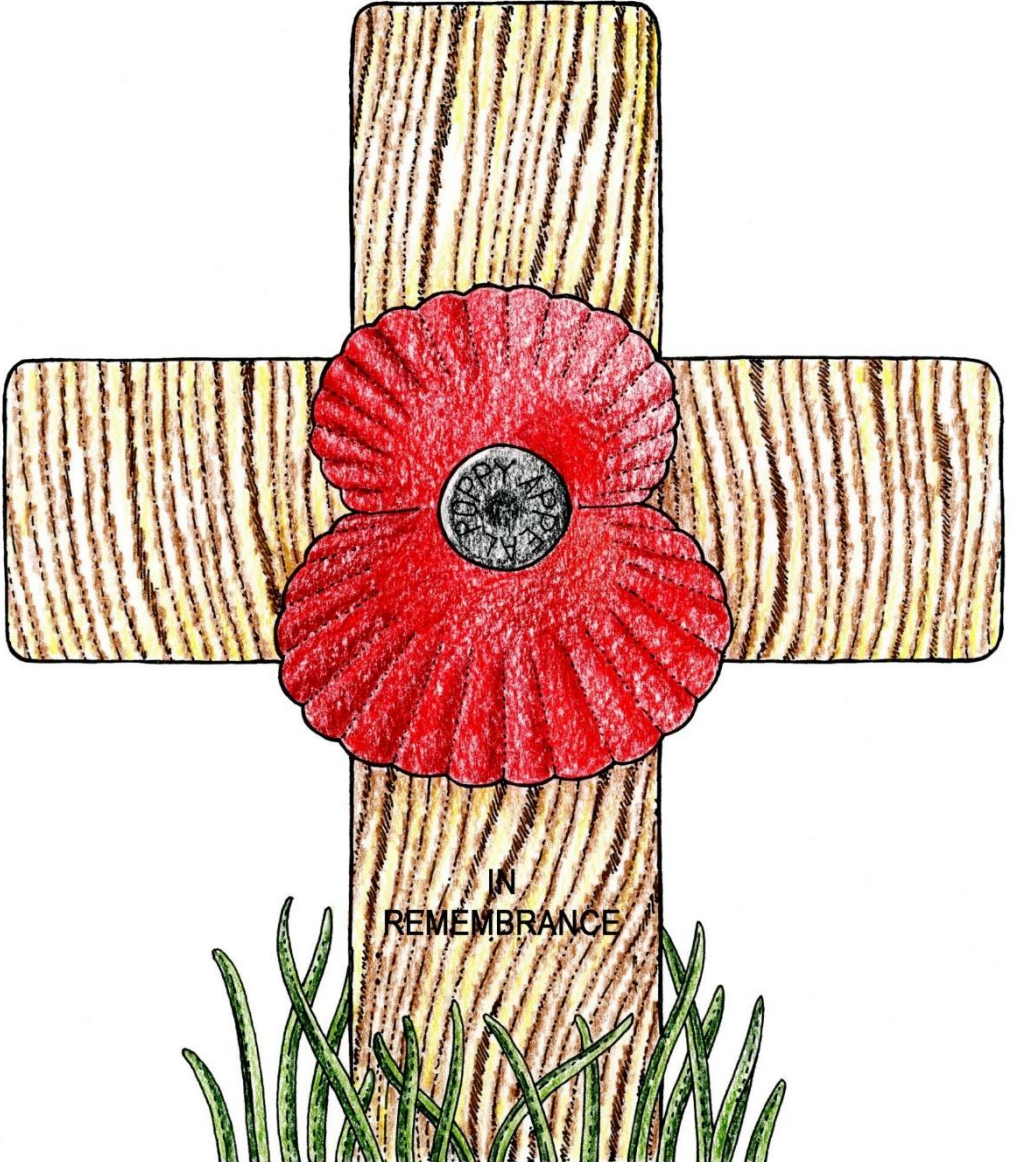


November 2023

# Rushen Parish Magazine



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## *From the Editor*

Once again we are at that time of the year when our thoughts are turned towards the loss of life of individuals who fought in the two world wars, and to those conflicts which have happened since. What many of the young men, who signed up to fight for our freedom, must have thought, must have been inconceivable. They had no idea of what was to come, or whether they would see their friends and families again. We owe them so much for the freedom we have today.

I was born in 1943, and although the war was still raging, it was probably towards the end of the second world war. Of course I knew nothing about it other than the things my parents told me after it had ended. Nevertheless the impact of the war could be seen in many of the places where bombs had been dropped and buildings flattened, or the remains of them which were visible for all to see. Quite honestly I had no idea of the turmoil that the war had caused, or that food was rationed, and that some families had not only lost their children but their livelihoods as well. I didn't even think that my parents had been affected because I lived in a secure home overlooking a park in Old Trafford, Manchester.

It wasn't until my mother died, and Pauline and I were tasked with emptying her home, that I found out about the role that my father played in the war. My mother had kept many artefacts and documents, including letters, in an old battered suitcase, which when opened yielded so many of the secrets that had obviously been kept from me. For medical reasons my father did not fight in Germany or beyond. He was enlisted to act as a war reserve in the police force, thus replacing regular policemen who had been sent abroad to fight. As well as the letters artefacts and documents there was a large leatherbound red book which seemed to include a record of the time my father spent as a war reserve. Some of the entries were horrifying and gruesome. They told of some of the atrocities undertaken by men who hadn't gone to war. I won't quote them in this article, but suffice to say, many of them involved innocent women and children who suffered the most horrifying crimes.

I like you am indebted to all those young men and women who fought so that our lives could be safe. Now that I know more about those who were also part of the war effort, like my father, I can see why we must also remember those who couldn't go to war, but played their part in it. On the 12<sup>th</sup> November I, like you, will pause to remember those who lost their lives, were maimed and confined to wheelchairs, lost limbs and couldn't lead a normal life, all because of people in high places not agreeing with one another. Perhaps one day, everybody can be friends with each other, and wars will be history, but there again I'm not so sure!

**David**

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

Hello Rushen Parish,

I am absolutely thrilled to share my last month with you in the Parish!

### Acts 29 - Because we are the next chapter

Let's dive right in and talk about the fantastic journey our youth group has been on. We have completed our first half term, and what a whirlwind of excitement it has been! From laughter filled games to the creation of our very own name, Acts 29, and countless Doritos devoured, this group is nothing short of amazing. What sets them apart is their enthusiasm and openness to all we do.



### Harvest Service - A harvest of new experiences

Let's not forget my first ever harvest service! What a delightful surprise it was, brimming with beautiful decor, heartfelt offerings, active family participation, and a strong sense of community coming together.



### Messy Church - A Messy, Magnificent experience

Messy Church has been an eye-opening adventure for me. The passion and dedication of the team are simply inspiring, and everything runs like a well-oiled machine. From creative crafts to engaging teaching and the scrumptious dinner at the end! What's even more special is the opportunity to connect with families who we might not have crossed paths with during our Sunday services. Witnessing this incredible outreach in action has been a true blessing.

As I look ahead, the excitement continues. We've got an upcoming youth group trip in the pipeline, where we'll be teaming up with a Douglas youth group, 3 Gen, for an epic Laser Blast game. And brace yourselves for the Christmas season preparations! A big shout out to all those who keep the ministry in their prayers and to our dedicated volunteers. Without the support of the Parish, this ministry would simply be impossible.

Wishing you all abundant blessings,

**Natalie Heaton**



## Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

Our weekly meetings always begin with a short service of readings and prayers, during which we pray for those in ill health, awaiting medical results or treatment, and in need of our love. Then we focus on how we can help our church and our community.

Following our very successful Coffee Morning, at which we raised £700 for Crossroads Young Carers, we were able to support another Manx charity. The unused bottles have been donated to The Inner Wheel Club of Rushen and Western Mann for use on the bottle stall at their Christmas Fair when money will be raised for The Manx Stroke Foundation.

Holidays and illness have taken their toll recently, but the ladies were still able to decorate St Mary's Church for the combined Harvest Service, and the church hall for the Faith lunch, both of which were lovely occasions and very well supported. Thank you to Iris and Jane and everyone who came to help. The flowers which beautifully decorated the church were taken down, made into 24 bouquets and distributed among members of the parish with our kind thoughts. We wish to thank Sally for her lovely display for the church porch, Stan and Pam Clucas for loaning us their fine collection of corn dollies and Mike Kewley for delivering our food items to the Foodbank. Claudia not only organised a delightful contribution to worship from the Sunday School, but also gave us much appreciated help the following day. Huge thanks must also go to Peter and Gerry who do so much for the parish and without whose help we would all be lost.

The reordering of St Mary's Church has resulted in a superb multi use space at the back of church and it is perfect for wee ones and parents to enjoy during services, for our weekly LWP meetings, refreshments after church services and perhaps also for other uses such as Mothers' Union meetings and those supporting charities such as The Leprosy Mission, which we hope to host in March 2024. We would like to make as much use of this space as possible, to the benefit of all.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us. Please come to St Mary's church at 2.15pm on Tuesdays or ring Lesley Scott on 832919.

**Pat Thomson**

### ***Thine***

*A Yorkshireman wanted an inscription on his wife's grave to read: 'She was Thine'. The engraver mistakenly put 'She was Thin'. The man wrote to explain that they had left off the 'e'. The next attempt read: 'E', She was Thin.'*

## St Mary's Sunday School



At the beginning of October we had a very busy Sunday School session to prepare for our joint Harvest Festival at St Mary's. To get us warmed up, we played the 'Beans' game, acting out being 'runner beans' or 'string beans', 'broad beans' or 'chili beans', and even 'jelly beans'! We also had fun trying to make the shape of a fruit or vegetable with our bodies! We then spent some time practising the Harvest Samba song, as well as the dramatised gospel reading and the Harvest Rainbow poem. To help us think about and give thanks for the wonderful gifts God blesses us with, we made some fun harvest creatures from a wide variety of fruit and vegetables - and we got to taste some of them, too!

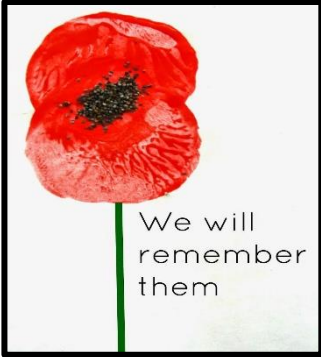
For our joint Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church was once again beautifully decorated with colourful displays of flowers and harvest produce, as well as a wide variety of tins and packets for the Foodbank. The service was led by our vicar Joe, together with Margaret Galloway - it was such a joy to see her 'back in action' after many months of illness. The Sunday School contributed to the service in many ways: Megan read the epistle from 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15, in which Paul encourages us all to be generous in our giving and sharing, with thankful hearts for God's gifts to us and His provision for our needs. With the help of some young (and some not so young) members from St Catherine's, we read out the Harvest Rainbow poem, showing fruit and vegetables in all colours of the rainbow and giving thanks for them. We then led the congregation in singing the 'Harvest Samba,' accompanied by Lukas on the mandolin, Peter on the small bongo drums and the children with maracas and tambourines. The Sunday School also acted out the gospel reading (Luke 12:16-30) and led the prayers of intercession.

Margaret started her talk by telling us all how much she loved Harvest and sharing her memory of a delicious marrow from her childhood. She quickly had all the children's attention when she got 2 large boxes of 'Celebrations' out of a bag. With reference to the parable of the rich man who decided to build bigger barns for his wealth (only to lose it all the same night when he died), Margaret got us all thinking about a better way to manage or steward our riches namely, to share with those in need. We thought about giving the boxes of Celebrations to the Foodbank, but decided that a whole box may be too much for one person or even one family and that it would benefit a lot more people if we shared out the contents of the boxes in small bags of about 5 chocolates each. The children very much enjoyed dividing up the chocolates, and were delighted when the bags ran out and there were still some chocolates left to share between them!

Following the service, we all went into the hall for fellowship and a delicious Faith Lunch! The next morning, the Southern hub of the Foodbank gratefully received all our gifts (including generous contributions from St Peter's congregation, who had their Harvest service at Cregneash). Members of the Ladies Working Party made all the flowers into bouquets to be taken to the sick and housebound, to let them know that they are not forgotten. Thank you very much to all who contributed in any way to make this Harvest Festival such a success - with special thanks to the LWP, Peter and Gerry!

**With love and blessings, Claudia**

## The poppies of Remembrance Sunday



In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

Remembrance Sunday this year falls on 12<sup>th</sup> November

### Parish Pump

#### ***Answered prayer***

*During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?" Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"*



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



On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September we welcomed Bishop Peter and his wife Gail to Kirk Christ for our monthly Joint Holy Communion Service. Bishop Peter presided and preached at the service. It was also a very special occasion as it would be his last service in the parish prior to his retirement as the Bishop of Sodor and Man on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023. At the conclusion of the service Mrs Jan Edwards presented Gail with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the parish congregations. Private gifts and cards were also passed to Bishop Peter during our time of fellowship and refreshments at the west end of the church.

This month Natalie, our Family Youth Worker has been worshipping with us and has got to know many of us. It has been lovely having Theo, her son, joining with some of our younger members. We have also enjoyed Mrs Margaret Galloway to talk to us at our All-Age services. She also preached at the Harvest All-Age service ay St Mary's Church on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**Gerry Callister**

***What are you doing on the evening of 17<sup>th</sup>  
November between 7 – 10pm?***

***I am hoping that your answer is, 'Nothing in  
Particular'***

***If this is the case why not come to the Parish Quiz?***

***I can promise an evening of fun and laughter.***

***All you need to do is join us with 3,4 or 5 of your  
friends to make up a table of quizzers.***

***There will be a Fish or Sausage and Chip Supper, as  
well as a Raffle, all for £12.50 per head.***

***Contact Gerry for more information on 474924***

***You won't regret it***



**Sudoku November 2023**

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

**Scare it**

*A man had the courage - but not always the skills - to tackle any home-repair project. For example, his garage was littered with the pieces of a lawn mower he had tried to fix. One day his wife found him in the living room, attacking the vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver. "I can't get this thing to cooperate!" he exclaimed His wife replied, "Why don't you just drag it out to the garage and show it what happened to the lawn mower?"*

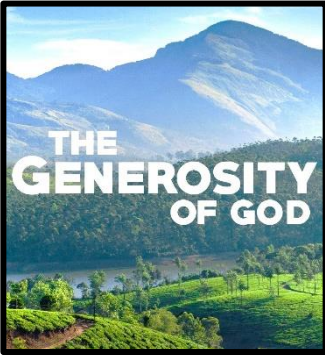
**October Sudoku Solution**

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

**October Crossword Solution**

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

## Spiritual Disciplines: Generosity



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

*'It is more blessed to give than to receive'* (Acts 20:35).

What does generosity look like for us? The practice of generosity is about more than finance, as we recognise that everything we possess belongs to God (Ps 24:1). We are stewards of all our resources, including time, possessions, gifts, as well as our love and compassion for others. God enables us to be generous, because of all that He has given us:

*'You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.'* (2 Cor 9:11).

Here are some practical ways of practising generosity:

*Give consistently:* Planning our financial giving ensures that it isn't an afterthought, but carefully considered (2 Cor 9:7). We can offer time to volunteer in church or in the wider community. We might open our home to others for a meal or coffee.

*Give spontaneously:* God often brings opportunities across our path where we can respond spontaneously. This might be prompted by a text from a friend in crisis or giving a neighbour a helping hand. Acting spontaneously reminds us that God is always working in and through us.

*Give sacrificially:* Being generous also involves making sacrifices with our time and priorities, as we help others, share our possessions, or use our gifts. How can we simplify our busy lives, in order to free up space to practise more life transforming generosity?

To engage in generosity is an invitation to experience more of God's provision in our lives:

*'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you'* (Luke 6:38).

### ***Did Noah fish?***

*A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"*

*"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"*

## Looking back on the 2023 Cricket Season



The 2023 cricket season ended on a jarring note. A widespread review of the game in England found it suffered from racism, sexism, elitism and class-based discrimination.

Older cricket fans will wince. They recall the days when each county side was divided into amateurs and professionals, called Gentlemen and Players. They had separate changing rooms. Gentlemen came from wealthy families, so didn't need the wages paid to the others. You could distinguish them on cricket scorecards, where Gentlemen's names were printed with their initials in front of their surnames, whereas Players' names were the other way round. The team captain was always an amateur.

For centuries, women have played cricket, using a smaller ball, but it wasn't until 1976 that they were allowed to play at Lords, where schoolboys from Eton and Harrow had played for years. Twenty five years later, Ebony Rainford-Brent became the first black woman to play for her country, and was subject to racist abuse. "As soon as I walked into the world of cricket the comments started", she said.

In the early days, a few Indian cricketers who were members of noble families, played for English counties and even for the national team. But by and large the game in England was played by white people. Class distinction was accepted without question. In church, they were still singing,

The rich man in his castle,  
The poor man at his gate;  
God made them, high or lowly  
And ordered their estate.

Although the Bible acknowledges distinctions between rich and poor, employers and workers, kings and their subjects, it gives priority to the poor and powerless, and places grave responsibility on those who are wealthy and wield power. No reference is made to their skin colour. Adam and Eve are presented as non-ethnic and non-national because they represent all people of all ethnicities.

One outstanding cricketer, who lived by these biblical themes, was David Sheppard. He captained England, both before and after he was ordained in the Church of England. He chose to minister only in the most downtrodden areas, wrote *Bias to the Poor* as part of his campaign for social justice and refused to play against South Africa when their team was controlled by apartheid. All sports need players of principle like him.

**The Venerable John Barton**



## Ten years on - minister reflects on terror attack that killed his mother

A minister whose mother and 19 relatives were murdered by terrorists a decade ago has told how he has resisted feelings of revenge and hatred.

The Revd Aftab Gohar said he found peace through the teachings of Jesus Christ, following a double suicide bomber attack at All Saints Church in Peshawar, Pakistan on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2013.

Worshippers had just left the building to join the fellowship meal on the lawn when two explosions ripped through the crowd, killing 122 people and injuring more than 250.

Among them was Mr Gohar's 79-year-old mother, his nieces, nephews, cousins, uncles, aunts and friends.

The minister of Eddlestone, Peebles Old Parish, and Stobo and Drumelzier churches in the Scottish Borders, said they "died for their faith" and that surviving family members still miss them terribly.

Founded in 1947, Pakistan's constitution gives every citizen 'the right to profess, practice, and propagate his religion'.

However, the official religion is Islam, and religious minorities are frequently attacked, with Pakistan's blasphemy laws being used to discriminate against non-Muslims.

Mr Gohar believes that the controversial law is used to justify attacks, such as a recent spate of church and house burnings in Jaranwala near Faisalabad.

Early this autumn, he and other campaigners handed over a petition to Syed Zahid Raza, Consul General of Pakistan for Scotland and Northern Ireland, at the Consulate of Pakistan in Glasgow.

It called on the government of Pakistan to improve safety for religious minorities and use the blasphemy law to punish those who desecrate Bibles and burn down churches and homes.

It was on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2013, when Mr Gohar was preparing to lead a church service, that he received a text message to say there had been a bombing in Pakistan and his mother and other relatives had died.

It was hard for me to forgive those responsible, but with the strength of God I did so and freed myself from the extra burden of hatred and revenge.

"On the cross, Jesus prayed for those who were crucifying Him: 'Forgive them Father, they don't know what they are doing.'

"Jesus said 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you' – a lesson that some people find impossible to follow."

Mr Gohar was inspired by the words of Corrie Ten Boom, a Dutch watchmaker who helped Jewish people escape the Nazis during the Holocaust. "She said 'forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuff of hatred,' added the minister. "It is a power that breaks chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness."

Mr Gohar grew up in Peshawar and was ordained into the Church of Pakistan in 1995. After studying in Edinburgh he served at Abbotsgrange Parish Church in Grangemouth until his move to the Scottish Borders last year. Mr Gohar and his wife Samina and their two grown up sons, Shahan, and Zeeshan, are now British citizens.

The Church of Scotland has an official partnership with the Church of Pakistan, which is marking the 10th anniversary of the atrocity.



## **Concern over the provision of RE in schools**

A group of cross-party peers, MPs and religious educators has criticised the lack of funding for the teaching of religious education (RE). It has called on the Government to address the crisis in teaching and recruitment.

There were 30 signatories to a letter to the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan. They described the current provision of RE as a 'postcode lottery', in which some children receive a well-taught religious education, while others receive "either a token RE, or none at all."

The letter went on to point out that half (51 per cent) of the RE lessons in secondary schools are currently being taught by non-specialist teachers. Pupils are now three times more likely to be taught RE by someone with no qualifications at all in the subject. And RE is on track to recruit only 44 per cent of its target by the end of the current recruitment year.

The group is concerned that students who do not receive good RE education "are consequently ill prepared to play their part in our complex religious and non-religious society, with all the opportunities created by its diversity."



## All in the month of November

**100 years ago: on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 1923** Christian Barnard, South African cardiac surgeon was born. He carried out the first successful human heart transplant in 1967. (Died 2001.) **Also on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 1923** that the eternal flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris was lit. It was the first modern-day eternal flame in Europe.

**80 years ago, from 28<sup>th</sup> Nov to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1943** the Tehran Conference in Iran was held.

US President Franklin D Roosevelt, British Prime minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Leader Joseph Stalin met to discuss plans for a second front against Nazi Germany. This led to the D-Day assault on Normandy and the Allied invasion of occupied Europe, starting in June 1944.

**75 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 1948** American-born British poet and playwright T S Eliot won the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature. **Also on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 1948** Charles, King of England, was born.

**60 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1963 US** President John F Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas by suspected gunman Lee Harvey Oswald. **Also on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1963** CS Lewis, Irish-born British novelist, literary critic and academic, died. Best known for this book on Christian apologetics, and the Chronicles of Narnia.

**Also on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 1963** the first episode of the science fiction television series Doctor Who was broadcast in the UK. It is the longest-running and most successful science fiction TV series in the world.

**50 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 1973** Britain declared a state of emergency as a strike by coal miners caused supplies to dwindle. A 3-Day Week was introduced to conserve supplies.

**40 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 1983** British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine announced that the first American Cruise missiles had arrived at Greenham Common airbase.

**30 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1993** the Maastricht Treaty came into effect, establishing the European Union. (EU).

**20 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2003** England won the Rugby World Cup for the first time.

**15 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2008** the first G20 Summit was held in Washington DC. It was established as a result of the 2008 financial crisis.

## Two Poems written by Nigel Beeton

### Christ the King

Christ is the King of all Creation  
He is the King of all the earth;  
Christ is the King of every nation  
Lord of life, and death, and birth

On God's right hand our King is seated  
Receiving praises for His worth!

He came from God to dwell with sinners  
Sinners, including you and I

We know, with Him, we'll be the winners  
Of life with Christ the King on High!

With all the angels we will praise Him  
Who died and rose in victory!

Christ the King will come in glory  
With trumpet blast – the glorious one!  
All people then will know His story  
All people bow before the Son!

No more death and no more sorrow  
His Kingdom here on earth shall come!

Crown Him our King – His vict'ry praising  
God of all gods, and King of kings  
Sing of His grace and love amazing  
He is the King above all things!

Through all Heav'n and earth all voices  
Our song of triumph ever rings!



### Spiders



On a chill November morning  
A spider's web, bedewed  
With the moisture of the dawning  
Will cheer our wint'ry mood.

'Tis one of nature's wonders  
'Tis lovely to behold  
Till a moth, unwary, blunders  
Into its sticky fold.

The spider's role is savage  
Its killing bite is sure.  
Sweet nature then will ravage  
'Tis red in tooth and claw.

Such goings-on we pardon,  
We do not moan or grouse  
If kept within the garden –  
But not inside the house!

For webs across the doorway  
Or underneath the bed  
Are pretty much a sure way  
To get *me* seeing red!

No house stays clean and tidy  
When spiders are about,  
Their webby messes spidery –  
You cannot help but shout!

I wish, to our eight-legged friends  
I could request, "Oh, please,  
"Just go outside, don't be a pest!"  
But I don't speak spider-ese.

## ***From the Registers***

### ***Funerals September 2023:***

6 <sup>th</sup> September	11.45am	Peter Brian Thomson	Service & Crematorium
19 <sup>th</sup> September	11.00am	James Roy Kermode	Service & Burial
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	11.00am	Eileen Parkin	Ashes Burial
27 <sup>th</sup> September	4.00pm	Derek Mark	Ashes Burial

Services held at Kirk Christ/Burials in Rushen Burial Ground

### ***Baptism September 2023***

3 <sup>rd</sup> September	3.15pm	Aalin Kelly Stephenson	St Peter's Church
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## ***Be a stained-glass window***

*People are like stained glass windows. We glow and sparkle when it is sunny and bright outside. But it is only when the sun goes down that our true beauty is revealed – and then only if there is a light deep within us – the light of God.*

## **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)



The vicar got a little carried away with the church's new state-of-the-art PA system



## Rushen Mothers' Union



The regular Mothers' Union meetings have started again with a very interesting talk from Karl Brew, the manager of Housing Matters. Housing Matters is currently helping more than 40 people in housing crisis on the Isle of Man. They provide advice, guidance and support. The Mothers Union on the Island have been donating kettles and toasters and, more recently, a microwave. Karl was extremely grateful for our support and explained that furniture, household items, duvets and pillows are always useful. More information can be found

on the Housing Matters Isle of Man Facebook page. Many thanks must go to Pat Thomson who gallantly stepped in at the last minute to chair the meeting and to Iris Mitchell for providing the music and choosing the hymns and also to Sue Bould for her lovely reading.

Of course, the meeting would not have been the same without refreshments and we are eternally grateful to all the ladies who provide them.

Branch leader Lesley Scott attended the MU Council meeting in September where a slight amendment was approved to allow the Trustees to function with fewer members. Karl was presented with the microwave and a lovely bouquet was given to Gail Eagles with thanks for her service to MU both as Diocesan President and as our Patron in the Isle of Man. Thanks were also given to Ruth Walker, who was absent because she was on retreat prior to her licencing.

The calendars and diaries which have been ordered will be available at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm in St Catherine's Hall, when the speaker will be Cheryl Cousins from 'We Care IOM'. All are welcome.

**Date for your diary:** Mother's Union Advent Service 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in St Catherine's Church.

**Lesley Scott**

### ***As for those signs found outside churches:***

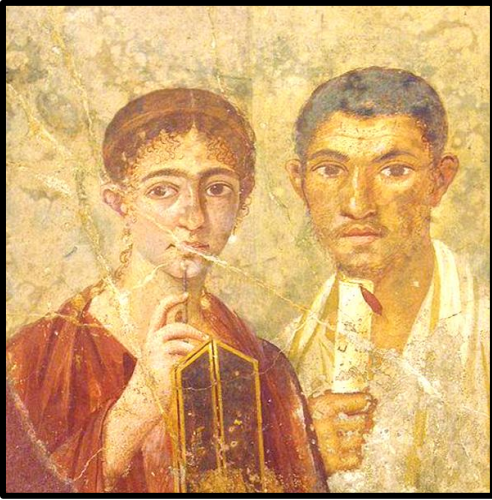
*Outside one church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: 'For fast relief, take two tablets.'*

*No God - No Peace. Know God - Know Peace.*

*Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!*

*Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!*

## God in the Arts



### ‘He gave us eyes to see them’ Wall painting of Pompeii

Editor: **Michael Burgess** continues his look at great works of art. You can see more images described by googling ‘wall paintings of Pompeii’. With thanks to Naples National Archaeological Museum. For allowing us to portray this Painting in our magazine

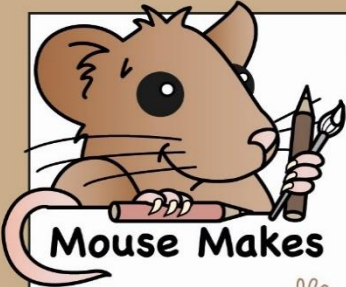
Each month we have explored how art celebrates the wonder of our world – the seasons, the elements, animals and fish, flowers and fruit. They manifest the glory of God the creator. Irenaeus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> century theologian, went further and wrote that ‘the glory of God is a living person.’ He was echoing Psalm 8: ‘What are human beings that you are mindful of them...you have crowned them and put all things under their feet.’ Yes, the universe teaches of God the creator, but in becoming one of us, the Son of God has put human beings above all Creation.

The nobility of that vision is captured in this 1<sup>st</sup> century wall painting from Pompeii showing Neo and his wife. They lived at a time when St Paul was preaching and the gospels were being written. We don’t know if those events made an impact on their lives. But we do know that St Paul was executed around AD67, and just twelve years later this couple were victims of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Their almond-shaped eyes are like windows into their souls. We sense the beauty, but also the fragility. They tell us that life is a gift to be cherished precisely because it is so easily taken from us. Neo’s intense eyes look at us, while his wife looks beyond into the distance. She has the eyes of hopes and dreams that were cruelly shattered by the volcano.

Living men and women, like this couple, are tokens of the wonder of creation, but they also tell us of the transience of that very gift of life. ‘Where can we place our hope?’ we ask ourselves. The feasts of All Saints and All Souls tell us that the end of life here is a door opening into a greater glory and a brighter light. There is wonder and beauty in life here, and with the eyes of faith we can look beyond to glimpse the wonder of eternity.

# Children's Page



"Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in every situation, by  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
with thanksgiving, present your  
\_\_\_\_\_ to God."

*Philippians 4:6-7 NIV*

"The \_\_\_\_\_

is \_\_\_\_\_

to all who \_\_\_\_\_

on him in \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalm 145:18*

"For where two or three \_\_\_\_\_

in my name, there  
I am with them."

*Matthew 18:20*

SAV SORRY    PRAY FOR OTHERS    PRAY FOR YOURSELF    THANK GOD    FOR MY FAMILY    PRAY FOR FRIENDS    PRAY FOR THE NEEDY    PRAY FOR THE SICK

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

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

**NIV**  
  
Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks then find them in the word search

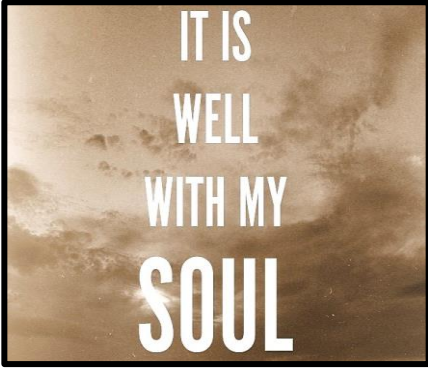
Find these words too:  
APPROACH  
MEDITATE  
HEAR • LISTEN  
BLESS • PRAISE  
FORGIVE • NAME  
CRY OUT • AMEN

" \_\_\_\_\_  
always, \_\_\_\_\_  
continually, \_\_\_\_\_  
in all circumstances."  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

"Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_  
your sins to one another and \_\_\_\_\_  
for one another,  
that you may be healed."  
*James 5:16*

" \_\_\_\_\_  
yourselves  
to prayer, being  
watchful and  
thankful."  
*Colossians 4:2*

## The Story Behind the Hymn



**1.** When peace like a river attendeth my way  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, Thy have taught me to say  
It is well, it is well with my soul

**2.** Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come  
Let this blest assurance control  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate  
And has shed His own blood for my soul

### **[Chorus]**

It is well (It is well)  
With my soul (With my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul

**3.** My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

### **[Chorus]**

**4.** And Lord haste the day, when my faith shall be sight  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend  
Even so, it is well with my soul

### **[Chorus]**

It is well (It is well)  
With my soul (With my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul

Horatio Gates Spafford was born in New York, on 20th October 1828, but it was in Chicago that he became well-known for his clear Christian testimony. He, and his wife Anna were active in their church, and their home was always open to visitors. They counted the world-famous evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, among their friends. They were blest with five children, and considerable wealth. Horatio was a lawyer, and owned a great deal of property in his home city.

Not unlike Job in the Old Testament of the Bible, tragedy came in great measure to this happy home. When four years old, their son, Horatio Jnr, died suddenly of scarlet fever. Then only a year later, in October 1871, a massive fire swept through downtown Chicago, devastating the city, including many properties owned by Horatio. That day, almost 300 people lost their lives, and around 100,000 were made homeless. Despite their own substantial financial loss, the Spafford's sought to demonstrate the love of Christ, by assisting those who were grief-stricken and in great need.

Two years later, in 1873, Spafford decided his family should take a holiday in England, knowing that his friend, the evangelist D. L. Moody, would be preaching there in the autumn. Horatio was delayed because of business, so he sent his family ahead: his wife and their four remaining children, all daughters, 11 year old Anna, 9 year old Margaret Lee, 5 year old Elizabeth, and 2 year old Tanetta.

On 22nd November 1873, while crossing the Atlantic on the steamship, Ville du Havre, their vessel was struck by an iron sailing ship. Two hundred and twenty six people lost their lives, as the Ville du Havre sank within only twelve minutes.

All four of Horatio Spafford's daughters perished, but remarkably Anna Spafford survived the tragedy. Those rescued, including Anna, who was found unconscious, floating on a plank of wood, subsequently arrived in Cardiff, South Wales. Upon arrival there, Anna immediately sent a telegram to her husband, which included the words "Saved alone..."

Receiving Anna's message, he set off at once to be reunited with his wife. One particular day, during the voyage, the captain summoned him to the bridge of the vessel. Pointing to his charts, he explained that they were then passing over the very spot where the Ville du Havre had sunk, and where his daughters had died. It is said that Spafford returned to his cabin and wrote the hymn "It is well with my soul" there and then, the first line of which is, "When peace like a river, attendeth my way.."

**Rushen Parish Prayer Diary**



*Help me to live each day, quietly,  
easily,  
To lean on your great strength  
Trustfully, restfully,  
To await the unfolding of Your will  
Patiently, joyously, To face tomorrow  
Confidently, courageously **Amen***

**November 2023**

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> All saints, known or unknown, now in heaven
- 2<sup>nd</sup> People we have known and loved, but no longer see
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Christians around the world
- 4<sup>th</sup> Those who intercede at our services throughout the parish
- 5<sup>th</sup> Safety for all those involved in firework and bonfire celebrations
- 6<sup>th</sup> Our congregations throughout Rushen meeting in fellowship and faith each Sunday
- 7<sup>th</sup> The work of the British Legion in preparation for Remembrance Sunday
- 8<sup>th</sup> Older people who need warmth as winter approaches
- 9<sup>th</sup> The refugees seeking better opportunities for themselves
- 10<sup>th</sup> Babies born today and the families into which they are born
- 11<sup>th</sup> The Armistice which is remembered today
- 12<sup>th</sup> The work of charities both at home and overseas
- 13<sup>th</sup> Those who died in two world wars and subsequent conflicts to give us freedom
- 14<sup>th</sup> The Ladies Working Party and the work it does for the parish
- 15<sup>th</sup> Couples who are preparing for marriage at some point in the future
- 16<sup>th</sup> Those who are ill, or in hospital, and the people who look after them
- 17<sup>th</sup> Our PCC Treasurer, Stephen Curtis, for maintaining the parish finances
- 18<sup>th</sup> Fishermen who risk their lives to provide us with food to eat
- 19<sup>th</sup> Those continuing to suffer the effects of Covid 19, or are still receiving treatment
- 20<sup>th</sup> Preparations for Christmas in shops and other retail outlets
- 21<sup>st</sup> The PCC meeting taking place in St Catherine’s Church Hall this evening
- 22<sup>nd</sup> People in prison seeking to improve their lives
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Preparations throughout the parish for our Christmas services
- 24<sup>th</sup> The importance of the Bible as a teaching aid for all Christians
- 25<sup>th</sup> People who are suffering hardship through loss of earnings
- 26<sup>th</sup> Christ the King – the last Sunday of the church year
- 27<sup>th</sup> Those recovering from operations, or medical procedures, at Noble’s Hospital
- 28<sup>th</sup> Children who are affected when families break up
- 29<sup>th</sup> Voluntary helpers in schools who give their time to help the children
- 30<sup>th</sup> Saint Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland, and brother of St Peter the Apostle

## Services November/December 2023

<b>5<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b><i>(All Saints)</i></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)
<b>12<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b><i>(Remembrance)</i></b>	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)
<b>19<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b><i>(2 Before Advent)</i></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)
<b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b><i>(Christ the King)</i></b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December</b> <b><i>(Advent 1)</i></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)
	4pm	St Catherine's Christingle Service
<b>5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	7pm	Mothers' Union Advent Service St Catherine's
<b>10<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b><i>(Advent 2)</i></b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b><i>(Advent 3)</i></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)
	6.30pm	Parish Carol Service at Kirk Christ
<b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b><i>(Advent 4)</i></b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b><i>(Christmas Day)</i></b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup> December</b> <b><i>(Christmas 1)</i></b>	<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....**

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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.*

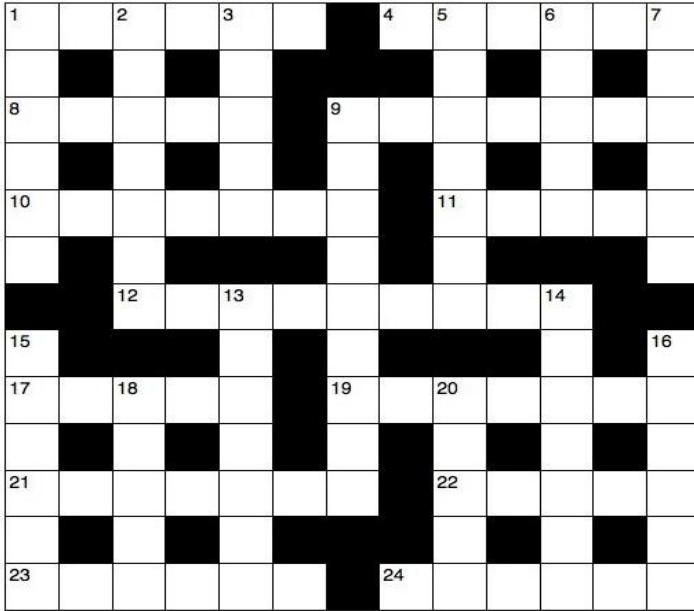
**Parish Director of Music:**

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 November 2023



### Across

- 1** 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when he had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4** 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8** Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9** Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10** Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11** A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12** A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17** 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19** Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelising it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21** Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22** 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23** 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24** Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

### Down

- 1** Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2** 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3** Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5** Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6** **and 16** Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7** A three (anag.) (6)
- 9** Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13** Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14** Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15** Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16** See 6 Down (6)
- 18** Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20** How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)