



January
2024

Rushen Parish Magazine



**In God alone my soul quietly rests,
for my hope comes from Him. Ps 62:5**

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From the Editor

Pauline and I attended teacher training colleges which were miles apart. She was trained at Bingley, Yorkshire, and I was trained in Warrington, Cheshire. It proved to be an enormous headache when seeing each other at weekends. We tried all sorts of ways to overcome the problem, none of which were particularly successful. In fact it must have taken us a year to fathom out the best and most economical way.

I was a keen cyclist and travelled everywhere in my spare time at college. I even used my bike to get from college to the schools where I was placed for teaching practice, and in some cases these were well over a distance of ten miles. Neither of us could drive, nor had any inclination to learn. However, we decided that every other weekend, on a Friday evening, I would ride my bike to Victoria Station in Manchester, store it, and then catch a train to Bradford, and from there by bus to Bingley. The return journey took place on a Sunday. On the alternative weekend Pauline would travel by bus and train to Manchester and I would meet her there, and she and I would either go home to her parents, or we would travel by train to Warrington and she would stay with me at the college. This arrangement was in place until we qualified and began our teaching careers. Of course there would be some weekends when we didn't see each other at all.

On one occasion, when I was cycling back to college from Manchester on a wet and windy evening, I began to feel unwell and panicked as to how I was going to get back to college. I was on the A57, a major route from Manchester to Warrington, and lorries were overtaking me with the drivers putting their own lives in danger, should they stop and try to help. Suddenly a couple of verses from Psalm 121 came into my head and I quoted them, softly to myself: *'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth'*.

I began to walk up the road with my bike and after about five minutes I saw a shop which appeared to be open. I called in to see if there was anything that might help and the shopkeeper suggested that I try a KitKat and a drink of orange which I did. I began to feel much better, so much so that I got on to my bike and rode to the college without a hitch.

Throughout my life I have tried to memorise famous quotations from the Bible. I'm not very good at it. I suppose I have read them over and over again and whilst I haven't always remembered them they must have been stored in my brain. I have often asked myself how on that cold and wet evening I remembered this particular quotation, which on that day, took me to safety, and shows that God always helps those in need if they just ask for it.

David

Reflecting God's Acre



Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on the meanings in church buildings.

I thought we'd spend a few months at the start of this New Year considering the outside of a church building, and the gardens around it.

For many churches this will include a churchyard, though not one, meaning that burials and interments no longer take place other than within an existing family grave. An 'open' churchyard is one where burials and interments are still able to take place.

The maintenance for open churchyards is the responsibility of the church, whilst once closed (which, for Church of England churches, has to be agreed by Parliament) the maintenance is passed to the local or parish civil council.

These days, with the many financial cutbacks, Councils often try to refuse to take on a churchyard. But as it is a statutory obligation, they have no choice, and many will simply reduce the number of grass-cutting sessions to fit their slimmed budget.

Churchyards have not always looked as they do today, with memorial stones of varying shapes and sizes. Originally, they were simply left grassed and in towns this became one of the few green areas. People were buried there without any permanent marker being placed, nor any other official record of placement kept.

The thinking was that their life here on earth had ended and the person was now with God in heaven. Only those people in 'God's kingdom' would be allowed to be buried in the consecrated grounds, so anyone who had taken their own life, or unbaptised babies, would not be allowed.

Church buildings are usually built facing east - the place of the rising sun - and the people's entrance is on the south wall. This gives access to the churchyard from the south, and in European countries that means your first experience of entering the churchyard and the building is on its sunny side.

It was common practise to bury to the south of the church, as this was the lighter and warmer side. The richer and more influential folk would request to go as near to the altar - the Holy of Holies - as possible; even if that was outside the building itself.

Over the course of time folk wanted - and richer folk could afford - a marker for where their loved one lay. This idea of having a permanent marker reflected the attitudes at the time, of visiting the place of rest specifically marked. Not just to know where to visit and even bring a picnic for the family on a good weather day, especially in working busy town areas; but also, to recognise the importance of their loved one's life.

This month try and visit a churchyard with very old memorials. Have a look at all the different materials, styles, wording and embellishments. What message do they give to you?



Women's Fellowship

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

As I look back over the past year , I can only applaud all the members of LWP , some who have been members for very, very many years and their mothers before them. I am thankful for their friendship, enthusiasm, concern for others in the church family and wider community, caring prayers, times of laughter and times of busyness that since joining them, I have been privileged to be a part of.

By the time you read this I expect the beautiful Christmas decorations the LWP so lovingly decked St Mary's with will have been packed away for next year and the church will return to normal , until Easter at least. Church Seasons come and go, and our members are always in planning mode for the next important date on which we can glorify God through our efforts. Fundraising is also an ongoing activity as we seek to support local charities and appeals, and also contribute to the parish as a whole. We are also active in Diocesan affairs when appropriate and have written individually to our MHK's regarding the Bishop's position in Tynwald.

At present we number 14-16 ladies who meet every Tuesday at 2-4pm in the Fellowship area in the back of St Mary's . In 2024 we would like to see this number increase with both church members and residents from the local community, new people that we hope to welcome into our Tuesday afternoon warm and friendly space.

Our members would like to thank Gerry and Peter for their unfailing help and support and David for making space to include our reports in the monthly Parish magazine during the past year . We also take this opportunity to wish our Vicar Joe , the members of PCC and every member of our Parish Family a bountiful, healthy, and blessed year ahead. May 2024 be all you hope for, as we thank Almighty God for all we are and all we have.

Rev Ginny Viner

New Year Prayer 2024

Lord, we stand on the threshold of a new year. Some of us are excited, some of us are fearful. We don't know what 2024 will bring, but we know that there will be ups and downs, joy and sadness mixed in with the months. As we step into this new year, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you; to know for certain that, whatever happens, you will be in it with us, not watching from the sidelines, but right in the middle of it with us. Help us to put our trust in what Jesus did on the cross, maybe for the first time, maybe as a New Year re-commitment, so that we will know that nothing can separate us from you. Let the storm rage, let the sun shine – we are safe! In the name of the risen, living Lord Jesus.

Amen.



How to keep those New Year Resolutions

We are full of good intentions at the start of each year. How come we fizzle out by February? Here are some tips to keep you going...

Be realistic. If you have a number of goals, do NOT attempt them all at once. Research has found that if you stagger your goals, you will have more success. So, for example, if this year you want to spend less money, do more exercise

and spend more time with your family, start one change this month, another in February, and start the third in March.

Be specific. For example, don't tell yourself: Lose weight. Decide exactly how much you want to lose. When do you want to lose it by? How will you do it? If you want more time with your family, how and when will you do that? The more exact you can be, the more likely you are to succeed.

Write it down. There's something about committing thoughts to paper that helps to cement your resolve. Why not start some sort of journal this year, to track your thoughts, your hopes, your goals – and your successes!

Tell other people. If you intend to do something, tell someone, and therefore you will feel more obliged to get going with it... your pride may keep you going when all else fails!

Focus on GAIN, not loss. Ever notice how many resolutions are about giving something up? Why not put it the other way round - instead of saying you will eat less, tell yourself you are headed for those skinny jeans....

Give yourself rewards. If you are quitting smoking or sweets, for example, put the money you would have spent in a jam jar, and treat yourself to something nice (and healthy) with it.

Break your resolution into steps. Some goals will take months to achieve. So – break each one down into tiny steps, and simply head for each step. Build in some time frames, to prevent you procrastinating.

Finally, don't let failure defeat you. You will make mistakes. But the secret is to simply get up again, and to keep going. Only if you stop are you *really* defeated. None of us are perfect, and the Bible encourages us to always start again.

News from St Mary's Sunday School



Since you will be reading this article in January 2024, may I start by wishing you all a very happy and blessed New Year!

At the time of writing, the season of Advent is drawing to a close and Christmas is nearly here! Towards the end of November, we spent some time in Sunday School reflecting upon the meaning of Advent, the time of waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ. We thought about small acts of kindness we could each do in Advent to help

others and to brighten up their day, eg phoning a relative, helping an elderly neighbour, donating items to the Foodbank and to charity shops, or even just giving somebody a smile. In early December, as well as preparing for our all-age service, we enjoyed doing a variety of nativity-based Christmas craft activities. The same afternoon we had our Parish Christingle service at St Catherine's in aid of The Children's Society (many thanks to everyone who helped to make the Christingles). It was lovely to see some new families who had attended our November Messy Church. As always, it was very special to have the dark church lit up by the light of the Christingle candles, as we reflected on Jesus being the Light of the World.

Our December all-age service on the 2nd Sunday in Advent was led by our vicar Joe and focused on John the Baptist pointing the way to Jesus. Joe referred to the Chronicles of Narnia and the parallels between Aslan and Jesus, eg the fact that they were both 'not safe, but good.' Jesus did not come into the world to 'play it safe' but to turn the world upside down and bring radical transformation to all who met him. The Sunday School contributed to the service with a dramatic reading of the gospel, prayers of intercession, and by leading the congregation in the song 'Prepare the Way of the Lord.' Many thanks to all who took part.

We finished the year with our annual Sunday School Christmas Party, enjoying fun games, especially charades and yet another of Margaret Moore's legendary Christmas story pass-the-parcels (thank you, Margaret!) - as well as lots of delicious party food!

We still have our Crib Service on Christmas Eve to look forward to and then a well-deserved rest for the school holidays, with one of our families travelling across to spend time with relatives in England. We pray that everybody has a wonderful time and look forward to meeting again in January.

With love and blessings

Claudia





News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



On 17th December the annual parish carol service was held at Kirk Christ. Michael Porter had been rehearsing with the choir which, when asked, sang beautifully. There was a good attendance. Once again the church itself looked beautiful with foliage and lit candles throughout. Many parishioners helped to co-ordinate the displays. Jan and Colin Edwards decorated the tree which looked resplendent with flashing lights and lots of baubles. The tree itself was chosen for the occasion at Kirby Garden Centre.

On 3rd December St Catherine's Church was the venue for the annual Christingle service. Forty adults and eighteen children attended with the service itself led by the vicar. This is always a moving occasion, especially when all the candles on the oranges are lit and the remaining lights extinguished, all of which symbolises Jesus bringing light into the world at His birth. St Catherine's Church also hosted the Mothers' Union Diocesan Advent Carol service. The Governor's wife, Lady Lorimer, as patron of the Mothers' Union, attended the service. A big thankyou to those who provided and served the refreshments in the hall after the service.

St Catherine's Church also hosted the Commissioner's Carol Service on 21st December. The church was full and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who helped to decorate the church in any way. A special thanks to Sheila and Phil. Preston who chose the lanterns for the window ledges in the church.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of both congregations, to wish you all a happy and joyous new year.

Gerry Callister

Mistakes found in Church Notices

The church notices that did not come out quite as they were meant to do!

Remember the church jumble sale. We have a gents three-speed bicycle, and also two ladies for sale, in good running order.

Tuesday at 4:00 pm there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk, will please come early.

We are delighted to announce that the youth group has raised almost £500 for drug abuse.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, and a sweet, all in a covered dish. Meat and drinks will be provided.

Sudoku January 2024

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

Miscellaneous observations on daily life...

If you love someone, let them nap.
Take my advice. I'm not using it.

I'd like to help you out. Which way did you come in?

Cats know how we feel. They don't care, but they know.

Life is like a box of chocolates. Sometimes it makes you sick.

Some people like living in the past. For one thing, the rent is a lot cheaper.

December Sudoku Solution

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

December Crossword Solution

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

Remembering Clarice Cliff



In the regular feature of 'All in the month of,' which you will find on Page 14, there's a reference to the death of this talented ceramicist.

If you like ceramics, and enjoy colour, then you are bound to be familiar with the work of Clarice Cliff. Her glowingly vibrant plates, cups, teapots, and vases are world famous – and still loved.

She was born 125 years ago this month, on 20th January 1899, in Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent. Clarice's father worked in an iron foundry, and her mother washed clothes to help feed their seven children.

Clarice left school at 13 to work in the potteries. She so enjoyed the work that at 17, she moved on to the factory of A J Wilkinson in Newport, Burslem, to gain more experience. Soon she was modelling figurines and vases, keeping pattern books, and learning to hand-paint ware.

Clarice's talent was noticed, and then encouraged by one of the factory owners, Arthur Colley Austin Shorter. As the years went by, he enabled her to go to the Royal College of Arts and then study in Paris. He gave her own studio, and later he married her.

Clarice's use of colour was immensely popular. Her brilliantly coloured plates, cups, vases, and teapots helped cheer people up during the Depression. Clarice's shapes were also eye-catching: sometimes 'Modern', with angular and geometric lines; sometimes 'Art Deco' – with abstract and cubist patterns.

By 1930, Cliff was Art Director at Newport pottery. She went on to have a worldwide impact, as her patterns, shapes and colours sold in large quantities in many countries.

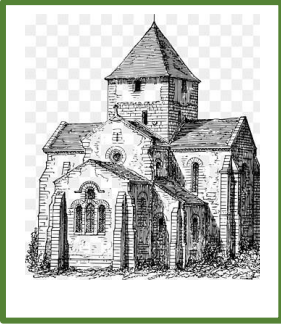
Her most famous quote was: "Having a little fun at my work does not make me any less of an artist, and people who appreciate truly beautiful and original creations in pottery are not frightened by innocent tomfoolery."

After Clarice's death, Wedgwood came to own the Clarice Cliff name. The world record price for a piece of Clarice Cliff is held by Christie's in London, who in 2004 sold an 18-inch (460 mm) 'charger' (wall plaque) in the *May Avenue* pattern for £39,500.

Parish Pump



Visiting other Churches



'... this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord ... (Psalm 27:4)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is this month (18th – 25th January), so it's probably a good time to meet with other local Christians – or at least to visit one of their churches.

And when visiting other churches, it's fun to have a good nose around.

Fewer churches seem to have guides nowadays, and probably not many are open every day. But when you next visit a church, why not look beyond the building itself and its monuments which show the history of the place? Try to discover *what is going on there now*.

First, ask yourself how easy it is to find out the following information:

What are the services in the church, and when are they held?

Who is who, and how do you contact people?

Are the photos and notices up to date?

Secondly, is there a church magazine? They can be the lifeblood of the church and community, keeping people in touch with each other. Also, as church magazines can be delivered door to door each month, they are an excellent way of reaching out to local non-churchy people, reminding them that they will always be welcome.

Thirdly, why not keep an eye out for any good ideas that the church has got – and pinch them for our own church? This can work the other way, too – if you see something that does NOT work, make a note of that as well.

Above all, try and 'get a feeling' for what the church is really like to attend. Would you want to belong there? Some churches, like people, feel welcoming and alive, while sadly others seem to be struggling and downright gloomy. Whether it is 'high' or 'low' is not as important as whether it is welcoming and caring.

And what about our own church? How about inviting a non-church friend to come along and tell you their honest first impressions of our church? We might be pleasantly surprised!

David Pickup

The Godspell about Jesus



Editor: This year much of the C of E lectionary will focus on Mark. So here is a short introduction to this much loved gospel...

Mark is the shortest of the Gospels, and most likely the first to be written (about 65 – 70AD). It is certainly the most action-packed!

The gospel of Mark was written by John Mark, whose name occurs often in Acts. His mother lived in a house in Jerusalem, where Jesus' followers met in the early days of the church there (Acts 12:12). John Mark was cousin to Barnabas, Paul's travelling companion.

John Mark had set off with Paul on the first great missionary tour, but then disgraced himself by going home – not making himself popular with Paul! However, Barnabas gave John Mark a second chance, and in later years John Mark won the friendship of Paul. When Paul was in prison, John Mark stood by him (Colossians 4).

Mark's gospel was written not when John Mark was in Jerusalem, but later, when he had spent some time with Peter in Rome. Peter had come to love John Mark as his own son. (1 Peter 5:13), and there is a strong early tradition that John Mark set down Jesus' story as he had heard it directly from the apostle Peter.

For example, Papias, writing about AD140, said: "Mark, who was the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately all that he remembered, whether of sayings or doings of Christ, but not in order. For he was neither a hearer nor companion of the Lord."

Some years later Irenaeus wrote that Mark's gospel was written "when Peter and Paul were preaching the gospel in Rome and founding the church there." After their deaths, "Mark, Peter's disciple, has himself delivered to us in writing the substance of Peter's preaching."

John Mark wrote his gospel with extraordinary vividness. And he obviously knew he would have non-Jewish readers because he often explains Jewish customs.

The Gospel begins with a bang: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God..." No beating about the bush – here is the purpose and the message right from the opening verse.

The word 'gospel' in Greek is *evangelion* – good news (hence the term evangelist). So where does the actual word 'gospel' come from? The Anglo-Saxons first thought it up, using the term 'Godspell', a word that may mean 'good news' or 'news about God'. It was an apt way to refer to the new faith when it reached them. (Hence 'Godspell' as the name

of the West End musical about the life of Jesus.)

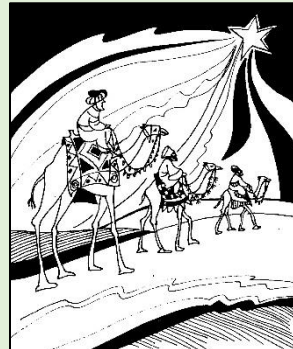
Mark opens the action not with the birth of Jesus, but rather with His baptism by John. Then the action moves swiftly towards the crisis of the cross and resurrection. Within this framework, the material tends to be not in chronological order, but rather grouped by subject. The book bustles with action and details. It gives far more detail than Matthew's in the accounts of what Jesus did, but deals more briefly with Jesus' teaching.

Mark does not have much that is all his own – in fact - only four paragraphs in all! This is because both Matthew and Luke borrowed heavily from him when they came to write their gospels. And yet we still have something unique in Mark: moving pictures of Jesus in action, convincing us by what He does that His claim to be the Son of God was true. There are fewer stories in Mark than in the other gospels, but these stories are longer, and the detail in them hints of Peter's remembered eye-witness accounts.

Parish Pump

Answers to the December magazine's Nativity Quiz

1. *Nazareth*
2. *Gabriel*
3. *Carpenter*
4. *Caesar Augustus*
5. *To register for the census*
6. *We are not told in the Bible*
7. *There was no room at the inn*
8. *c) In a manger*
9. *d) None*
10. *'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people'*
11. *d) westward*
12. *A star*
13. *The Bible doesn't say*
14. *Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh*
15. *The shepherds*
16. *Bethlehem*
17. *Matthew and Luke*
18. *a) God with us*
19. *8, according to the law*
20. *False; we don't know the date*



All in the Month of January



700 years ago, on 8th Jan 1324, Marco Polo died. This Venetian/Italian merchant, explorer and writer is best known for his book *The Travels of Marco Polo*, which detailed his travels along the Silk Road in Asia.

200 years ago, on 8th Jan 1824, Wilkie Collins, British novelist and playwright was born. Best known for *The Woman in White* and *The Moonstone*, which is regarded as the first modern British detective novel.

150 years ago, on 25th Jan 1874, Somerset Maugham, British playwright, novelist and short story writer, was born. One of the most popular writers of his era.

125 years ago, on 20th Jan 1899, Clarice Cliff, British ceramic artist, was born.

100 years ago, on 22nd Jan 1924, Ramsay MacDonald became Britain's first Labour Prime Minister.

80 years ago, on 17th Jan to 18th May 1944, the WW2 Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy, took place. This Allied victory is regarded as the hardest-fought and bloodiest battle of the war, with around 250,000 casualties.

75 years ago, on 10th Jan 1949, RCA launched the 7-inch 45-rpm vinyl record, commonly known as the single.

65 years ago, on 12th Jan 1959, the Motown record label was founded in Detroit, Michigan by Berry Gordy.

60 years ago, on 13th Jan 1964, Bob Dylan's album *The Times They Are A-Changin'* was released.

50 years ago, from 1st Jan to 6th Mar, 1974, a three-day working week was introduced in the UK, in order to conserve coal supplies (used by power stations) during a miners' strike.

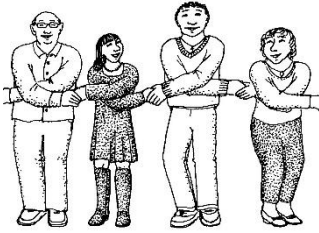
40 years ago, on 22nd Jan 1984 the first Apple Mackintosh computer went on sale.

25 years ago, on 1st Jan 1999 the euro officially became the new currency in 11 European countries.

15 years ago, on 20th Jan 2009, Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the USA.

10 years ago, on 27th Jan 2014, Peter Seeger, American folk/protest singer died. Best known for *Where Have All the Flowers Gone'* and *If I Had a Hammer*.

1 Corinthians 13 - A Christmas Version



If I decorate the house with garlands of silver and strings of coloured lights, but do not show love for my family, I am just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen baking dozens of mince pies, prepping the turkey and making a special brandy pudding, but do not share with my neighbour in love, I am just another cook.

If I fill bowls at the soup kitchen, sing carols at the old age home and give all that I have to charity but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I spend hours trimming the Christmas tree, with hand crocheted snowflakes and origami angels, attend the parties of all my friends and sing in the choir, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the busyness to hug the child.

Love sets aside the packing to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind though tired.

Love doesn't envy the neighbours co-ordinated Christmas crockery and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the teenager to get off the couch but is thankful they are there and that they are healthy.

Love doesn't only give to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. Fit-Bits will break, comic socks will get lost, chocolates will melt, but the gift of love will endure forever.

*This version was read by the **Rev Ginny Viner** at the recent Mothers' Union Christmas party. It certainly makes you think, especially after the hustle and bustle of the recent Christmas period. How wonderful it would be if everyone in the world showed love to one another. Wars would cease, there would be less mental health issues, and people would begin to smile and acknowledge each other as our Lord Jesus wanted them to do. Let's hope and pray that 2024 will bring love into the world, and that everyone will live in peace and harmony with each other. (Editor)*

From the Registers

Funerals November 2023:

8 th Nov.	Valerie McFarlane	11.30am	Cremation	Crematorium
13 th Nov.	Sylvia Baines	11.30am	Service K.C.	Burial R.B.G.
17 th Nov.	Anne & Richard Henderson	1.00pm	Ashes	Burial R.B.G.

K.C. Kirk Christ

R.B.G. Rushen Burial Ground

1st January - The naming of Jesus

Matthew and Luke tell how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1st January - eight days after 25th December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). In Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

For early Christians, the name of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated His ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

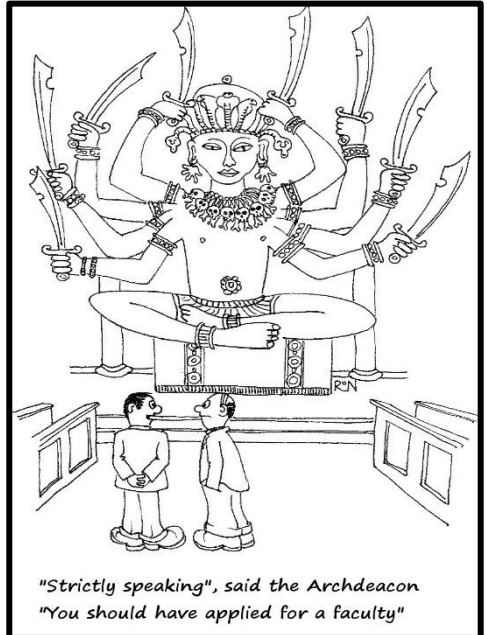
Safeguarding

The Parish of Rushen is committed to the safeguarding, nurture and care of **everyone** within our church community. If you, or someone you know, are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk or has been harmed, or are concerned about the behaviour of someone towards children or vulnerable adults, please contact:

Rushen Parish Safeguarding Officer,
Rhiannon Manning (Tel. 832275)

The **Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser** has now been appointed. For more details contact the diocese.

A copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy is available on the Diocesan website:
http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion



Rushen Branch Mothers' Union



The Rushen branch hosted the Mothers' Union Advent service on the 5th of December at St Catherine's Church. It was a lovely service led by Revd Canon Joe Heaton and Revd Ruth Walker. Revd Jeanette Harmer spoke to us about the ways in which MU can help communities and families and the collection for the MU charity AFIA (Away From It All) raised over £600. Our patron Lady Lorimer attended and came to the hall afterwards to enjoy refreshments and meet our members. Thanks must

go to the ladies who worked so hard in the kitchen making and serving drinks. Thanks also to all our members who contributed to the refreshment table, it was a splendid spread of cakes, biscuits and pies and much appreciated by our guests. Gerry had prepared the hall for us and made it toasty warm and very welcoming. Thank you, Gerry.

Our last meeting of the year was our Christmas party and fun was had by all. We each provided a dish and had a super array of food. Iris played lovely Christmas carols for us to have a sing a long and we were entertained to some beautiful and amusing stories and readings by various members. Well done to Ginny's team for winning the quiz despite some of the obscure questions! Thanks must go to everyone who contributed to the afternoon and especially to those who provided, served and cleared away our refreshments. We were delighted to have Margaret back with us and we appreciated the lovely box of chocolates that she brought with her.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 8th of January at 2.00 in St Catherine's Hall when Jane Gunn will be leading us in 'Armchair Yoga'. All are welcome.

Lesley Scott

A big 'Thankyou' to everyone involved

*Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Both clergyman and lay!
But they're seldom disappointed
To get past Christmas Day!
The hectic Christmas season is
Of service constantly –
There can't be better reason
To welcome January!*

*The Curate and the Vicar
A busy schedule keep,
As they rush, ever quicker -
They don't get that much sleep.
And overworked Churchwardens
And their sidespersons team -
Sure don't get time for boredom,
And only seldom scream!*

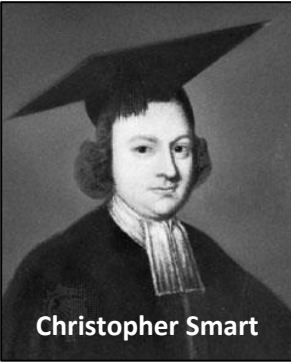
*So, when the season's over,
The crib has been put by,
The drapes to green changed over,
They breathe a heartfelt sigh!
They laugh and smile with
pleasure, and sing a merry rhyme,
But short-lived is their leisure –
For soon comes Easter time!*

Whilst we don't have a curate perhaps this poem, written by Nigel Beeton, will illustrate the tireless work undertaken by all those who work behind the scenes to bring the Christmas season into the lives of our parishioners and visitors. Thank you to you all, your work is much appreciated and enjoyed. (Editor)

God in the Arts

'Glorious the song when God's the theme'

Editor: The Rev Michael Burgess begins a year-long series looking at great works of Christian music.



Christopher Smart

Those words of the 18th century poet Christopher Smart remind us how faith and music have always gone hand in hand, faith inspiring the music and music expressing the faith. In this series we shall consider 12 pieces of music inspired by the Christian faith, beginning from its roots in the Old Testament.

Among the earliest references to music in the Old Testament is the song of Moses and the Israelites, thanking God for Israel's deliverance in Exodus. There is also the music of the shofar, the ram's horn, proclaiming God's jubilee in Leviticus.

Hebrew music came into its own when performed in the temple. A small choir, using mostly strings and a harp, would sing from the psalms, that incredible collection of 150 hymns of praise God. All human life is found in the psalter, and inevitably they passed into Christian worship, through the monastic daily office of prayer and praise.

Possibly Psalm 23, 'The Lord is my shepherd,' is the most loved of the Psalms. St Francis of Assisi sang it on his way to visit the sultan. Most of us know the tune 'Crimond', while Howard Goodall's setting became the theme music for 'The Vicar of Dibley.'

Leonard Bernstein's setting of Psalm 23, the 'Chichester Psalms,' set six psalms in their original Hebrew for solo voice, choir and orchestra. The middle movement begins with a boy soprano, or countertenor, singing a beautiful melody to the opening words of Psalm 23. Bernstein's melody has a bluesy, Jewish feel, and is accompanied by a harp, as we remember David playing the lyre.

Suddenly the men's voices interrupt the soloist's song of trust with the words of Psalm 2, 'Why do the nations so furiously rage together?' But their outburst cannot halt the serene outpouring of the soloist which sounds out clear and strong amid the threat of war and division.

The movement leaves us with the melody of 'Adonai ro-i' in our heads and hearts, assuring us that, because the Lord *is* our shepherd, we need not fear, even in the darkest valley. Even when the world hurls the threats of Psalm 2 at us, God's goodness and mercy *will* follow us all the days of our life.

Rev Michael Burgess

Children's Page

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapter 2 verses 1 to 12

In Egypt the Hebrew people flourished so well that the new Pharaoh grew scared and ordered all their new-born boys to be killed.

Moses' mother hid him when he was born, but he grew too big.

sssh! Waaaa!

She made a basket from reeds for him and put it in the grass by the river Nile.

She told Moses' sister Miriam to keep watch.

Pharaoh's daughter found Moses.

Waaa!

Shall I get someone to look after the baby?

Yes!

So Miriam got her mother.

Look after him for me.

The princess adopted Moses as her son.

When Moses was grown up he went to see where his people worked as slaves.

Perhaps I will be the one to save my people.

Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave.

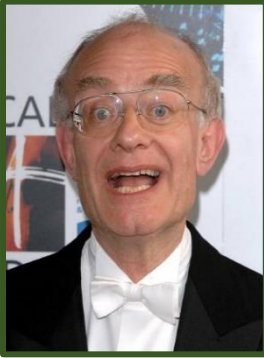
Work harder!

Moses checked no-one was looking and... ..killed the Egyptian.

He hid the body in the sand.

No-one will know it was me!

The Story Behind the Hymn



Child in a Manger

Child in a manger,
Jesus our Saviour,
Born of a virgin hold and mild;
Sent from the highest,
Come down in glory;
Tell the glade Story,
Welcome the child.

Shepherds, arise now,
Go to the manger;
Find where the infant Jesus is late
Offer your homage
Kneel down before him;
Praise and adore him,
Be not afraid.

Wise men, come seek him
Christ, our Redeemer;
Journey to Bethlehem,
Led by a Star.
Offer you treasures:
Gold, myrrh, and incense,
Precious oblations
Brought from a far.

Praise to the Christ child;
Praise to his mother;
Glory to God our Father above
Angels are singing songs of rejoicing,
Greeting the infant
Born of God's Love.
Greeting the infant
Born of God's Love.

Born in London, the son of an industrial chemist and his wife, Rutter grew up living over the Globe pub on London's Marylebone Road. He was educated at Highgate School and as a chorister there took part in the first recording of Britten's *War Requiem* under the composer's baton. He then read music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he was a member of the choir. While still an undergraduate he had his first compositions published, including the "Shepherd's Pipe Carol" which he had written aged 18. He served as director of music at Clare College from 1975 to 1979 and led the choir to international prominence.

In 1981, Rutter founded his own choir, the Cambridge Singers, which he conducts and with which he has made many recordings of sacred choral repertoire (including his own works). He resides at Hemingford Abbots in Cambridgeshire and frequently conducts many choirs and orchestras around the world.

Rutter's compositions are chiefly choral, and include Christmas carols, anthems and extended works such as the Gloria, the Requiem and the Magnificat.

The world premiere of Rutter's Requiem, and of his authoritative edition of Fauré's Requiem, took place with the Fox Valley Festival Chorus, in Illinois. In 2002, his setting of Psalm 150, commissioned for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, was performed at the Jubilee thanksgiving service in St Paul's Cathedral, London. Similarly, he was commissioned to write a new anthem, "This is the day", for the Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in 2011, performed at Westminster Abbey during the service.

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



Dear Father, as we stand together on the threshold of a new year, we ask that you watch over us in the year ahead; guide us when we falter; and re-direct us when we lose our way. But above all, pour down on the whole world Your Love and Peace, so that all may know that you are our Father, and Lord of all. Amen

January 2024

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st A happy and peaceful year ahead
- 2nd The Diocese of Sodor and Man and the work undertaken by all its employees
- 3rd All people who are expected to work outside in adverse weather conditions
- 4th People in residential care homes across the island
- 5th People awaiting treatment in our hospital
- 6th Preparations being made for the return to school
- 7th Wildlife throughout the island as it seeks food and shelter during the winter
- 8th Travellers having to drive on sometime treacherous roads during the wintertime
- 9th The work of the Royal Lifeboat Institution
- 10th People who live in isolation with little contact with the outside world
- 11th Noble's Hospital and the doctors and nurses dedicated to making people well
- 12th The Ladies Working Party and its charitable work in the parish
- 13th Those who entertain, whether on the stage or on television
- 14th People who are suffering financial hardship after the Christmas season
- 15th Everyone who has a birthday this month
- 16th The PCC meeting taking place at 7.00pm in St Catherine's Church Hall this evening
- 17th Those who enjoy watching and/or partaking in sporting activities
- 18th The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which commences today
- 19th Music and the part it plays in everyone's life whether it is modern or classical
- 20th All the Home Groups which meet each week throughout the parish
- 21st The beauty of this wonderful island on which we live
- 22nd People mourning the loss of loved ones
- 23rd New mothers and fathers looking after their children
- 24th The work of the Mothers' Union and the recipients who benefit from it
- 25th The Headteacher and staff of Rushen Primary School
- 26th Messy Church and its continued success in bringing Jesus into people's lives
- 27th The Headteacher and staff of Scoill-Phurt-le-Moirrey
- 28th Those parishioners who read the lessons or intercede at services in the parish
- 29th The work of aid organisations at home and overseas
- 30th The work of the Isle of Man government in maintaining services for us all to use
- 31st Our determination to serve God in as many ways possible

Services January/February 2024

7 th January (Baptism of Jesus)	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)
14 th January (Epiphany 2)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
21 st January (Epiphany 3)	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)
28 th January (Epiphany 4)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
4 th February (Epiphany 5)	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)
11 th February (Epiphany 6)	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)
18 th February (Lent 1)	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)
25 th February (Lent 2)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)

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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St Mary's Ladies Working Party

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

St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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

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***Articles for all magazine should be submitted to
the editor no later than 20th of each month***

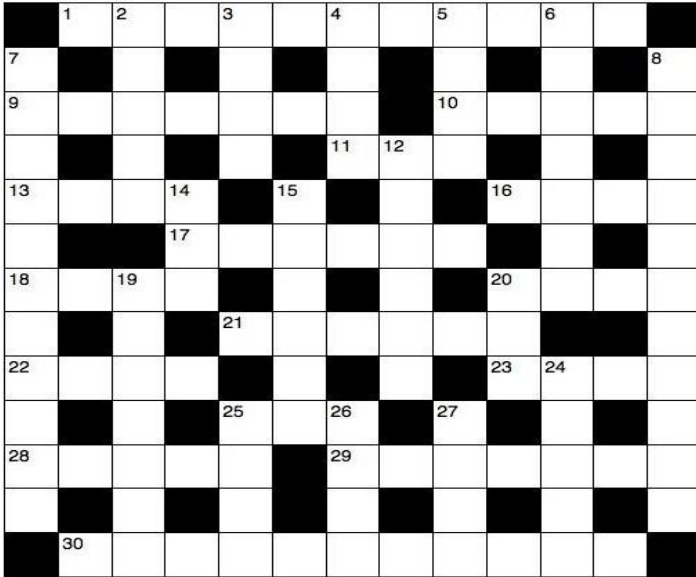
Parish Director of Music:

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 January 2024



Across

Down

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)</p> <p>9 Go smite (anag.) (7)</p> <p>10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee' (Matthew 26:32) (5)</p> <p>11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3)</p> <p>13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)</p> <p>16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)</p> <p>17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)</p> <p>18 Opposite of evens (4)</p> <p>20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)</p> <p>21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)</p> <p>22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)</p> <p>23 Beat (anag.) (4)</p> <p>25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)</p> <p>28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)</p> <p>29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)</p> <p>30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)</p> | <p>2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)</p> <p>3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)</p> <p>4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)</p> <p>5 Tidy (4)</p> <p>6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)</p> <p>7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)</p> <p>8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)</p> <p>12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)</p> <p>14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)</p> <p>15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)</p> <p>19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)</p> <p>20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)</p> <p>24 Rarely used musical note (5)</p> <p>25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)</p> <p>26 & 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a —, as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)</p> <p>27 See 26 Down</p> |
|---|---|