • GRAIN  
 GROW • TOGETHER • TIME • HARVEST • GATHER • BUNDLE • TIE  
 PEOPLE • DISCIPLES • JESUS • EXPLAIN • EVIL • FIRE • END • AGE • EARS

Find the words from the questions too!

## The Story Behind the Hymn



**George Herbert**

### *Let All The World In Every Corner Sing*

Let All The World In Every Corner Sing,  
My God And King!

The Heavens Are Not Too High, His  
Praise May Thither Fly,  
The Earth Is Not Too Low, His Praises  
There May Grow.

Let All The World In Every Corner Sing,  
My God And King!

Let All The World In Every Corner Sing,  
My God And King!

The Church With Psalms Must Shout,  
No Door Can Keep Them Out;  
But, Above All, The Heart Must Bear  
The Longest Part.

Let All The World In Every Corner Sing,  
My God And King!

The life and literary work of the English poet George Herbert (1593-1633) was concurrent with William and John Milton. Herbert received his education from and taught at Trinity College, Cambridge. John Wesley reaffirmed Herbert's most famous work, *The Temple* (1633), which was published shortly after Herbert's death.

"Let all the world in every corner sing" is from *The Temple*, and it appeared in the section "Christian Life" *The Temple* was a very popular work, published in thirteen editions between 1633 and 1679, a total of more 20,000 copies – an amazing publication run in the mid-seventeenth century!

King James I (1566-1625), who initiated the translation of the Bible popularly known as the "King James Version," respected Herbert and considered appointing him an ambassador. The King died before these hopes were fulfilled, so Herbert pursued his original career plans. Herbert was ordained in 1626.

In 1960, hymnologist Erik Routley (1917-1982) set the text of this hymn to its present tune 'Augustine'. It was first published in *Hymns for Church and School* (1964). Routley said, "The present tune happens to be the only one in circulation which preserves the original form of the text

In this hurting, broken world, the church cannot stop proclaiming the good news. People need to hear about Christ and the Christian life. People all over the world, as well as those in our own neighbourhoods, are yearning for hope and healing. It is the message of reconciliation, grace, hope, and Resurrection that we have to offer them. People all over the world need to hear the gospel message. May all the world "in every corner sing"!

## Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



Heavenly Father look in love on our friends and neighbours. Keep them from harm; bless them in all good things; give them your gifts of kindness and gentleness. Enfold our whole community, friends and strangers, in the peace that only you can give. And give us the wisdom to see your image in the eyes of everyone we meet, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

### September 2023

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Children preparing for the new term at school
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Natalie Heaton, our new Family Youth Worker, and the work she hopes to achieve
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Children in third world countries who need medical help in order to survive
- 4<sup>th</sup> The United Nations and peace-keeping forces
- 5<sup>th</sup> All who are confused in a world of multi-choice
- 6<sup>th</sup> That world leaders may set good examples
- 7<sup>th</sup> All who work in dangerous or hostile environments
- 8<sup>th</sup> Children taken into care and those left at risk
- 9<sup>th</sup> All whose sight and hearing are failing
- 10<sup>th</sup> God's presence in our homes
- 11<sup>th</sup> All missionaries both at home and abroad
- 12<sup>th</sup> The Pope and fellow Christians in the Roman Catholic Church
- 13<sup>th</sup> The fellowship experienced in our four churches
- 14<sup>th</sup> Integrity and fair dealing in world trade
- 15<sup>th</sup> The work of charitable organisations in helping those in need
- 16<sup>th</sup> Local singers and musicians
- 17<sup>th</sup> Our churchwardens and members of the PCC
- 18<sup>th</sup> The work of the Children's Society
- 19<sup>th</sup> People we know who are ill, or in pain, and are awaiting treatment
- 20<sup>th</sup> Peace throughout the world, especially in Ukraine
- 21<sup>st</sup> Members of St Mary's Church Choir and Michael Porter, their choirmaster
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Those still suffering from the effects of coronavirus
- 23<sup>rd</sup> People who receive Holy Communion at home because they are housebound
- 24<sup>th</sup> Those responsible for opening and closing our four churches each day.
- 25<sup>th</sup> For the selfless adults and children who have raised funds for charities this year
- 26<sup>th</sup> Funeral directors and the work they do in helping the bereaved
- 27<sup>th</sup> The PCC Meeting being held in St Catherine's Church Hall this evening at 7pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> Those who are finding life difficult because of the cost of living crisis.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Children of the parish who want to know more about Jesus and His work
- 30<sup>th</sup> Good harvests so that the hungry, because of famine, can be fed

## Services September/October 2023

|                                                   |             |                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> September<br><b>(Trinity 13)</b>  | 9.30am      | Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)              |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)                |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Catherine's Morning Prayer CW)            |
|                                                   | 3.15pm      | St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)              |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> September<br><b>(Trinity 14)</b> | 9.30am      | Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)              |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)               |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Catherine's Holy Communion                |
|                                                   | 3.15pm      | St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)              |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> September<br><b>(Trinity 15)</b> | 9.30am      | Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)              |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)                |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Catherine's All-Age Service (CW)          |
|                                                   | 3.15pm      | St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)              |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> September<br><b>(Trinity 16)</b> | <b>11am</b> | <b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b> |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> October<br><b>(Trinity 17)</b>    | 9.30am      | Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)              |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)                |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)           |
|                                                   | 3.15pm      | St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)              |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> October<br><b>(Trinity 18)</b>    | <b>11am</b> | <b>St Mary's Joint Harvest Festival</b>      |
|                                                   | 3.15pm      | St Peter's Harvest & Holy Communion (BCP)    |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> October<br><b>(Trinity 19)</b>   | 9.30am      | Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)              |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)                |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Catherine's All-Age Service (CW)          |
|                                                   | 3.15pm      | St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)              |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> October<br><b>(Trinity 20)</b>   | 9.30am      | Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)              |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)                |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)           |
|                                                   | 3.15pm      | St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)              |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> October<br><b>(Trinity 21)</b>   | 9.30am      | Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)              |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)                |
|                                                   | 11am        | St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)           |
|                                                   | 3.15pm      | St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)              |

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

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

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

**St Mary's Hall Bookings:**

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**St Catherine's Hall Bookings:**

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

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Ballafesson, Port Erin

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*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:**

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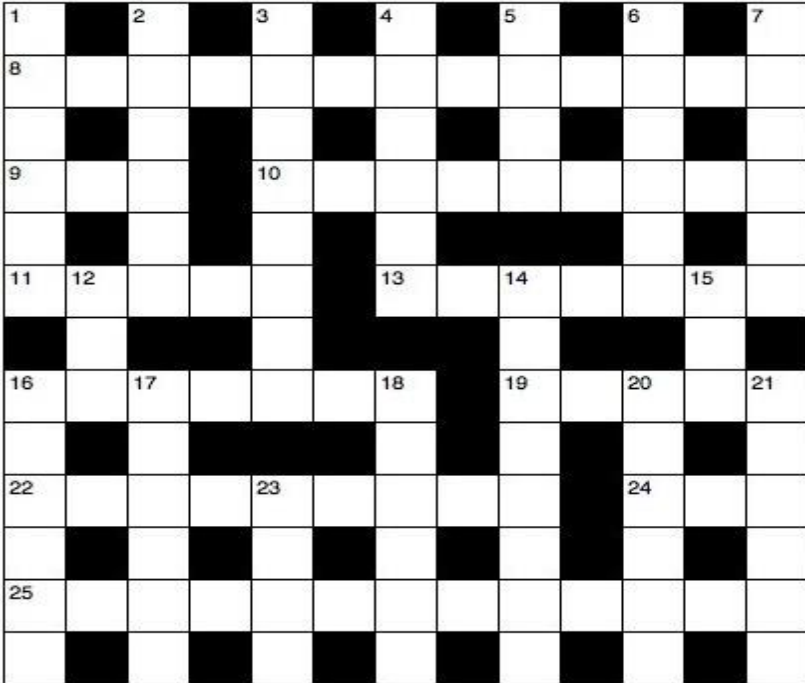
**Churchyard Enquiries:**

Please contact Mr Harry Dawson: 478050/835770

or Mr G Callister: 474924/834627



# Crossword September 2023



**Across**

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have —' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 & 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the —' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

**Down**

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across

- 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus —' (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)