



October  
2023

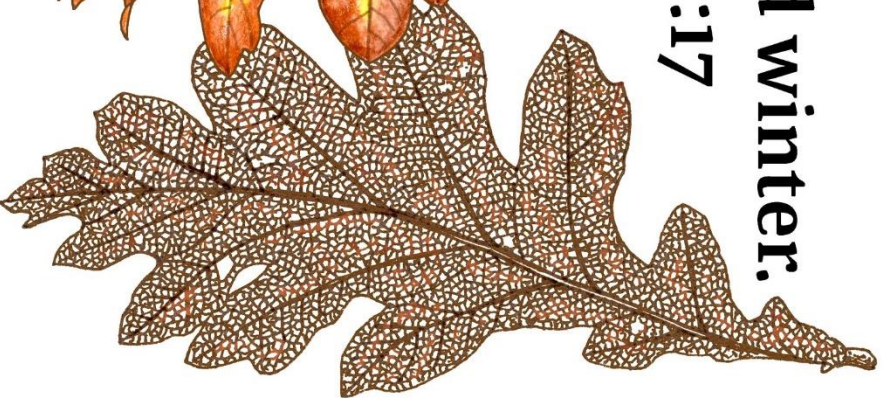
# Rushen Parish Magazine

**You made summer...**

**and winter.**

**Ps 74:17**

**You designed and made the  
earth,**



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## *From the Editor*

Have you ever considered that the choices we make potentially change the world forever? This is the same with everyone on Earth, and yet most of us never think about it. When Jesus chose His disciples the action He took had a huge impact on the way that our lives, and those of our forefathers, have been affected. It's almost like a footballer during a match, choosing to pass the ball to a member of his team instead of another. His action will certainly have had a bearing on what happens next, especially if he could have passed to someone else who would probably have scored a goal! The choices we make are immense, especially as they will influence our future and those of others.

I was in school recently and asked one of the children to show me his work. It was about particular animals and how their lives are affected by the choices we make. He had chosen the killer whale and how it survives in the habitat in which it lives, how man has changed that environment, and what we must now do to protect the species. His answers were excellent, although the one which showed the most compassion was ensuring that the animal had a future and would never be extinct. I asked him why he was so concerned about this and he answered by saying that if everyone made the right choice to protect the killer whale, and not hunt for it for food, it would be able to live normally, free from those who choose to harm it. He was so right.

What is wrong with the world? Why are so many people, and dare I say children, content in being cruel to animals and to their fellow men? My answer is simply because of choices made in the past, and how they have moulded their lives. I am aware that there are always going to be misfits in society whose intent is to cause others harm or pain. There seem to be many of them who choose this path of life which, to all intents and purposes, will end up being their downfall. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone followed the life of Jesus and lived their lives in peace and harmony, all because they pursued the right pathway?

In the book of Isaiah, Chapter 30 Verses 19-21, we read, *"How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, 'This is the way, walk in it'."* Life is full of choices and we are all faced with them. Sometimes we will make the wrong decision and at other times the right one. Whatever we do we should listen to the voice and walk the way chosen for us just as Jesus did. What an example He was to follow!

**David**



# Natalie's Family and Youth Ministry Adventures in Rushen Parish

## Hello Rushen Parish

I'm excited to share the highlights of my recent journey in family and youth ministry with you. First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for your support and prayers, which have been such a blessing.



## Our Vibrant Youth Group Takes Flight

The word is out—Rushen Parish now has its very own youth group! Our first session, at the beautiful St. Mary's Church, was a resounding success. We had a blast playing games, bonding, and indulging in some delicious snacks (courtesy of my lucky win at the Lady's Working Party coffee morning raffle, thanks to the organisers). It's heartening to see a mix of familiar faces from our parish and new faces I met during Beach Mission come together in the spirit of fellowship and faith.

## Castle Rushen Christian Union

With the school year in full swing, I enthusiastically joined the Castle Rushen Christian Union, a hub for spiritual growth within the school community. Led by SUMT, our initial meeting brimmed with the enthusiasm and curiosity of young minds eager to make the most of their time together.



## Serving at Scoill Phurt le Moirrey

My connection with the local community continues to deepen. I've been privileged to work with students in years 3 through 6 during staff planning time at Scoill Phurt le Moirrey. It's heartwarming to be recognised by some of these young faces from our time at Beach Mission, showcasing the lasting impact we've had.

## Building Strong Ties with the Rushen Parish Family

One of the highlights of this journey has been getting to know the members of the Rushen Parish church family better. Attending various events and groups has allowed me to forge stronger connections within this warm and welcoming community.



Looking ahead, I'm filled with anticipation for what's to come. There is incredible promise and potential on the horizon, and together, we will continue to nurture faith, foster fellowship, and create cherished memories for the families and young people in our beloved community.

**May God Bless You All - Natalie**

## Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



We were delighted to welcome to our fundraising coffee morning on 15<sup>th</sup> September, Megan Faragher, manager at Crossroads, and Billie Hall, Young Carers Lead. They gave us an interesting insight into the work they do with Young Carers aged 5-18 here on the island and answered many questions from the floor. The number of young carers on island altogether is over 1,000 and they currently have 130 on their regular sessions, with an additional 120 on their waiting list.

Caring can affect a child's health, social life and future opportunities. Young carers can struggle to juggle their education and caring responsibilities.

The Young Carers project aims to allow young people to make the most of their childhood and to give them the opportunity to meet with other young carers who understand what they are going through. Activity trips are run on and off island to provide regular breaks away from their responsibilities, and today we donated our unsold cakes to the children's afternoon club. The money we have raised at this event is planned to go towards the children's Christmas activities.

Although our numbers were down due to the miserable weather, those able to come were extremely supportive, and we would like to thank them, all the people who helped on the day, and those who made donations and contributed items for the stalls. It was a lovely morning **inside** the hall and so far, we have raised £700!

We are now back to our routine after the summer break. It is such a pleasure to meet in our beautifully refurbished church. If any members of Rushen Parish would like to join us, we meet in St Mary's Church at 2.15pm every Tuesday. We offer prayers for the people we know who are in need of comfort and support and drink tea whilst discussing future plans, which, at the moment are focussing on Harvest.

**Lesley Scott and Pat Thomson**

### ***Don't mention it!***

*As part of his annual talk to our local Town Council, our minister told some funny stories. Since he planned to use the same anecdotes at the forthcoming Harvest Dinner at church, he asked the young reporter covering the event not to include them in his report.*

*Reading the newspaper on the following morning, he noticed that the well-meaning reporter had ended his story on the banquet with the observation "The minister told a number of stories that cannot be published."*

## Spiritual Disciplines: Worship



### Spiritual Discipline Worship

*Editor: We continue this year-long series on the Spiritual Disciplines.*

*'Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.'* (John 4: 23).

The spiritual discipline of worship has both a personal and corporate dimension. It includes worship services as well as day-to-day activities. God is actively seeking worshippers (John 4:23) and worship is a response to our experience of God's love. The main words used of worship in the Bible have the sense of *submission* and *service*. They remind us that our lives need to be shaped by worship *on a daily basis*.

There are different ways into worship: practising stillness, offering praise (Psalm 95) and offering the whole of our lives as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1). Worship is an act of the will; we choose to honour and please God. Depending on our circumstances, worshipping God requires effort on our part. However, entering into worship is to be transformed by His presence into the likeness of Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Richard Foster in *Celebration of Discipline* offers some helpful ways in which to engage with worship on a daily basis:

*Learn to practise the presence of God daily* by punctuating every moment with praise and adoration.

*Have different experiences of worship*, both in large and small gatherings (i.e., small group)

*Be prepared for gathered worship* in heart and mind.

*Be willing to let our worship transform* our thinking and practice as God meets us.

*Cultivate holy dependence* on God for everything in our lives, looking forward to all God wants to do.

*Learn to offer a sacrifice of worship*, however we are feeling!

*'Now the worship is over, let the service begin'* (Bishop Michael Marshall, closing a service)

**Canon Paul Hardingham**

## News from St Mary's Sunday School



Following a very enjoyable summer break, the Sunday School started back again at the beginning of September, in time to prepare for our first all-age service at St Mary's since the re-ordering. It was lovely to be back in church with everybody at the start of the service before going into the hall for our lesson. Our new parish family and youth worker Natalie Heaton joined us for the first time, and we started to get to know each other.



In preparation for the all-age service, our session focused on relationships and how we react when others aren't nice to us. We used old-fashioned scales and stones to visualise the effect of mean words and actions. Every time we retaliate with a mean word or action, the scales tilt to one side and never balance again, i.e. the argument goes on and on. We agreed that it's best not to react to mean words/actions, but to rise above it, try to talk about the problem, offer forgiveness and seek reconciliation. We can't control what others say or do to us, but we can choose our response - and we can ask for God's help! We also built a bridge out of lego to illustrate that it's better to build bridges and make up with people than to not get on with each other. To help us remember, we made lollipop and playdoh friends, as well as a display showing how friends love and forgive each other in various situations.

In our all-age service with Rev Ginny Viner, the Sunday School led the congregation in singing 'Goodbye Grumpy Feelings,' a very fitting song for the theme! Megan read the epistle and Thomas the gospel reading; Laura, Margot and Evan read prayers - Evan read for the first time and did ever so well! We enjoyed Ginny's illustration of making relationships work - trying to fix a stuck stapler - not with a hammer or a sharp knife, but with a gentle touch and a few drops of warm oil (or a spray of WD-40 in our case!). The younger children also enjoyed using the fixed stapler to make a people paper chain. Many thanks to everybody who contributed to this service and to the ladies for serving refreshments afterwards.

We are now looking forward to meeting again at the beginning of October to prepare for the joint Harvest Service at St Mary's.

With Love and Blessings

**Claudia**

## Pre-Christmas Quiz

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in St Catherine's Church Hall 7pm**

**Fish or Sausage & Chip Supper**

**Keep looking in Rushen News and the Parish Magazine  
for the next few weeks for further details**



## News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



### Kirk Christ

On 11<sup>th</sup> September the Mothers' Union held its annual opening communion service for the coming year. There were twenty five members present at the service during which the Rev. Ginny Viner became a member herself. It was a lovely service led by the Rev. Roger Harper. We now look forward to the final visit to the parish by Bishop Peter on 24<sup>th</sup> September prior to his retirement on 28<sup>th</sup> October. I'm sure that you will want to offer your thanks for his service and dedication to the Diocese.

### St Catherine's Church

St Catherine's summer concerts have been well attended throughout this year's concerts. During August we welcomed Natalie Heaton, the parish Youth and Family Worker, to our services. I'm sure that you will all want to wish her every success in working with and encouraging younger folk to join us in our worship and activities. We now look forward to the Joint Harvest Festival Service when the congregations of Kirk Christ and St Catherine's join with St Mary's congregation at its church. With God's Blessing.

### Gerry Callister

## HARVEST FESTIVALS

Rejoice! These festivals still exist,  
In such a troubled World as this.  
From farm and shop, garden and sea –  
Provision is there for you and me,  
See now the best all on display;  
Grateful thanks our hearts convey.

Come! Wonder anew at His goodness.  
Distribute to those in distress;  
The lonely, sick and the homeless –  
Those without funds and redress.  
With food and blooms from nature's store,  
Witness to the Lord once more.

Listen! one more festival beckons,  
'Tis the great harvest of our souls –  
When the Lord will welcome His own;  
When the final scroll unrolls.  
Hail! To that harvest gathered in –  
Free from sorrow pain and sin.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good,  
for at the time we will reap a harvest."  
Galatians 6:9 (N.I.V.S).*



Margaret Couper



**Sudoku October 2023**

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

***What would Jesus do?***

*While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookstore, a man in front of me asked the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stands for 'What would Jesus do?', and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions.*

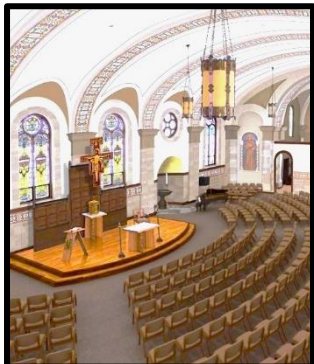
*The man pondered a moment, then replied, "I don't think He'd pay £17.99 for that hat."*

**September Sudoku Solution**

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

**September Crossword Solution**

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



## Reflecting Faith – Seating in churches

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

In many 'old' churches and cathedrals today the original wooden seats or pews have been completely removed. They have been replaced by moveable chairs, to enable the space to become very flexible. In this way concerts and exhibitions can more easily take place.

But where does the priest or worship leader sit?

Often there will be a special chair or 'stall' set aside for them. In older churches, you may find as many as three.

The first is a 'prayer stall' between the choir stalls and the nave. From here the priest will conduct the majority of the first section of the Sunday service, and during the week will use this stall for their morning and evening public office.

There is likely to be also a chair for them in the sanctuary, and in older church buildings you will see in the chancel area some seats (sedilia) set into the wall. Depending on the size of the original parish, these vary from being a single plain seat for the priest alone to something quite ornate: seating up to four people. They even come stepped, so that the people are sitting at different heights.

In medieval times, during Mass, the priest was the celebrant, the deacon read the Gospel and the sub-deacon read the Epistle. They would be seated in the sedilia while the Creed and Gloria were being sung, giving them a time of rest during a long ceremony.

Where the seats are at different heights, the priest would have sat on the highest one, nearest the altar. Later when Chantry endowments provided some churches with several clergy in full orders, the seats were all made at one level. Where there are four seats, the last would have been for the clerk.

In many churches nowadays, you have to look very carefully for these seats, as over time they have been rearranged, and sometimes even the floor around them has been raised so they no longer look like seats.

More modern churches also need somewhere for the priests and deacons to sit, and often you will find very fine chairs placed near the altar for them.

*This month:* What happens when the bishop comes to your church? Where does s/he sit? How do you know? What does the formality or informality of these chairs say about the way your church thinks about these roles?

## As Halloween approaches...



Have you ever wondered what a Christian is to make of the unseen world of evil and the occult? Where do evil spirits come from, anyway?

The Bible takes the unseen world of evil spirits very seriously indeed. It tells us clearly that evil spirits were once part of the created angelic order (Genesis 6). They were not created as evil beings, for all of God's original creation was good (Genesis 3:1). The Bible relates how a number of angels, headed by Satan, or Lucifer, rebelled against God's authority and fell (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19).

Satan, who disguised himself as the serpent in Eden, is leader of the fallen angels, and opposes himself to God. But evil and good are not co-equal! Thus, the idea of 'dualism' (belief in the equal and permanent existence of evil alongside the good) has no place in the Bible. Unlike goodness, evil has a beginning and an end. Satan's final destruction is already assured (Revelation 12:12; 20:10).

So, what is the world of the occult, then? The word 'occult' comes from the Latin: *occultus*, 'secret', 'hidden', and is our intrusion into the forbidden territory of superstition, fortune telling, magic and spiritism. Its downfall one day has been promised to us through Jesus. His early ministry established a bridgehead against the evil unseen world: no wonder the hostile, and sometimes violent, reaction of the demons! (Mark 1:23-27; 32-34).

But Jesus had no fear of demons, and neither should you, if you are a Christian. Further, it is important not to become obsessed with the unseen world – don't let it intimidate or fascinate you. Occult films can have deeply disturbing after-effects on people. Avoid them. A Christian has better things to think about.

While the occult world is certainly there, we are wise not to imagine, as some do, that every sin we commit, every bad habit, illness or misfortune we meet is due directly to an attack on us by Satan himself, and that therefore we need to be 'exorcised'. Terrible damage has been done in this regard by Christians who mean well but who are uninformed.

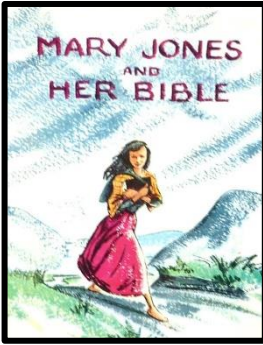
The kingdom of spirits is real, but so too is Christ's authority. Before Christ, the spirits shrink and retreat. Magic spells and charms have no power over the true Christian (provided we do not open ourselves to their influence) for "the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

If ever you are frightened by anything occult, remember some sound biblical advice: resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7). But remember, a Christian has no business dealing in anything occult. All occultism is to be ruthlessly shunned (eg Leviticus 19:31; 20:6; 1 Samuel 28; 1 Chronicles 10:13; Isaiah 8:19,20; Acts 19:18-20.)

The demonic world is very real, very powerful, but it is also already doomed and defeated. (Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14,15). Why? Because the death of Jesus Christ has achieved this victory.

So – be confident in Christ, but not complacent in your everyday life. Satan's kingdom is alive and well in this present world, and it will still not admit its defeat at the Cross. The final destruction of all things occult will not come until the return of Christ.

## Bibles for all



*Editor: Lester Amann considers how the Bible Society was inspired to begin its work.*

Think for a moment about something you really want. How much would you spend to buy it? How far would you go to get it? Young Mary knew what she wanted. It took years before she could afford it. She was ready to walk 25 miles over mountainous terrain to get it. Mary just wanted a Bible.

Mary Jones lived in a small village in Wales at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. From an early age, Mary loved to hear stories from the Bible. Every Sunday she attended her local chapel and enjoyed listening to people reading from the Scriptures.

When Mary was only nine years old, she decided on the most important thing in her life. She wanted to read from her own Bible. Unfortunately, Bibles were hard to come by. They were expensive and Mary's parents couldn't afford to buy one. So, Mary decided to do odd jobs for people and earn enough money to buy a Bible.

Six years later, Mary had saved enough money for her special book. Although the nearest shop which sold Bibles was in Bala, 25 miles away, undaunted she set out on her long journey. In Bala, she discovered that the book shop had sold out of all the Bibles! We can only imagine how upset and disappointed she was.

When the bookseller, Thomas Charles, heard about her long walk and that she would return home empty handed, he gave her his Bible. Later, Thomas Charles wondered if there were other children (and adults) around the country who wanted a Bible but had problems getting one.

Soon after Mary's visit, Thomas Charles went to London. Here, he met influential people including William Wilberforce and shared with them the story of Mary Jones. From this meeting came a response to Mary's situation. On 7<sup>th</sup> March 1804 the *British and Foreign Bible Society* was formed. Its purpose was to provide Bibles throughout the world, in a language people could understand and at a price they could afford.

After this, other national societies were created and in 1946 the *United Bible Societies* was established to co-ordinate the work worldwide. Today, there are over 100 Bible Societies, working in nearly 200 countries. While they are busy with translation, production and distribution programmes, there are still countless numbers of people who do not have the Scriptures.

If we own a Bible, let's give thanks we have God's Word in our hands and, where possible, support a Bible Society with their valuable work.

## Bible Sunday – 29<sup>th</sup> October



*Editor: Bible Sunday is 29<sup>th</sup> October. Canon Paul Hardingham considers why Christians put such a high value on the Bible.*

At the recent Coronation the King was given a Bible with the words *'the most valuable thing that this world affords'*. As Bible Sunday is celebrated this month, let's ask why we should read the Bible?

The Bible isn't a single book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, it claims one authority - God Himself! *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men'*) and equips us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we read: *'when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth'* (John 16:13).

How should we read the Bible? Let's consider the following guidelines:

*Right time:* We need a regular routine, which will meet our needs. This will vary according to our circumstances: e.g., a mum at home with young children, somebody with a demanding job or a retired person.

*Right Place:* We need to find a space where we can be undisturbed (e.g. lounge, bedroom, train or kitchen).

*Right Version:* We need a version of the Bible which we can readily understand and use. A number of versions are available (e.g. NIV, The Message), as well as Bible apps we can access on our phone.

*Right Help:* Reading notes also help us to understand a passage and apply it to our lives.

Let's get reading!!

### **Chicken and pig**

*A chicken and a pig were walking by a church where a gala charity event was taking place. Getting caught up in the spirit of the fun, the chicken suggested to the pig that they each contribute to the meal. "Let's offer them ham and eggs!"*

*"Not so fast," said the pig. "For you, that's a contribution. For me, it's a total commitment."*

## All in the month of October



**150 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1873**, Edwin Landseer, artist and sculptor, died. Known for his animal paintings, and for his famous lion sculptures at the base of Nelson's Column in London.

**100 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 1923**, Nicholas Parsons, radio and TV game show host and actor was born. Best known for hosting *Just a Minute* and *Sale of the Century*. (Died 2020)

**90 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1933**, physicist Albert Einstein arrived in the USA as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

**80 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1943**, the Burma Railway was completed. The Japanese built it using Asian labourers and Allied prisoners-of-war, thousands of whom died. One of the railway bridges is the famous film *Bridge over the River Kwai*.

**75 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 1948**, the Morris Minor car was launched at the British Motor Show at Earl's Court in London. It cost £358.

**70 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 1953**, former US Secretary of State George Marshall was awarded the 1953 Nobel Peace Prize for engineering the Marshall Plan – a massive economic aid programme for Europe in the aftermath of WWII.

**65 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1958**, Michael Bond's children's book *A Bear Called Paddington* was published. It marked the debut appearance of Paddington Bear. **Also on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 1958**, the State Opening of the British Parliament was televised for the first time.

**60 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1963**, the term 'Beatlemania' first appeared in the Daily Mirror newspaper in the UK. It described the intense, frenzied reaction of fans of the Beatles.

**50 years ago, from 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 1973 to 17<sup>th</sup> Mar 1974**, the 1973 Oil Crisis took place. OPEC suspended oil exports to nations supporting Israel in the Yom Kippur War. It led to major shortages and rationing in the UK, USA, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Portugal, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and South Africa.

**40 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 1983**, Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity movement in Poland (and later President of Poland) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. **Also on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1983**, Microsoft Word 1.0 was released. It was the first version of the popular word processor, and Microsoft's first full-featured application.

**30 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1993**, South African leaders Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk, won the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end apartheid.

**25 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 1998**, David Trimble and John Hume won the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize for brokering the Northern Ireland peace accord.

**20 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2003**, Mother Teresa was beatified by Pope John Paul II and given the title Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. (She was canonised as Saint Teresa of Calcutta in 2016.)



## Loyalty

Editor: **Lester Amann** considers faithfulness

In Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland, stands Greyfriars Graveyard. In 1858 a faithful dog called Bobby followed the remains of his beloved master to this cemetery. Here the dog stayed on or near the graveside until his death, 14 years later.

This is a story about loyalty. More poignantly, many people have devoted themselves to others through all kinds of circumstances. It's amazing what some people have gone through in giving their lives to someone to ensure their comfort, safety, and well-being.

There are numerous examples of loyalty in the Bible. The widow Ruth refused to return home to Moab to be with her people. Instead, she committed herself to staying with her mother-in-law, Naomi, whatever happened.

The young David, many years before he became king, and Jonathan the son of King Saul promised to look out for each other no matter what ill befell them.

Moses was faithfully loyal to God. They spoke with each other as if they were friends! He served God endlessly despite the frustrations of leading a vast crowd of people through the desert for 40 years.

What about us? How loyal are we to God? A difficult question, when so much can sway our eyes, our minds, emotions and behaviour in a world that thinks it doesn't need a faithful and loving God to care for them! It's easy to be loyal when times are good, but a different thing when hardships surround us.

Do we ever feel uncomfortable singing hymns about courage, obedience and service? Some provoke a challenge. Do we *really* mean all the words we sing? Consider the popular hymn *Jesus I have promised to serve Thee to the end*. It is a stirring declaration of faith, with prayer requests that we be steadfast in all circumstances. While it is good to sing hymns about loyalty, we should also endeavour to work out what our commitment to God really entails.

Jesus made some testing statements about loyalty, and warned His hearers about weighing up the pros and cons before following Him. Jesus said 'Take up your cross'. This challenging phrase is the ultimate test of our devotion and dedication to Him.

Loyalty in all relationships is a joy to behold, but no loyalty is greater than our loyalty to the Lord. Fortunately, God knows our weaknesses and will always pick us up when we stumble and will forgive us when we fail. After all, Jesus is 100% loyal to us and promised "I will never leave you and never forsake you." Amen to that!

## From the Registers

### Funerals August 2023:

17 <sup>th</sup> August	Stewart Rigby	10.15am	Ashes	RBG
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Shirley Dixon	11am	Ashes	RBG
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Mary Tierney	11.15am	Burial	RBG
24 <sup>th</sup> August	Darren Latham	12 noon	Service	Crematorium/Ashes RBG
24 <sup>th</sup> August	Michael Cowin	2pm	Burial	RBG
29 <sup>th</sup> August	Dorothy Duffy	11.30am	Service	Kirk Christ/RBG

### Baptism August 2023:

13<sup>th</sup> August Millie Ava Wells 2pm St Mary's Church

### Weddings August 2023:

5<sup>th</sup> August 1.30pm Rebecca E Cunningham & David J Thomas St Catherine's Church  
 19<sup>th</sup> August 2.00pm Nichola C Allen & Gregory E M McAndry Kirk Christ  
 26<sup>th</sup> August 12.30pm Shannon A Collard & James P E Maguire Kirk Christ

## Salt

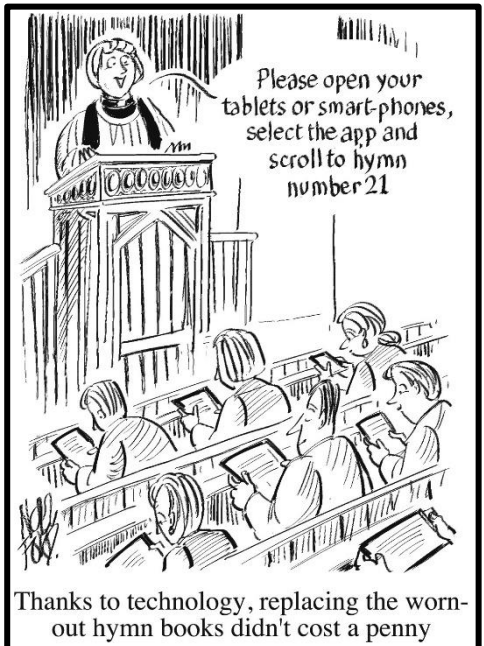
The Sunday School teacher was describing how when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom, she turned into a pillar of salt. Young James nodded with understanding. "My mum looked back once while she was driving," he observed, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

### 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)





## Rushen Mothers' Union



The Mothers' Union year started with a lovely communion service at Kirk Christ on the 11<sup>th</sup> September. Many thanks to Rev Roger Harper for taking our service, to Gerry for helping and to Pat and Peta for the readings. We reaffirmed our commitment to The Mothers' Union and the Branch Leader, Lesley Scott presented Ginny Viner with her badge and membership card as we welcomed her into our membership. Margaret Couper read her wonderful poem

celebrating the Rushen flower Festival and Jane Gunn included Mary Sumners' prayer in the closing prayers. The hymns were sung with gusto and the service was enjoyed by all. Afterwards we enjoyed tea with delicious scones and cakes provided by Iris, Jane and Sue Bould.

During the summer our indoor member Edythe Bridson celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mothers' Union President Rev Jeannette Harper visited her with a card from Mothers' Union Trustees and Council and personal good wishes. A card was also delivered from members of Rushen Mothers' Union.

Several of our members represented the Rushen Branch at the JMP Corporate Communion at Kirk Michael. Jane brought back the diaries and calendars that have been ordered, they will be available for collection at the October meeting.

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be chaired by Lesley Scott, on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm in St Catherine's Hall, when Karl Brew will speak to us about the charity 'Housing Matters'. Mothers' Union support has helped to provide essential equipment such as kettles and microwaves to those who have had to be rehoused. All are welcome to attend.

### Dates for your diaries:

**3rd October** - Onchan are celebrating 125 years and would love to see as many members as possible at St Peters Church, Onchan at 2pm for a Communion Service and refreshments.

**5<sup>th</sup> December** – MU Advent service at St Catherine's, Port Erin

**12<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Communion, 11.30 at Kirk Michael

**Lesley Scott**

## God and the Arts

### 'He gave us eyes to see them': 'Still Life with Lemons, Oranges and a Rose'

Artist

Francisco  
Zurbarán



With thanks  
to the  
Norton  
Simon  
Foundation

The weekday eucharist in a parish church, with only a handful of worshippers present, can be a great contrast to the bustle and liveliness of Sunday services. It can offer you a quiet time to focus on the gifts of bread and wine offered on the altar. This month's painting of 1633 is an opportunity to focus on the gifts that have been offered at the altar of *this* table, in 'Still Life with Lemons, Oranges and a Rose' by Francisco Zurbarán. He was a contemporary of the more famous Velázquez and worked in Seville until his death in 1664.

There is something quite special and evocative in the arrangement of fruits and flowers – two highly polished plates, one bearing the citrons (not lemons as the title tells us), the other a cup of water and a rose. In the centre there is a basket with oranges and orange blossom. Against the dark background we sense the cool tones of the plates and cup, and the warmth of fruits and flowers.

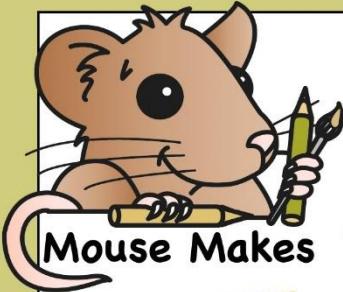
There is a curious balance and poise here, and some critics have suggested a Trinitarian allusion in the three groups so deliberately placed on the table. Others have pointed to the rose and water as symbols of our Lady, and the fruit and blossom as signs of the new life of Easter. A devout Spanish Catholic in the 17<sup>th</sup> century would have noticed these allusions, but they may be too fanciful, as X-rays have shown that Zurbarán painted out another plate which simply contained sweet, candied potatoes.

What he has portrayed is an allegory of the senses. We can almost smell the fragrance of orange blossom and the tanginess of the fruits. We want to reach out to touch and taste. But no, we must look and ponder the offering of these gifts for our delight, and simply give thanks for the artist who has shown us something of the sacramental beauty of creation in them.

### Parish Pump



# Children's Page



## Mouse Makes



### CONNECT THE BIBLE FOOD PAIRS

- |         |       |
|---------|-------|
| MANNA   | HONEY |
| OIL     | WINE  |
| WATER   | FISH  |
| LOCUSTS | QUAIL |
| LOAVES  | FLOUR |



What drink ran out at the wedding?

and what did Jesus use to make more?

John 2:3 and 7



What food did God supply for his people in the wilderness?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers 11:7-9 and 31

After Elijah came to visit, what never ran out?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_



1 Kings 17:14



What food did the ravens feed Elijah?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 17:6



What food did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 3:4

What did the boy give Jesus to feed 5,000 people?

Five \_\_\_\_\_

and two \_\_\_\_\_

John 6:9



### FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

NBO TIBMM OPU  
MJWF PO CSFBE  
BMPOF, CVU PO  
FWFSZ XPSE UIBU  
DPNFT GSPN UIF  
NPVUI PG HPE.

NBUUIFX 4:4



### DID YOU KNOW?

As Lot escaped Sodom with his family an angel told him not to stop or look back, but Lot's wife did look back and became a pillar of salt.



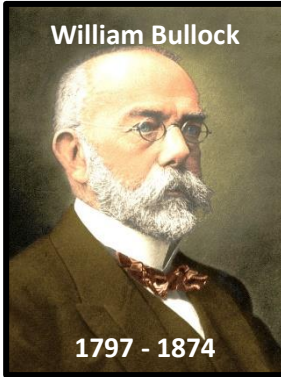
READ Genesis 19 v15-26

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

Find the words below and the answers to the questions all in the word search

- OLIVES • CHEESE
- FIGS • DATES
- MUSTARD
- RAISINS • WHEAT
- SALT • GRAIN
- FRUIT • GRAPES
- VEGETABLES

## The Story Behind the Hymn



# *We love the place, O God*

We love the place, O God,  
wherein thine honour dwells;  
the joy of thine abode  
all earthly joy excels.

We love the house of prayer,  
wherein thy servants meet;  
and thou, O Lord, art there  
thy chosen flock to greet.

We love the sacred font;  
for there the holy Dove  
to pour is ever wont  
his blessing from above.

We love thine altar, Lord;  
O what on earth so dear?  
for there, in faith adored,  
we find thy presence near.

We love the word of life,  
the word that tells of peace,  
of comfort in the strife,  
and joys that never cease.

We love to sing below  
for mercies freely given;  
but O, we long to know  
the triumph-song of heaven.

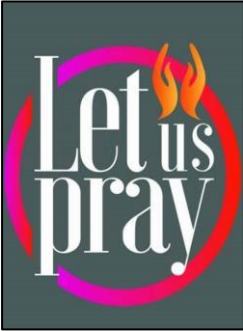
Lord Jesus, give us grace  
on earth to love thee more,  
in heaven to see thy face,  
and with thy saints adore.

William Bullock (1797-1874) was born into a family who were no strangers to the oceans. His father was an officer in the Royal Navy, and his brother rose to become an Admiral. Unsurprisingly William himself also took up the seafaring life and served as a lieutenant on a ship surveying the coast of Newfoundland, right on the eastern tip of Canada.

As he worked amongst the people of that land, he was dismayed by their lack of knowledge of Christianity. Not a man to leave to others what he could do himself, he immediately resigned his commission and took up the Great Commission of Christ: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20).

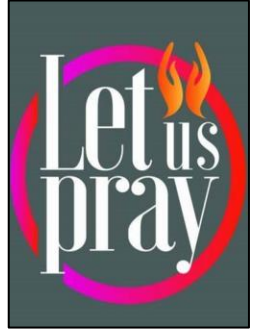
Bullock was ordained, and began his missionary work with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel at a place called Trinity Bay. With the help of some of the congregation, he built a small church. In 1827, as he was preparing for the consecration service, he dwelt on Psalm 26:8 "O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells". Inspired, he then wrote the hymn "We Love the Place, O God".

As you read the words, you'll notice that they - like the psalm - give the reason for the love: this is the place where God is at work. Places in themselves are simply places. What makes some more special is that over the years they have witnessed the work of God.



## Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

*Lord Jesus Christ, draw our hearts to yours with a love that is irresistible; unite our hearts to yours with a love that is immeasurable; and bind our hearts to yours with a love that is inseparable; now and for ever. Amen*



### October 2023

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> The new Youth Group which meets fortnightly in St Mary's Church Hall
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Rev. Joe Heaton, and those who minister to us in the Parish of Rushen
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Those who are housebound who would love to attend a church service today
- 4<sup>th</sup> The children who are affected when families break up
- 5<sup>th</sup> Those throughout the world still affected by the coronavirus pandemic
- 6<sup>th</sup> William Tyndale who translated the scriptures into English
- 7<sup>th</sup> Children attending Castle Rushen High School
- 8<sup>th</sup> Farmers and agricultural workers preparing for the winter ahead
- 9<sup>th</sup> Those people weighed down with debt who see no solution to their problems
- 10<sup>th</sup> Our local shops and businesses, and for those who work in them
- 11<sup>th</sup> The residents and staff of all the care homes in the Isle of Man
- 12<sup>th</sup> The ministry of healing for the sick and disabled
- 13<sup>th</sup> King Edward the Confessor and those who brought Christianity to our shores
- 14<sup>th</sup> All Saints, known or unknown, now in heaven
- 15<sup>th</sup> The many people who anxiously wait for news of sick relatives
- 16<sup>th</sup> Fishermen who work tirelessly to provide us with fish to eat
- 17<sup>th</sup> The work of all charities both at home and overseas
- 18<sup>th</sup> Luke the Evangelist, remembered for his healing, and whose day is celebrated today
- 19<sup>th</sup> Older people who need warmth as winter approaches
- 20<sup>th</sup> Employees throughout our country striving to meet their targets
- 21<sup>st</sup> People in prison seeking to improve their lives
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Christians around the world
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Preparations for Christmas in shops and other retail outlets.
- 24<sup>th</sup> The work of the Southern Mission Partnership
- 25<sup>th</sup> PCC committees and the valuable work they do for the parish behind the scenes
- 26<sup>th</sup> King Alfred the Great, whose day it is, and those baking cakes today!
- 27<sup>th</sup> Babies born today and the families into which they are born
- 28<sup>th</sup> Those who are persecuted for their faith
- 29<sup>th</sup> Artists, poets and musicians
- 30<sup>th</sup> Those who look after our churches and arrange the flowers week by week
- 31<sup>st</sup> Those who work in the hospitality industry

**Services October/November 2023**

1 <sup>st</sup> October <i>(Trinity 17)</i>	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 <i>(Trinity 18)</i>	<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 <i>(Trinity 19)</i>	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 <i>(Trinity 20)</i>	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 <i>(Trinity 21)</i>	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)
5 <sup>th</sup> November <i>(All Saints)</i>	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)
12 <sup>th</sup> November <i>(Remembrance)</i>	10.55am	St Catherine's Mary's Joint Service
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Civic Service</b>
	3.15pm	St Peter's Remembrance Service (BCP)
19 <sup>th</sup> November <i>(2 Before Advent)</i>	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)
<b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b> <i>(Christ the King)</i>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>

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....**

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

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**St Catherine's Hall Bookings:**

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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:**

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 October 2023

1		2			3		4		5		6		
7					8								
	9				10		11		12		13		14
15													
16													
17	18				19	20		21					
				22									23
24										25			
26							27						

### Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Ps 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 **and 8** ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

### Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)

- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)