



February 2024

Rushen Parish Magazine



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor.13:13

Contact Details for Rushen Parish

Vicar:

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

Readers:

Mrs Margaret Galloway
Mrs Wendy Heaton
Mr Harry Dawson

Active Clergy

Rev Roger Harper
Rev John Gulland
Rev Ginny Viner

Family/Youth Worker

Natalie Heaton rushenparishyouth@gmail.com

Church Wardens:

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

PCC Secretary:

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

PCC Treasurer:

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

Parish Safeguarding Officer for Children and Vulnerable People:

Rhiannon Manning rushenparishorg@gmail.com 832275



From the Editor

I don't know about you but I love watching documentaries which, in graphic detail, show people having complex surgical operations. Whether it's because I marvel at the expertise of the surgeons, or I like watching the gruesome details of the inside of a person's body, I'm not quite sure. Of course, in the televised procedures the patient usually makes a full recovery, despite the pulling and prodding that might have occurred. Perhaps the most breathtaking are the operations involving the brain and the spinal cord. One false move could cause the patient to have a life-changing outcome.

Perhaps a lot of this passion of mine stems from my youngest son who sadly died at the age of 29. He was born with a congenital brain tumour which, although benign, was slowly growing on his brain stem. Because of this he endured many operations, the first of which took place on the day that the UK changed to decimal currency. This occurred at Walton Hospital Liverpool. The aim was to remove as much of the tumour as possible in order to give Nicholas the best chance of leading a normal life, and that this would be followed by him being transferred to Clatterbridge Hospital for radio therapy. After enduring a five hour operation we were told by the neurosurgeon that he couldn't reach the tumour and the operation had to be abandoned. The radiotherapy followed in the hope that the tumour would reduce in size. Many operations followed which included him having to have a shunt placed into his brain to prevent him from having hydrocephalus. This drained excess fluid into his abdomen, and certainly gave him a much better quality of life.

Even though his brain function was impaired, Nicholas went to three special schools and managed to engage in most activities. He had a strong personality and wasn't afraid to say what he thought. Sometimes we would cringe if he didn't like the way people behaved because he would tell them straight! He loved snooker and had a half-sized table on which he would spend hours trying to beat his opponents. In fact the only person he ever get the better of was me! It was on one occasion when he and I were playing that I noticed a change in his actions. The cue would swivel in his hand and he couldn't hit a ball. This resulted in him being transferred to the Maudsley Hospital in London and having to endure yet another lengthy operation. At first all was well until he had a relapse and had to be operated on again. He came out of it in a coma which lasted for 28 days.

Needless to say that Pauline and I, and people up and down the country, were praying for his recovery, and day after day we travelled to the hospital to see if there were any changes. God was with us throughout. He must have laughed, cried, and held our hands during the ordeal. On the 27th day, and in desperation, I held Nicholas' hand and said, 'I'll give you a fiver if you will squeeze my hand.' Within a second my hand was practically crushed. Nicholas was coming out of the coma. On the next day he was sitting up in bed eating chocolate, and asking for his five pounds!

We must never give in, whatever our problems. Nicholas, although wheelchair bound, went on to live as normal a life as he possibly could. It had its ups and downs but he soldiered on until 16th December 2001. Now he is with God, the person who followed his journey from 1972 until he died, just as He does with every one of us.

David

Natalie's Family and Youth Ministry Adventures in Rushen Parish

Hello Rushen Parish

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

Primary school connections

I am so excited to start working in Rushen Primary school. It is an ace opportunity to be a part of both local primary schools in the Parish. Currently, I'm getting to know the staff in the year 3 and year 4 class I am associated with and continue to work with Scoill Phurt Le Moirrey, also in its year 3 and 4 class.

Stars!



A special request for your prayers (and if you want to volunteer give SUMT a shout) : Stars Curriculum Day is happening at the end of February. This Day is focused on the children of the South, and all the year 3 and 4 classes I work with will be attending, exploring Christian beliefs and their own.

Acts 29 - Because we are the next chapter

Finally, I love our youth group! They have formed an amazing little community. I feel like as they grow in faith and friendship, they will be great encouragers of faith to one another. We are continuing to explore the book of Acts as a youth group. We are on Chapter 9!

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support!

God Bless

Natalie Heaton

St Mary's Ladies Working Party



In the cold weather the members have really appreciated the lovely warm space at the back of St Mary's, where they hold their Tuesday afternoon meetings. Everyone is welcomed with a hot cup of tea and some interesting biscuits. This enjoyment has spurred us into action, and on **Monday 5th February** we will be launching **St Mary's Warm Space 'Coffee and Chat'** mornings, to the local community. Each week we will open the church doors on Monday

until 11.30, and anyone and everyone is welcome to come and join us for coffee and company, for the princely sum of just £1 per person. We would also love to see anyone from the Parish family to either serve as a volunteer, or be served as a guest, you will be very welcome either way. It would be lovely if this could become a Rushen Parish Outreach. Who knows where this could lead? We have lots of ideas!

Our weekly meetings have been well attended, and our prayers have been numerous for all the afflicted and hurting in the Parish, and in the member's families. At the last meeting we set the date for the next Fundraising Coffee Morning, which is to be held in **St Catherines Hall on Friday 26th April**. A date for everyone's diary, and one not to miss!

We have begun collecting IOM stamps again, this time in response to a request by **The Friends of the Bone Cancer Research Trust**, which Margaret Moore noticed in the local newspaper. Anyone in the parish who has stamps, can you please drop them into St Mary's, or give them to Gerry who will pass them on to us.

Something else to look forward to is our somewhat delayed Christmas Lunch which will be held at the **Station Public House, Port Erin on Tuesday 6th February from 12pm**. Members of the Parish Family are invited to come along. There will be menu, information, and sign-up sheets at the back of each church.

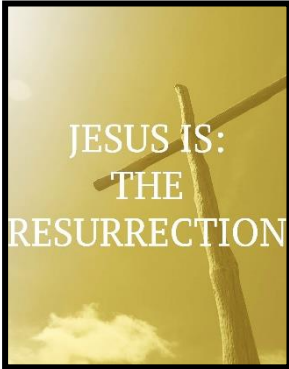
Diary dates

- Monday 5th Feb 10am** 'Coffee and Chat' St. Mary's
- Tuesday 6th Feb 12pm** Christmas Lunch The Station Public House, Port Erin
- Friday 26th April 10am - 12 noon** LWP Coffee Morning in St. Catherine's Church Hall

Rev Ginny Viner

And if love should die....

While we were working at a men's clothing store, a customer asked my colleague to help her pick out a tie that would make her husband's blue eyes stand out. "Ma'am," he explained, "any tie will make blue eyes stand out, if you tie it tight enough."



What's so special about Jesus?

Editor: As Lent begins, it is a good time to look at the things Jesus said, and the claims that He made. By the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle.

The gospels record that people were astounded by many of the things that Jesus said. Even His enemies, intent on trapping Him, admitted: “No one ever spoke the way this man does.” (John 7:46) Furthermore, “the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.” (Matthew 7:28-9)

For in Jesus, we find something without precedent in the span of human literature. While urging humility on others and while giving the impression of the ultimately humble person, Jesus’ teaching and claims are basically *egocentric and completely focussed on Himself*. In ordinary life, that would get a person labelled as crazy or as a megalomaniac!

Just think of the few astounding claims Jesus made about Himself. “I am the Resurrection and the Life.” (Jn 11:25) “I am the Bread of Life.” (Jn 6:35) “I am the Light of the World.” (Jn 8:12) “I am the Good Shepherd.” (Jn 10:7,9) “...whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.” (Jn 11:26) And – most staggering of all - “anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father.” (Jn 14:9)

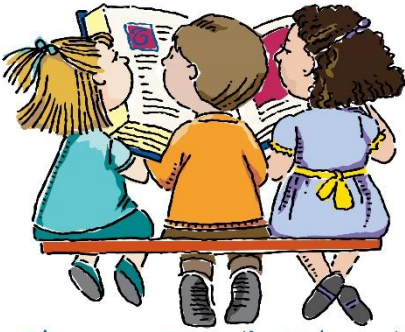
CS Lewis comments on the uniqueness of Jesus’ being inescapable “There is no half-way house, and there is no parallel in other religions.” That Jesus cannot be ranked among a pantheon of religious leaders or prophets becomes further obvious when one reflects further on His claim of being at both the beginning and at the end of Creation and of History. He said: “I am the First and the Last” (Rev 1:17), as well as : “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Mt 28:18).

Clearly the disciples accepted this, as John begins his gospel with these words: “In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) and the Word was with God and the Word was God... Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made....The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.... and in Him all things hold together.” (Col 1:16,17)

When we look at what Jesus goes on to say about the end of history, we are even more startled, as when He said of any person who follows Him: “I will raise him up at the last day.” (Jn 6:40) This was the local carpenter, remember! And when we note that throughout the Bible final judgement is a function reserved to God alone, it is astounding to register that Jesus says of Himself: “For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son authority to judge because He is the Son of Man.” (Jn 5:26—27) Yes, between Creation and the end of History stands Jesus. That also means, of course, and we note it with comfort, because everything in between is His also.

During this Lent, why not spend some time just quietly thinking about these claims of

St Mary's Sunday School



Share God's Word

the New Testament story of Jesus calling Nathanael. We enjoyed playing a game in which one person in the middle of the circle was blind-folded and had to try and guess who was calling their name.

Having watched a short video about the calling of Samuel as well as a lego animation about the calling of Nathanael, we briefly thought about how God may be speaking to us today... we may not necessarily hear an audible voice, but He might speak to us through His Word in the Bible, through a song, in a dream, through a Christian friend, or we may just have a certain feeling inside about something God wants us to do... While some of the older children then practised acting out the Samuel story, the younger ones started to work on a display with the title 'God knows each of us by name.' After practising the song 'Follow Me" we finished our session by writing some prayers for the all-age service and completing the display with everybody's names. (See picture on page 17)

Our January all-age service was led by Margaret Galloway, who had asked the Sunday School children beforehand to bring a well-loved cuddly toy to the service, so we had a wonderful array of teddies, bunnies, dogs, and even a wolf! Margaret had of course brought along her own well-loved toys, her teddy Edward and her doll Betty, and she told us all about them and how she used to love playing with them. She then encouraged the children to share with members of the congregation something about their own toys, what they were called and why they loved them. This led to Margaret telling us that God knows us even better than we know our most loved toys; He knows our names and everything about us, and He loves us even more than we love our toys! Margaret also reminded us of the importance of listening out for God's voice, as He may be calling us at any time. May we be ready to answer as Samuel did: "Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening."

The Sunday School acted out the calling of Samuel (played by Cameron), led the congregation in the singing of "Follow Me" (accompanied by the mandolin and percussion instruments) and led an interactive prayer activity which resulted in a long paper chain of prayers written by themselves and the congregation. Many thanks to everybody who took part in the service, including Thomas who read the gospel reading - they all read, sang and acted very well indeed! Following this uplifting service, we all enjoyed the refreshments served by our wonderful ladies.

With Love and Blessings Claudia



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



We have experienced some severe weather during January, and it has been good to see our two congregations attending church, as they always do whatever the weather. At Kirk Christ we have held many funerals, some of which were delayed because of our Christmas schedule. We are now looking forward to the snowdrops showing their blooms early in February.

At St Catherine's and Kirk Christ we have experienced some very strong winds, but fortunately in both churches there was no structural damage. The first Messy Church of 2024 was held at St Catherine's on 27th January. It was good to see the children enjoying the craft work, Bible stories, and food. The next joint service at Kirk Christ takes place on 28th January. Let's hope we are blessed with good weather on what has become a well appreciated event.

Gerry

2024 World Day of Prayer Service

This year's World Day of Prayer Service is being held at 11am on Friday 1st March 2024 at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin. This ecumenical Service has been prepared by Christian women of Palestine and the theme is 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'.

Refreshments will be served in the church hall from 10am prior to the service. Everyone is welcome to this special service.

Prayer for February

Father, In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain. We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world. Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. In his name.

Amen

Sudoku February 2024

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

God's army

Dewey was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the minister was standing at the door, as he always is, to shake hands. Suddenly he grabbed Dewey by the hand and pulled him aside. The minister said sternly, "Dewey, you need to join the Army of the Lord!" Dewey replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." The minister retorted: "Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" Dewey replied in a whisper: "Well, I'm in the secret service."

January Sudoku

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

January Crossword Solution

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



Diocesan Certificate in Christian Studies 2024 - 2025

**A one-year ecumenical course of 6 Modules each of 5 sessions.
Completion of all 6 Modules and assignments
leads to a Sodor and Man Certificate in Christian Studies.
Certificates of attendance are available.**

Aims:

- To develop theological understanding amongst the laity, encouraging Christians to deepen their understanding of their faith
- To give people the tools for further study and exploration
- To encourage life-long learning
- A springboard for fostering vocations to a variety of ministries.
- To encourage theological engagement and collaborative working in the local context which enthuses participants and excites others to learn. Participants should
 - Inform their minister and seek their support
 - Encourage others from their church to come with them
 - be willing to support each other and work on assignments corporately as well as individually.

Who is this Course for?

Anyone, who wants to know more about their Christian faith.

Venue

St John's Church Hall.

Modules:

Each module is self-contained and can be studied separately, providing Module 1 has been completed.

The Course outline can be found at the back of all four churches. For more information contact: burrow.margaret@gmail.com or speak to Rev Ginny Viner.

Reflecting Faith: Memorial Stones



Editor: **The Revd Dr Jo White** continues her series on the Christian symbols in our churches.

Last month we began to look at the outside of the church building. When you last visited a churchyard with very old memorials, what did you notice?

The oldest stones probably just had the name of the person, date of death and perhaps their age.

But the slightly more recent stones may well have included where the person had been born, lived, and who they had married. These stones probably belonged to the wealthier people, as they needed to be large, to include all this information!

As for the poorer folk, as cheaper stone became available, they also wanted to mark their loved one's place of rest, even with just the bare details.

With the advent of the railways, a firm in Scotland started a business for shaping the stone with recessing, into which a local stone mason would be able to carve the words. This is why you will see many similar shaped stones in every churchyard in England, Wales and Scotland for that period.

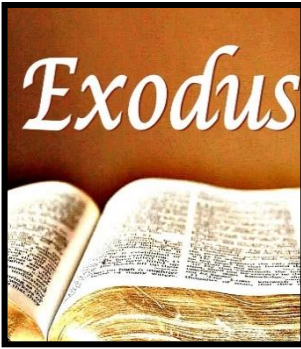
In different areas of the country, both locally sourced stones and the availability of the stonemason create very different looks – whilst within that area are many reproductions.

Also, the 'floweriness' of the inscriptions grew over the years. What started with just the name of the person later had added before the name, 'With affection', then 'With great affection', then, 'Greatly loved' and so on. It was almost as if people were trying to outdo each other on who loves who most.

Meanwhile, by the early 20th century many churchyards were 'full', and if adjoining land was available this was consecrated, but otherwise separate land was purchased – which became a 'cemetery' and was usually not the responsibility of the church.

A churchyard, on the other hand, is by definition under the auspices of 'the church', whether open or closed.

Because people continued to want to be interred in 'holy land', eventually all cemeteries were set aside and consecrated by and for the different religions and denominations, reflecting the needs of the local communities. This month think about where you'd like to have as *your* final resting place. Whether you choose cremation or burial, is being in a set-aside 'holy place' important to you and to those who will visit?



What's the Big Idea? *An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Exodus*

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues a new series which will run for the next two years.

This month we are looking at Exodus, the second book of the Old Testament. Its name means departure, reminding us that Israel's flight out of slavery in Egypt is the major focus of the book.

Exodus is a book of two halves! The first part (chapters 1-19 & 32-34) is the story of an oppressed people who are delivered from slavery into a life of freedom. The second half (chapters 20-31 & 35-40) consists of detailed instructions about the life and worship of God's people. The book introduces us to their *salvation* or deliverance, as *story*. God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled as the people journey to the Promised Land. He also renews His covenant with them at Sinai, expressed in the Ten Commandments (20: 1-17).

At the heart of Exodus is the person of God Himself. In chapter 3 God reveals His name as YHWH or '*I am who I am*' (3:14) to Moses. This is the name by which God is known throughout the Old Testament, expressed in the title '*the LORD*'. To know God's name is to know Him, as well as His character i.e. His justice, truthfulness, mercy, faithfulness and holiness. He is the God who controls history, delivering the people out of Egypt, while the death of the Passover lamb points us to Jesus' death on the cross (1 Corinthians 5:7).

God's promises of help remain true for us today: '*Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today*' Exodus 14:13.

'This Exodus story continues to be a major means that God uses to draw men and women in trouble out of the mess of history into the kingdom of salvation.' (Eugene Peterson).

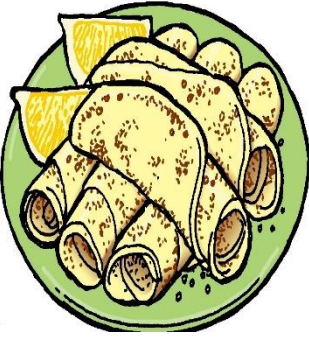
Quiz on the Book of Exodus

Editor: This month we are launching a short 'quiz' to accompany the series on the books of the Bible. This will be a regular feature that runs throughout the year. The answers will appear in the March edition of the magazine

- Who rescued Moses from the basket in the bulrushes?*
 - Pharaoh's Daughter
 - Pharaoh's Maid
 - Pharaoh's Wife
- How many plagues did God send on Egypt?*
 - 5
 - 10
 - 15

3. *What was the second plague?*
- (a) Frogs
 - (b) Water turned to blood
 - (c) Locusts
4. *What is the name of the sea the Israelites crossed to escape the Egyptians?*
- (a) Dead Sea
 - (b) Black Sea
 - (c) Red Sea
5. *At what place did the Israelites arrive to find the water was too bitter to drink and God made it sweet?*
- (a) Marah
 - (b) Elim
 - (c) Horeb
6. *Which bird did God provide for meat in the wilderness?*
- (a) Pigeon
 - (b) Quail
 - (c) Turtledove
7. *What guided the Israelites through the wilderness?*
- (a) A star in the sky
 - (b) Moses had visions telling him where to lead the people
 - (c) a pillar of cloud and of fire
8. *When there was no water to drink, how did Moses provide it?*
- (a) From earthen jars
 - (b) From his rod
 - (c) From a rock
9. *On which mountain were the Israelites given the Ten Commandments?*
- (a) Mount Sinai
 - (b) Mount Nebo
 - (c) Mount of Olives
10. *What is the seventh commandment?*
- (a) Thou shall not covet
 - (b) Thou shalt not commit adultery
 - (c) Thou shalt not bear false Witness
11. *What was on top of the Ark of the Covenant?*
- (a) Two cherubim
 - (b) Candlestick
 - (c) Aaron's rod
12. *What compelled the Israelites to form and worship the golden calf?*
- (a) They wanted to make a statue to the Lord
 - (b) They made it as a symbol of their freedom from slavery
 - (c) They didn't know what had happened to Moses
13. *Who was Moses' successor?*
- (a) Joshua
 - (b) Caleb
 - (c) Aaron
14. *For how many years did the Israelites wander in the wilderness?*
- (a) 20 years
 - (b) 30 years
 - (c) 40 years

All in the month of February



150 years ago, on 15th Feb 1874 Sir Ernest Shackleton was born. This Irish-born British polar explorer was one of the leading explorers during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. He led three British expeditions to the Antarctic.

100 years ago, on 5th Feb 1924 that BBC Radio broadcast the 'six-pips' Greenwich Time Signal for the first time. **Also, on 12th Feb 1924**, George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* was performed for the first time, in New York.

90 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1934 Edward Elgar, the British composer, died.

75 years ago, on 22nd Feb 1949 that Niki Lauda, Austrian racing driver was born. He was Formula One World Champion in 1975, 1977 and 1984. He was severely injured and burnt in a crash at the 1976 German Grand Prix. (Died 2019.)

70 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1954 the first field test of the polio vaccine began in Pittsburgh. It grew into a year-long national trial involving 1.8 million children.

65 years ago, 3rd Feb 1959, became 'the day the music died', when American rock-and-roll performers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash in Iowa.

60 years ago, on 7th Feb 1964 the Beatles arrived in New York for their first US tour. They were met by thousands of screaming fans.

50 years ago, on 7th Feb 1974 Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath called a snap general election following the miners' strike and three-day week. It resulted in a hung parliament, and the Labour leader, Harold Wilson, became Prime Minister.

40 years ago, on 14th Feb 1984 figure skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the gold medal in ice-skating at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. They scored the first perfect 6.0 in Olympic history.

30 years ago, on 25th Feb 1994 serial killer Fred West was arrested in connection with the disappearance of his daughter. Police then discovered human bones buried in his garden. He was eventually charged with 11 murders, and his wife Rosemary with ten murders.

25 years ago, on 1st Feb 1999 the International Maritime Organisation stopped using the Morse code 'SOS' distress call. All sea-going vessels were required to have a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) fitted by this date.

20 years ago, on 4th Feb 2004 Facebook, the social media networking platform, was launched.

15 years ago, on 7th Feb 2009 the Black Saturday bushfires took place in Australia. The worst in Australia's history, they destroyed 1.1 million acres of land, killed 173 people, injured 414, and burned down more than 3,500 buildings, including 2,000 houses.

Ukraine - Two Years Later



*Editor: **The Ven John Barton** looks back on two years of the Russian-Ukrainian war.*

Although Russian troops were massing near the borders of Ukraine in February 2022, we naively believed their denial that an attack was imminent. Since then, an all-out war has resulted in tens of thousands of civilian deaths, and hundreds of thousands of military casualties. A quarter of the Ukrainian population has been displaced. Eight million

refugees spread across Europe.

Few of us realised that a war between the two countries really started in 2014, when pro-Russian regions of Ukraine rebelled and Crimea was annexed.

Hostilities between the two countries had begun even earlier. Ukraine had joined the Soviet Union in 1922 and ten years later lost more than a million of its population in the 'Holodomor' famine, now widely regarded as genocide inflicted by Joseph Stalin, the Soviet leader.

Relationships between the two countries have always been turbulent, and Russia's possessive attitude towards its neighbour is deeply resented.

Ukrainian refugees in the UK are mainly women and children, for their men are needed for war service. So, they have organised themselves into self-help groups, painstakingly learning to read and write in English, as well as working full or part-time and keeping up their morale by organising groups for young and old. Choirs have sprung up, often assisted by British musicians. One member wrote movingly of how singing helped her cope with the mental trauma of her homeland fighting for survival.

Ukrainians are unceasingly grateful for our hospitality, but they fear our compassion may wear thin, as our attention has been diverted by news of the barbarity between Israelis and Palestinians. That conflict also has a long history of smouldering hatred on both sides. Wars rarely solve disputes. When wearied people recognise their futility, settlements may be negotiated. Forgiveness takes longer.

Learning to drive

As a learner driver in London, I was taking the road test for my driver's licence. When someone cut me off, I held my temper so I wouldn't look out of control. "You have a lot to learn," said the inspector. Then at a red light, the car behind me tapped my bumper. I still remained calm, but the inspector shook his head. When the light turned, I accelerated, but the car behind me then sped up and cut me off. That did it! I hit the horn as hard as I could. The inspector turned to me, smiled, and said, "Now you're getting the hang of it."

From the Registers

Funerals December 2023:

8 th December	10am	Margaret Woolnough	RBG Ashes
15 th December	12 noon	John D Corkish	RBG Ashes
20 th December	11am	John O'Neil	RBG Burial

RBG – Rushen Burial Ground

Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she charged.

"You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth." The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve. "What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded.

"Counting your ribs," said Eve.

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



Happy New Year, I wish you all the very best for 2024.

Our year started well with an entertaining meeting chaired by David Bowman and run by Jane Gunn, demonstrating 'Chair Yoga'.

The Revd Ruth Walker, Diocesan Chaplain to Mothers' Union, is running a Metamorphosis course from February to June at Abbey Church Hall in Ballasalla at 2pm. Each session lasts about one and a half hours. Metamorphosis is a resource for anyone who would enjoy looking at how God might use us in bringing change and growth in ourselves, our churches, and our communities.

Each week is a stand-alone session, but they are designed to build on each other. There are fun activities (but nothing embarrassing!) to help us think about what we already do well, and to help creative ideas surface; suggestions for different ways to pray (but sitting quietly is always an option); a short video clip of a Bible story and a few questions to help us relate the Bible passage to everyday life in our own context.

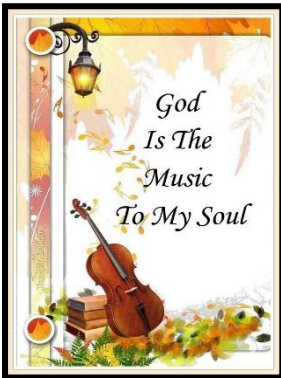
Refreshments will be provided. You don't need to bring anything, but a Bible, notepad and pens might be helpful. There is no charge. They will be held on 22nd Feb, 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May, 23rd May, and 13th June. The only other date for your diary is 19th April – Spring Council Meeting.

Our next meeting is 12th February 'Valentine Activities' chaired by Jane Gunn. During this meeting Cheryl Cousins is going to join us and give us a shortened version of the talk she gave entitled 'We Care IOM' in November 2023. Unfortunately so few of us were there at the time because of the bad weather so it will be nice to hear her again.

Lesley Scott



God in Music



‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: the ‘Nunc Dimittis’

Editor: **The Revd Michael Burgess** continues his series looking at great works of music.

St Luke tells us in his Gospel that the angels sang praises to God at the birth of Jesus, and he has given us three poems that have become part of Christian song: the *Magnificat*, the *Benedictus* and the *Nunc Dimittis*.

The first two are full of praise and rejoicing. The last comes as Mary and Joseph fulfil the Law of Moses and bring the child Jesus to Jerusalem. In the temple they meet Simeon and Anna. Simeon represents each of us who can look back over life with gratitude in the face of death as he says, ‘Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace.’ It is a story that has inspired preachers and artists, and also composers.

In the Christian Church these words of the *Nunc Dimittis* have become part of worship at the end of each day, not just the end of life. Cathedral and parish church choirs have sung settings of these words in that great tradition of Anglican choral music at Evensong – settings that have captured the sense of quiet resignation, but also conveyed the glory of the light that is Jesus shining for all people. Rachmaninov’s setting is part of his Vespers, the night-long vigil sung in the Russian Orthodox Church on the eve of great feasts.

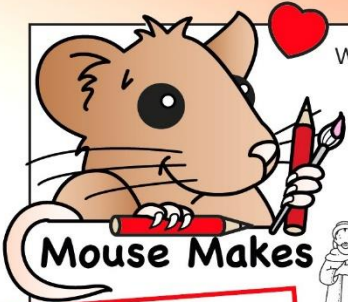
Rachmaninov composed the work (and it comprises 15 pieces) at great speed, but even so, the Vespers are now seen as one of the great masterpieces of religious music.

This was no more so than in his beautiful setting of the 5th canticle, the *Nunc Dimittis*. Just 36 bars long, it begins with a rocking, undulating figure in the upper voices. A solo tenor enters as the voice of Simeon, and it ends with the basses moving down to a low B flat: ‘a sigh of wonder and resignation on the threshold of eternal rest and peace,’ one critic has called it.

Rachmaninov later recalled, “After I played the passage at the end of the 5th canticle where the basses slowly descend to that low note, the conductor shook his head, saying, ‘Now where on earth will we find such basses? They are as rare as asparagus at Christmas!’ Nevertheless, he did find them.” It was one of the composer’s favourite pieces, and he asked for it to be sung at his funeral in the hope that it would send his ‘ship of death gently towards the unknown region.’”

On 2nd February we shall hear these words as part of the Gospel on the feast of Candlemas. Simeon prays them because his cup is now overflowing. He has looked on the salvation of God. Music allows us to look on that glory and salvation also, and Rachmaninov, in his moving setting, has captured the calm trust of that moment, which shines out like the brightness of the light of Jesus.

Children's Page



Mouse Makes

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

- ADAM ELIZABETH
- ABRAHAM MARY
- ISAAC HANNAH
- JACOB PRISCILLA
- BOAZ EVE
- ZECHARIAH RUTH
- ELKANAH REBEKAH
- AQUILA RACHEL
- JOSEPH SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

and _____ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?
_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

_____ Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

_____ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

_____ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5



FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

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

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

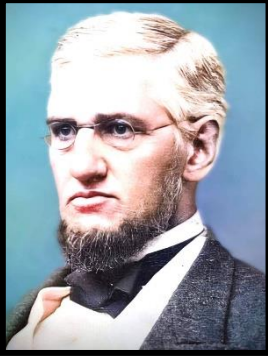
DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives!
They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

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

- ABRAHAM
- ADAM • AQUILA
- BOAZ • ELKANAH
- ELIZABETH
- EVE • HANNAH
- ISAAC • JACOB
- JOSEPH • MARY
- PRISCILLA
- RACHEL
- REBEKAH • RUTH
- SARAH
- ZECHARIAH

The Story Behind the Hymn



It Is Well with My Soul

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well (it is well)

With my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul

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

It is well (it is well)

With my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul

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

It is well (it is well)

With my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul

It is well (it is well)

With my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul

It is easy to talk about peace in Christ when everything is going our way. When we are prospering in both health and material blessings. It is, however, another thing altogether to talk about peace when you have just lost the most valuable people and things in your life.

Horatio G. Spafford (1828 – 1888) wrote this hymn soon after tragically losing his four beloved daughters. He was a prominent lawyer in Chicago in his day and owned several properties in that city. He and his wife had one son and four daughters and experienced tragedies that would have tested the faith of most people. It started with the death of his son and later fire destroyed almost all his properties. It was to escape all these tragedies that Horatio decided to send his wife and four daughters for a holiday in Europe in 1873. He bade them farewell with the hope of following them later on.

Unfortunately, that was not to be as his family's shipwrecked and all his four daughters were lost. Their ship bound for Le Havre France had collided with another steamship in Mid-Atlantic and sank almost immediately. Fortunately, his wife was saved after a lifeboat spotted her. She sent a message to her husband which read, "Saved alone".

As you can imagine this plunged Spafford into deep sorrow. He immediately left for England to comfort his grieving wife. The great evangelist Dwight Moody, a friend of the Spafford's family was in Edinburgh at the time conducting evangelistic crusades when he heard the news. With the singer Ira D Sankey he immediately went to London to comfort them. Horatio is reported to have told them, "It is well; the will of God be done".

Some people say this hymn was written while on his way to comfort his wife, but some say he composed this hymn three years later. But they all agree that it was in memory of his four daughters. May God help us to have the same

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



Thank you, that you accept us as we are; that you love us as we are. So, may we love those around us. By your Spirit may we hold hands. May we rejoice with the rejoicing, weep with the weeping. And may we offer our all to you, together. Then we may be ourselves. Then we may be one.

Amen



February 2024

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Everyone who gives of their time, money and energy to charitable organisations
- 2nd The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas
- 3rd Pets which bring such comfort to the elderly and the lonely
- 4th The Social Committee of the PCC which organises enjoyable fundraising activities
- 5th The bereaved and the sense of loss that they feel when loved one's die
- 6th All those who read the lessons at the services in the parish
- 7th Stephen Curtis and the work he does maintaining the finances of the parish
- 8th Grandparents who help their children through challenging times
- 9th Our Parish Family and Youth Worker and her work with young people
- 10th Those who give of their time to visit sick and lonely people in the parish
- 11th Families attending morning services today and the fellowship they derive from them
- 12th Those preparing for marriage later this year and the excitement they derive
- 13th Children enjoying their pancakes and chocolate before Lent begins
- 14th The beginning of Lent and its significance for all Christians
- 15th All those who intercede during the services in the parish
- 16th The head teachers of our local schools and the successes they bring to all children
- 17th Those who administer communion to the housebound.
- 18th Homegroups in the parish and the fellowship derived from them
- 19th Sidespersons who carry out their duties in our parish week by week
- 20th Farmers as they prepare for springtime and the year ahead
- 21st People in hospital awaiting treatment for life threatening diseases
- 22nd The beginning of Lent and its significance for all Christians
- 23rd Children who have been baptised in the parish during the past year
- 24th Children who attend youth organisations such as brownies, cubs, scouts and guides
- 25th The Rev'd Joe Heaton, Vicar of the Parish of Rushen, and his ministry.
- 26th Children who attend nursery, primary and secondary schools across the island
- 27th The participants in Messy Church which takes place today
- 28th PCC committees and the work they do in keeping the parish active
- 29th All those who celebrate their birthday on this day once every four years

Services February/March 2024

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)
25th February (Lent 2)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
3 rd March (Lent 3)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
10 th March (Mothering Sunday)	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)
17 th March (Lent 5)	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)
24th March (Palm Sunday)	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....

St Mary's Sunday School Leader:

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

St Mary's Ladies Working Party

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

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

St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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

Web Site/E-mail:

www.rushenparish.org.uk

rushenparishorg@gmail.com

Magazine Editor

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

e-mail: dbow43@manx.net

Articles for the magazine should be submitted to the editor no later than 20th 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

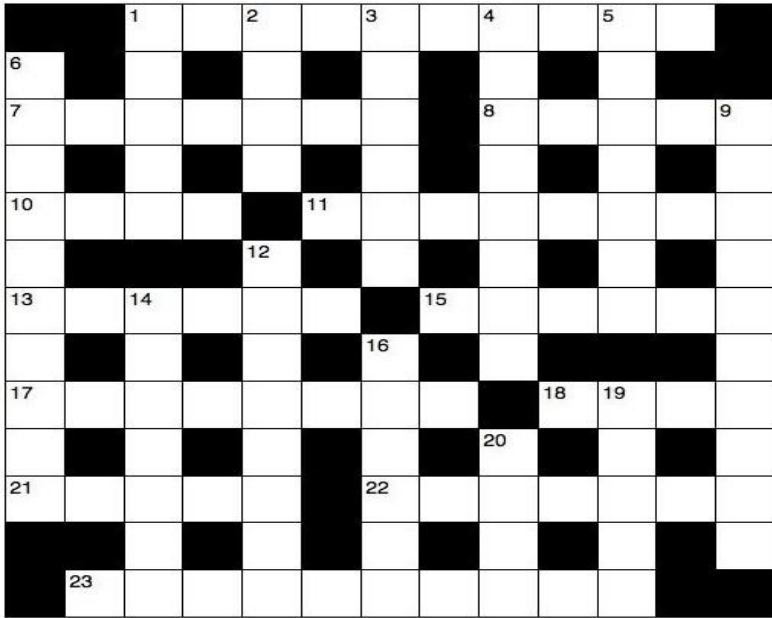
Mr Harry Dawson:

478050/835770

or Mr G Callister:

474924/834627

Crossword February 2024



Across

Down

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)</p> <p>7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)</p> <p>8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)</p> <p>10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)</p> <p>11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)</p> <p>13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)</p> <p>15 Breakwater (6)</p> <p>17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)</p> <p>18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)</p> <p>21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)</p> <p>22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)</p> <p>23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)</p> | <p>1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)</p> <p>2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)</p> <p>3 So rapt (anag.) (6)</p> <p>4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)</p> <p>5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)</p> <p>6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)</p> <p>9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)</p> <p>12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)</p> <p>14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)</p> <p>16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)</p> <p>19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)</p> <p>20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)</p> |
|--|---|