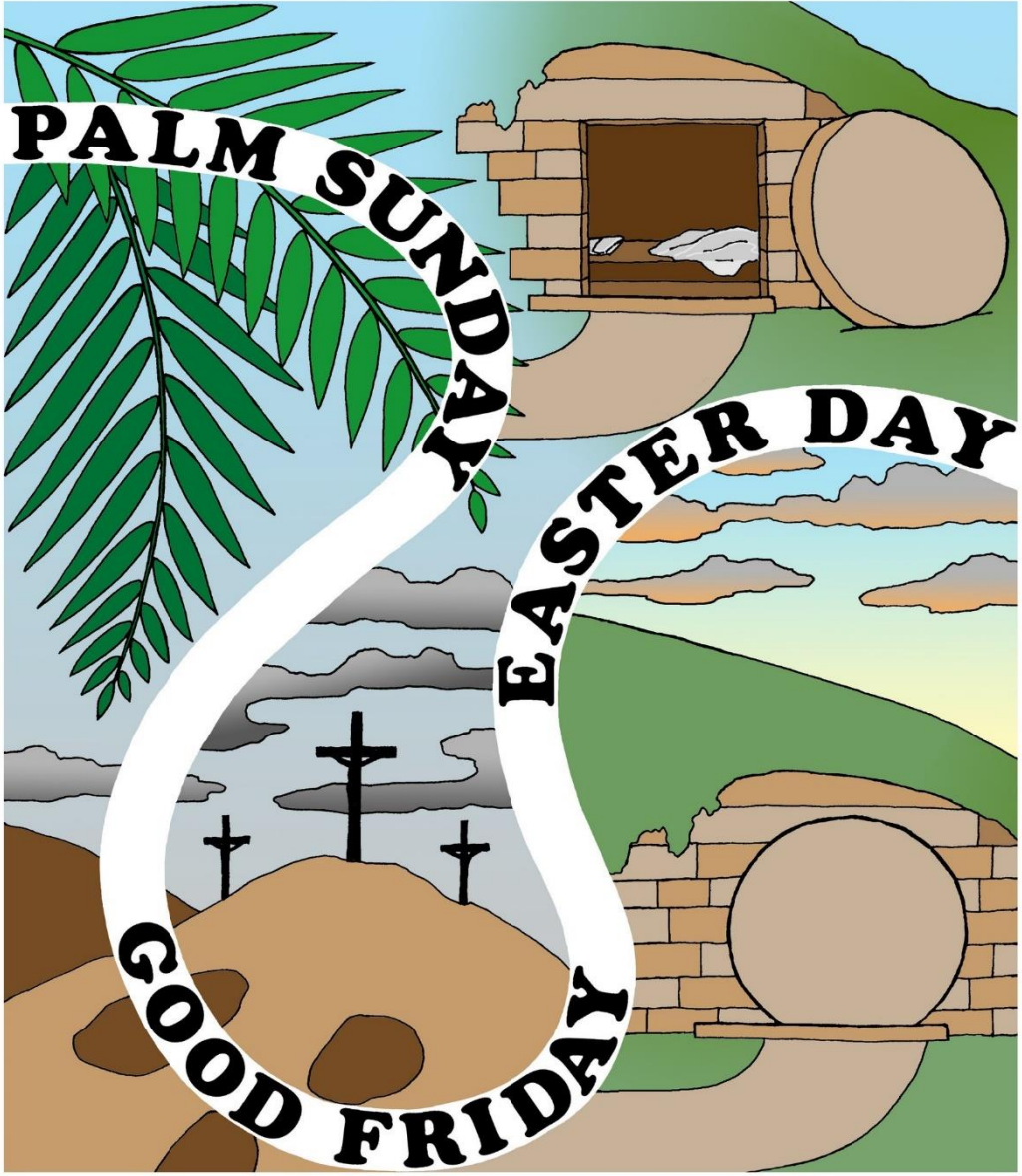


March  
2024

# Rushen Parish Magazine



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## From the Editor

Recently I opened my email account only to find that I had received a communication from a company selling metal sheets. It explained that I was only going to receive part of my original order, and that the remainder would follow in due course. I was also given an option to continue with the order, or to cancel it altogether. Either way I had to open an attached link so as to enlighten the company whether or not it wanted me to proceed. Knowing that I had never ordered any metal sheets, and being vigilant, I considered the mail to be suspicious and transferred it to my junk folder, hopefully never to receive it again. I can't imagine what would have occurred had I opened the link. This isn't the first dubious email I have received, and I suspect it won't be the last. I would also suggest that those of us who have email accounts will have received similar communications from people that they are unsure about.

We are living in an uncertain world. Wars are raging in the Middle East, Russia, Ukraine, Israel and Palestine. We are all worried about the future, not only for ourselves but for our families, young and old, growing up in a world which seems to be getting worse. Climate change, and trying to make ends meet, are all ongoing issues, and nobody seems to have an answer. I am aware that steps are being taken to change our attitudes regarding the use of energy, and becoming carbon neutral, but all this takes time and great expense, and if we don't get it right, what will this planet of ours be like in 100 years' time? In addition we have a society where young people don't feel safe unless they are carrying weapons to protect themselves, and think nothing trying to kill each other, despite the consequences. *In (Micha 2:3) we read, "Alas for those who devise wickedness and evil deeds on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in their power. They covet fields, and seize them; houses, and take them away; they oppress householder and house, people and their inheritance. Therefore, thus says the LORD: Now, I am devising against this family an evil from which you cannot remove your necks; and you shall not walk haughtily, for it will be an evil time."*

When Jesus was asked which commandment in the law was the greatest he answered, *'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'* *This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."* *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'* (Matthew 22:37-40). What is it then that prompts people to fight against one another, cheat people so that they can gain money by illegal means, and take no notice about the wonderful world that God created? It seems to me that if these two commandments are disregarded we are destined to have to put up with the status quo which, as time goes by, will only get worse.

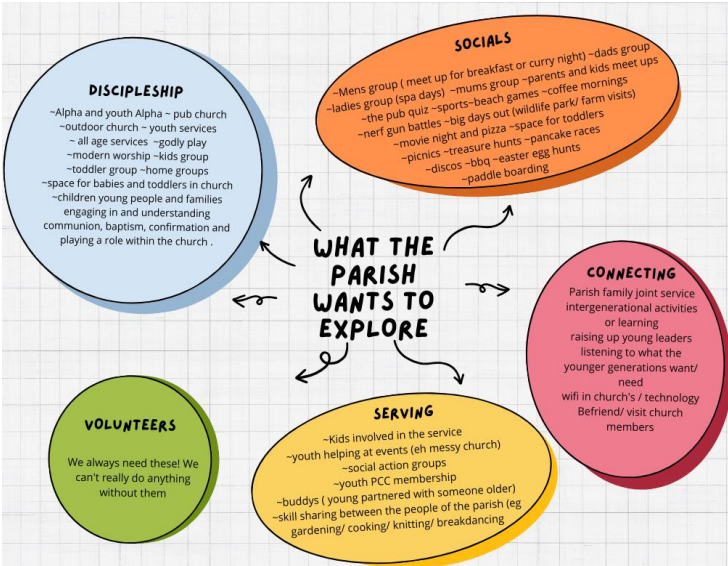
Let's hope that the Easter message, which is the foundation of Christianity, will make those who find joy in harming one other, or exhibit greed in an aim to thieve money and possessions from the vulnerable, and have no care for our world, will think again about their way of life, and seek to find Jesus who is the Light of the World and whom we all love unconditionally.

**Have a wonderful Easter**  
**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!



## Faithful Futures

I am over the moon with how many people came to contribute to the future of family and youth work within the Parish! There were so many great ideas and fantastic questions! The image next to this shows a summary of what the Parish would like to explore.

## Family Service



I love a good family service! This month at St Mary's we were practising the song, 'Our God is a great big God' during Sunday school. When it came to the family service one of the children said to me " That's the loudest we have sung it before. And all the people were singing too!" This child was overjoyed that the congregation joined in! What a great way to support our children and young people, by getting involved in what they have to bring to a church service.

## SUMT Residential

Our youth group (Acts 29) went and joined the SUMT residential, which runs from Mallmore (the beach mission house). Here we explored Colossians 3:12 looking deeper into what we clothe ourselves in, kindness, gentleness, humility, patience and compassion. There were 19 young people there building into each other and their faith. I love supporting these residentials as nothing beats a long period of time together with your peers learning about God. This builds strong relationships and safe spaces to question what you believe.

**Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support!**

**God Bless Natalie**

## Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



In addition to our weekly meetings on Tuesday afternoons in St Mary's Church, we have tried to reach out to the community by having two notable events.

The first was held on 6<sup>th</sup> February. We had put sign-up sheets at the back of churches inviting congregation members to a belated Christmas lunch. This was going to be held at the Station Hotel, Port Erin.

This was arranged because of a similar event we held at Christmas time in 2022. Lots of people joined our members for a Christmas lunch at the George Hotel Castletown. This was so successful that we decided to do it again (although rather late!).

It was lovely to see people from our four congregations at the event. There was fun, fellowship and laughter, and everyone who went commented on it being such a good occasion. With this in mind we are hoping to hold another Christmas event this year. I'm sure that this time we will be a little earlier!

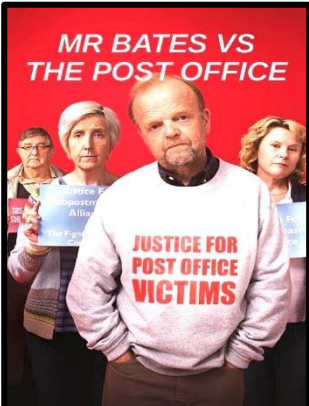
The other event we have arranged is 'Coffee & Chat' in St Mary's Church every Monday morning from 10 – 11.30am. We ask for a donation of a £1 for however much coffee you can drink, and how many biscuits you can eat! We've met on three occasions so far and attendance has been good. It is lovely to see people joining us and getting to know more about our church life and how we can make a change to the lives of others who might just sit at home. The heating is on so the church isn't cold and it's wonderful to see everyone joining in with us.

Of course, if you want even more fellowship you could join us and help to raise funds for good causes. We meet on Tuesday afternoons at 2.15pm in St Mary's Church. At the beginning of each meeting we have a time of reflection where one or more members can read something that has inspired them, or a poem they love or have written themselves. We then have a short time of prayer which culminates with the Lord's Prayer. The rest of the afternoon is spent looking at ways we can raise money for deserving charities, and having a good old chat with the people around us.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to a Coffee Morning which we will be holding in St Catherine's Church Hall in April. In next month's magazine you will be given more details, so watch this space.

**With Much Love**  
**Lesley Scott**

## Mr Bates vs The Post Office: not the only one



Editor: This is adapted from an article by **Jules Gadsby**, Church Engagement Specialist at London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICCC).

*“We’re here because the Post Office told every single one of us sat here today, told us over and over, ‘You’re the only one.’ And that was wrong. That was a lie, actually. Because... well, look at us. Here we all are. And from this moment forwards, none of us will be the only one ever again.”*

By now, most of us know what the Post Office did all those years ago. It’s hard to believe that hundreds of innocent sub-postmasters were repeatedly lied to and prosecuted in what has been called ‘the biggest miscarriage of justice in British legal history’.

Yet when Horizon, the computer system rolled out to each post office, incorrectly showed huge account shortfalls, these were blamed on sub-postmasters. They were told that nobody else had any issues, that they were the only one.

Except that they weren’t – *and the Post Office knew this.*

But still the Post Office went ahead and prosecuted these sub-postmasters. Some went bankrupt, some went to prison, some committed suicide.

The anger and outcry against the Post Office is welcome. The cry for justice is right. We all want to live in a society where justice is done.

As Jules Gadsby of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity says: “As Christians, this should be close to our hearts. The Lord is a God of justice. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne (Psalm 89:14).

“And Christ stands by those who suffer. He doesn’t look on from a distance, but as one who, at the cross, has experienced it Himself.

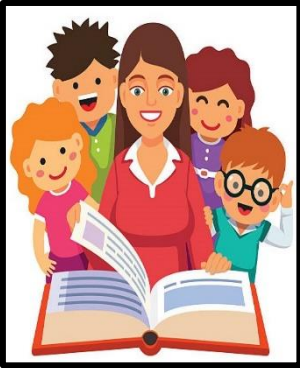
“It’s through His people, reflecting His character and His priorities, that He reveals this.

“We may never have to battle like Alan Bates and the sub-postmasters. But each of us will, in some way, be called to be a mouthpiece for truth and justice in our workplaces, homes, or community.

“In doing so, we show what God is like. And we show those facing unfairness and injustice that they’re not alone. We are there with them. God is there with them.”



## St Mary's Sunday School



We finished January with a session about Jesus' first miracle at the Wedding of Cana, where He turned water into wine. After talking about our favourite drinks, the children enjoyed tasting a variety of drinks and guessing what they were - and most of them guessed right! We then focused on the amazing miracle itself with a 'practical demonstration' and a craft activity to remind us of the story and of the fact that God can do absolutely anything!

In early February we had a session about the Transfiguration of Jesus, in preparation for our all-age service the following Sunday. We started by looking for shiny things (coins) around the hall, and realised that some of them were actual (plastic) coins, while others were chocolate ones - you can guess which ones were more popular! As the children would later find out, the shiny appearance of Jesus on the mountain would confirm to the disciples that Jesus really was the true Son of God! We also tested our listening skills with a game of Chinese whispers, because the disciples heard God's voice saying that Jesus was His beloved son and that they should listen to Him. We talked about ways in which we can listen to Jesus, eg in prayer or by reading the Bible, especially the 'Red Letter Bible' which has all the words Jesus spoke printed in red, and we thought about specific things Jesus said, eg 'Follow me,' 'Love one another as I have loved you,' 'Love God and love your neighbour as yourself,' 'Let your light shine' as well as 'Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' The children also enjoyed creating their own Transfiguration pictures, using olive oil to make Jesus shine!

The all-age service was led by our vicar Joe and focused on the theme of listening to Jesus. We learnt that just as we have to be very quiet to hear a pin drop (or even a feather!), it's important to have some 'quiet time' in order to hear the voice of Jesus speaking to us through the Scriptures or through prayer. The Sunday School contributed many answers to Joe's questions and later led the congregation in singing 'Our God is a great big God.' We also read the prayers of intercession, and Thomas read the OT reading about Elijah and Elisha. As always, everyone did very well, and we all enjoyed the refreshments after the service.

On the first Sunday in Lent we learnt about Jesus being tempted in the wilderness and how He used the Word of God in each situation to respond and overcome the temptations. We played a game to make us think about situations in which we may be tempted to say or do 'the wrong thing' (eg cheating in a game, mocking someone, taking something without permission etc.), and we discussed what would be 'the right thing' to do. We had fun making our own 'shields of faith' and using them to fight off any (paper ball) temptations that were coming our way! We also decorated Smarties tubes to help us collect some money during Lent, which will be given to a charity at Easter.

Wishing you all a blessed Lent and great joy in the first signs of spring.

**With love and blessings, Claudia**



## News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



The snowdrops are beginning to flower in the grounds of Kirk Christ which signify that Spring is on its way. It's a lovely time of year when signs of new life are making us all look forward to warmer days ahead, after what has been a very wet and sometimes cold winter. We give thanks to God each day for creating the beauty of the season for us all to enjoy.

The Ash Wednesday service at Kirk Christ on 14<sup>th</sup> February reminded us of the temptations put before our Lord in the wilderness, and the many days he must have suffered before he entered into what we know as Holy week. Another event, due to be held at Kirk Christ on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, is the Mariner's service commencing at 6.30pm. There will be lots of singing, and plenty to eat. We hosted this excellent event a year ago at the church. It was really good.

Messy Church continues at St Catherine's in March with many children enjoying the various activities which are followed with a Bible story in the church and a meal. Thank you to all who help to encourage families into a Christian life. Preparations for the re-ordering of St Catherine's Church are now underway, and hopefully there will be a transformation when the project has been completed. Soup Inn in the hall continues on the first Thursday of each month. Do come and enjoy the fellowship, and of course the soup and dessert!

**Gerry Callister**

### Answers to last month's quiz *Books of the Bible: Exodus*

- Question 1: **a** (Pharaoh's daughter)
- Question 2: **b** (10)
- Question 3: **b** (Water turned to blood)
- Question 4: **c** (Red Sea)
- Question 5: **a** (Marah)
- Question 6: **b** (Quail)
- Question 7: **c** (A pillar of cloud and of fire)
- Question 8: **c** (From a rock)
- Question 9: **a** (Mt. Sinai)
- Question 10: **b** (Thou shalt not commit adultery)
- Question 11: **a** (Two cherubim)
- Question 12: **c** (They didn't know what had happened to Moses)
- Question 13: **a** (Joshua)
- Question 14: **c** (40)

  
**PARISH OF RUSHEN**  
**CONCERT**  
 At  
 St. Catherine's Church, Port Erin  
 By  
**RUSHEN SILVER**  
**BAND**  
 On  
**THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2024**  
 AT 7.45PM  
 ADMISSION FREE - RETIRING COLLECTION



**Sudoku March 2024**

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

**Mothers and teenagers**

*A woman was confiding in her neighbour just how hard it was for her to get her teenagers out of bed in the morning. The neighbour replied that she never had any trouble at all with her son. "I just open the door and throw the cat on the bed," she explained. The woman was puzzled, and asked how that might help. "Easy. My son sleeps with the dog."*

**February Sudoku Solution**

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

**February Crossword Solution**

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

## Dramatic decline of religion on TV



There is less television being devoted to religion and ethics than there used to be. A *lot* less.

The latest statistics from Ofcom, the industry regulator reveal a dramatic reduction in television programmes about ‘religion and ethics’ broadcast by the public-service broadcasting networks (PSBs): BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5.

Comparing 2022 with 2011, peak time hours of ‘first-run’ UK origination output fell by 85 per cent; while peak-time hours of ‘all origin’ output (that is, including bought-in material) fell by 76 per cent. Channel 4 dropped from being the most prolific network to providing no output at all; and the BBC output fell by 65 per cent.

Roger Bolton, a former BBC and ITV executive and independent producer, wrote recently in the Church Times:

“All this has happened without a peep from Ofcom or the boards of the PSBs, who are supposed to protect the public interest. There have been no peeps, either, from religious leaders. They seem to be asleep, or preoccupied with their own internal issues, unaware of this wanton destruction.”

“In my opinion, television commissioners ... underestimate the power of religion and the continuing interest in it. They also seem to forget that people are moral creatures, often keen to do the right thing, but wishing to discuss and debate what that is.”

(From Church Times, 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024, p14)

### ***Mother’s reward***

*A man was decorating his new den and decided it was a good place to display all the awards he and his two sons had won at various athletic competitions. When he had filled two whole walls, he remarked to his wife that it was a shame she had no awards to contribute.*

*The following day, she produced, neatly framed, the birth certificates of their two sons, and added them to the display.*

## Reflecting Faith: Lychgates



*Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers church gates this month...*

On the moors near to where I used to live in West Yorkshire, there were a couple of large stones with crosses marked on them. Many people thought that they were boundary or marker stones, and in so far as they marked the way towards the oldest church in that area they were. To be more exact, they were on the route towards the oldest churchyard.

In ages past bodies were carried by hand, sometimes over long distances, and there were restrictions placed on where they could be laid to allow the bearers to rest. These two stones were 'resting' stones.

When a body arrived at the church for burial, it would again be put down while the administrative formalities were carried out, and again the bearers could rest. So, a resting stone was placed at the edge or start of the consecrated land around the church.

The priest conducting the funeral would meet the cortege here, not originally out of respect, but rather to receive the required legal certificate for burial before he allowed them to enter the church grounds.

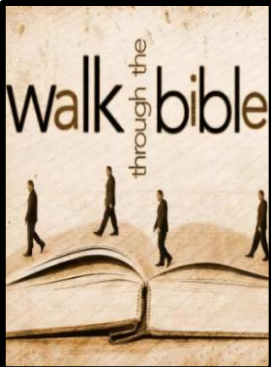
Because of typical English weather - rain and wind - it was usually sheltered, and benches were built for the bearers. There would also be a cross within the construction to signify the start of holy land. This is what today we call the 'lych-gate'; lych coming from the Anglo-Saxon word *lich* or *lic*, related to the modern German word *leiche*, all meaning corpse.

Few old lychgates remain today, as many were destroyed or damaged after the Reformation, and most of those that survived were constructed of timber and have since decayed.

In the eighteenth century, when the use for the resting stones and thus lychgates declined, many were removed and replaced with gates, often retaining the shelter as it continues to be a meeting place for the priest to receive funeral parties.

*This month*

Try and visit a lychgate this month and actually spend a few moments under its shelter. Have a think about what burdens you want to lay down. What do you need to be sheltered from?



## What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Leviticus & Numbers

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

These books are concerned with Israel's wandering in the desert, on their journey from slavery in Egypt to the promised land of Canaan.

Leviticus focuses on the regulations about worship, ceremonial cleanness, moral laws and holy days. The key theme is that of *holiness*, as every detail of our lives is affected by the presence of a holy God. The aim of the sacrifices, feast and Sabbaths was to enable the people to enter God's presence. We should see the instructions and practices in Leviticus as pointing to Jesus. He totally fulfilled the law through the sacrifice of His life, as Easter reminds us. He demonstrated the love and holiness of God, so that we can share His life: 'Be holy, because I am holy' (1 Peter 1:16, cf Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7).

The book of Numbers tells the story of Israel's journey through the wilderness. The people were coming to terms with their *identity* as God's people and the *call* to serve Him. They didn't always respond with faith, gratitude and obedience, but with unbelief, ingratitude and rebellion. As a result of their refusal to enter Canaan (ch 14), they were condemned to spend the rest of their lives in the desert. However, God in His grace allowed their children to enter the Promised Land. The book reminds us that the Church is called to be a community that honours God, learns how to deal with sin in ourselves and others, and lives out love and justice in daily life.

*'The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.'* (Numbers 6:24-26).

### Quiz on the Book of Numbers

Editor: As last month there is a short 'quiz' to accompany the series on the books of the Bible. This month it is the Book of Numbers. The answers will appear in the April edition of the magazine

1. How many chapters are there in the Book of Numbers?

- (a) 34
- (b) 35
- (c) 36

2. "Bemidbar," the Hebrew title of the book "Numbers" means what?

- (a) In the beginning
- (b) In the wilderness
- (c) Accounting

- 3.** *What does the book of Numbers describe?*
- (a)** The priestly rituals and rules for conduct
  - (b)** The exodus of the Israelites from Egypt
  - (c)** The numbering of God's people
- 

- 5.** *What tribe was given the responsibility of doing the work of the tabernacle?*
- (a)** Asher
  - (b)** Judah
  - (c)** Levi
- 

- 7.** *Why does God prohibit Moses from entering Canaan in Numbers 20?*
- (a)** Because he spoke to the rock
  - (b)** Because he threw the rock
  - (c)** Because he strikes the rock
- 

- 9.** *When the twelve spies were sent to Canaan, how many returned with a good report?*
- (a)** Two
  - (b)** Twelve
  - (c)** One

- 4.** *How many years will the Israelites wander in the wilderness?*
- (a)** 30
  - (b)** 40
  - (c)** 50
- 

- 6.** *In Numbers 16, a man named Korah led a rebellion against Moses. How did God end this rebellion?*
- (a)** They were all stricken with leprosy.
  - (b)** They were eaten by worms.
  - (c)** The ground opened up and swallowed them.
- 

- 8.** *What did Moses hold up in Numbers 21, to heal the people who had been bitten by poisonous snakes when they looked at it?*
- (a)** The Ten Commandments
  - (b)** A Brass Serpent
  - (c)** Aaron's Rod
- 

- 10.** *'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' What are these verses from Numbers 6 called?*
- (a)** The Shema
  - (b)** The Mezuzah
  - (c)** The Aaronic Blessing

## All in the month of March



**150 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1874** Charles Lightoller, British naval officer, was born. He was Second Officer on the RMS Titanic, and the most senior member of the crew to survive the sinking in 1912. He was also a commanding officer in the Royal Navy during WW1, and took part (as a retired volunteer) in the Dunkirk evacuation in WW2.

**125 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1899**, the German pharmaceutical company Bayer patented aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid).

**90 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1934**, Yuri Gagarin, Soviet cosmonaut, was born. He was the first man in space. (Died 1968)

**80 years ago, from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 1944**, the Great Escape took place. 76 Allied prisoners of war broke out of the Stalag Luft III prisoner-of-war camp near Sagan, Germany after digging three tunnels. Three of the prisoners escaped, 73 were recaptured, and 50 were executed. The event was dramatized in the film *The Great Escape*.

**75 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1949**, the 1948 Arab-Israeli War ended. Israeli victory.

**70 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1954**, the USA tested the most powerful nuclear device it has ever detonated – a thermonuclear hydrogen bomb codename Castle Bravo, at Bikini Atoll, in the Marshall Islands. Due to a design error, the 15-megaton blast was 2.5 times greater than expected, and caused extensive contamination, deaths, burns and birth defects.

**65 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1959**, the Barbie doll was launched at the International Toy Fair in New York City. 9<sup>th</sup> March is Barbie's official birthday.

**60 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1964**, American world heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay was given the name Muhammad Ali, after joining the Nation of Islam.

**50 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1974**, the Terracotta Army was discovered in Shaanxi, China by a group of farmers who were digging a well. The 8,000 life-sized warriors, plus chariots and horses were buried with the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang (247 BC to 210 BC) to protect him in the afterlife.

**40 years ago, 5<sup>th</sup> March 1984 to March 1985**, the 1984 miners' strike took place. 6000 coal miners in Yorkshire began a strike, to protest against pit closures and job losses. By 12<sup>th</sup> March the strike in Yorkshire became a national one, involving tens of thousands of miners.

**30 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1994**, the first women priests in the Church of England were ordained.

**25 years ago, 21<sup>st</sup> March 1999**, Ernie Wise, British comedian and actor (Morecambe and Wise) died.

**20 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2004**, Alistair Cooke, British-born American journalist and broadcaster died. Known for his insightful broadcasts on American culture, in *Letter from America*.

**10 years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014**, Russia annexed Crimea following a controversial referendum in which its citizens voted to separate from Ukraine. Many of those loyal to Ukraine boycotted the referendum, and it was declared illegitimate by the United Nations and western governments. Most countries continue to recognise Crimea as part of Ukraine. **Also on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014**, the first same-sex marriages in England and Wales took place.



## Why we should be like donkeys



Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie, but most of us don't own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They can survive on poor fodder, can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. And although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story, that same one that transported her was probably there; where else would it have been?

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. So, Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the king of peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.

Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work He has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!

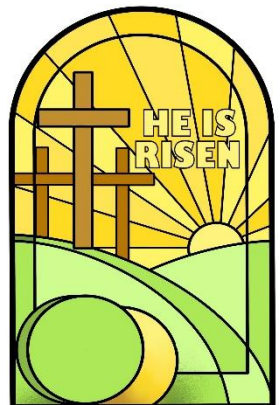
Perhaps that is something we should learn—to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to Him, to serve Him with all our hearts, and to bear the mark of His grace in our lives.

**Lester Amann**

### A Quiz for Easter

(Based on Matthew 27)

1. Who planned to have Jesus executed?
2. To whom did they go for help to 'catch' Him?
3. What did they give in return for Jesus?
4. What did they do with Jesus?
5. What did Judas do then?
6. What did the governor ask Jesus?
7. What was the name of the other prisoner?
8. Why did Pilate wash his hands?
9. Who helped Jesus carry His cross?
10. What was the written charge?
11. When did darkness come over the land?
12. What did Jesus cry to God?



Answers in April's Magazine

## From the Registers

### Funerals January 2024:

29 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 2023	Alan Grace	11am	Mount Tabor	Burial RBG
9 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2024	Rosemany Greenwood	11am	Kirk Christ	Burial RBG
12 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2024	Tom Brunt	11am	Kirk Christ	Burial RBG
12 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2024	John Brunt	11am		Ashes RBG
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2024	William Mizen	12 noon	Kirk Christ	Cremation
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan. 2024	Lorna Corkill	11am	Kirk Christ	Burial RBG
25 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2024	Pauline Coole	11am	Kirk Christ	Burial RBG
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2024	Brenda West	2pm		Ashes RBG

RBG - Rushen Burial Ground

### Expensive boat

*A vicar was planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was aghast when he found it would cost him £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. He protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. "That might be true," replied the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked."*

*"Well, at £50 an hour for a boat, I am not surprised!"*

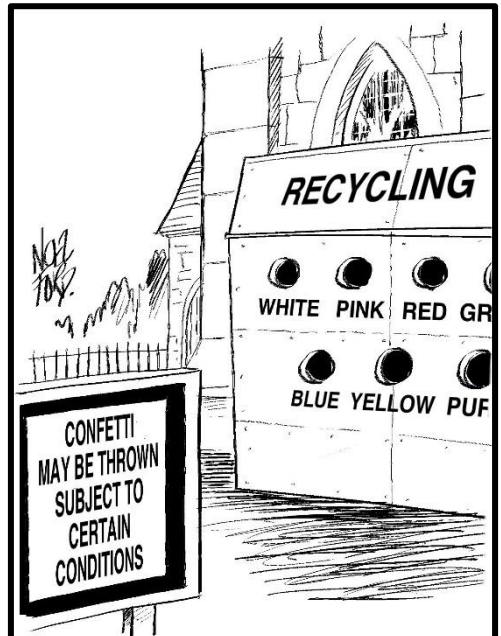
### Safeguarding

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](http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion)





## This Mothering Sunday, could you give the Gift of Dignity?

The Mothers' Union has launched '**Make A Mother's Day**', its annual Mothering Sunday fundraising campaign. It hopes to raise funds to support the MU's global community projects, which "transform lives every day."

The MU says: "We know how important mothers, caregivers and grandmothers are, and how much they do to help their children, families and communities thrive, often unnoticed and without thanks."

And so, for Mothering Sunday (10th March) the MU is asking people to buy a 'Gift of Dignity', to help empower women in developing countries to transform their lives, and to reach their full potential.

"When buying these life-changing gifts, you will receive a card that explains your gift along with a Mothering Sunday greetings card, which you can give to a loved one. You are also able to give a gift in memory of someone special."

The Mothers' Union has been running the '**Make A Mother's Day**' campaign since 2006, to celebrate all mothers and caregivers - how they nurture, love and help us to flourish.

## Thanking two kinds of Mother on 10<sup>th</sup> March

Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, is the day for honouring our Mother Church, and has been celebrated since the Middle Ages. Mother's Day is an annual day to honour our mothers, and it began in America in May 1907. In the US, Canada, Australia and Mexico, Mother's Day is still held in May. In Britain, Mothers' Day is held on Mothering Sunday, so the two days are often merged in people's minds.

If you ask Google for ideas of how to be nice to your church on that day, you won't find much. But if you want to be kind to your mother that day, you will be spoilt for choice. High on all the lists are suggestions for taking her to lunch, giving flowers, a card, or paying for her to have a day doing something she loves.

Whatever you choose to do, probably the best thing to give your mother must surely be yourself: some time and some love. Remind her of the funny and touching stories of your childhood and thank her for all the things that she did for you. Give her some good company and show her some gratitude. Let her know that you love her and appreciate her.

Remember that the Commandment 'Honour thy father and mother' was the first commandment that came with a promise of blessing on you, if you obey.

## God in Music



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

### **‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’**

#### **Hildegard of Bingen**

In this series we have looked at the psalms of the Old Testament and the songs of the New Testament, and now we enter the Middle Ages. But it is the Middle Ages through the eyes of a record producer in the last century.

In 1980 Ted Perry decided to found a new independent record company, Hyperion. If that was not financial risk enough, in the following year Hyperion issued a CD of a composer virtually unknown in the 1980s – Hildegard of Bingen. The risk paid off, and Gothic Voices’ recording of the music of this remarkable medieval nun became a best seller. The CD sold in its thousands and received awards from the gramophone industry.

‘A feather on the breath of God’, the title of the CD, is how Hildegard described herself. ‘Listen, there was a king sitting on his throne. Around him stood great and wonderfully beautiful columns ornamented with ivory, bearing the banners of the king with great honour. Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the ground and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself, but because the air bore it along. Thus am I a feather on the breath of God.’

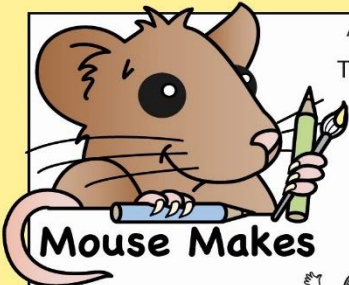
Hildegard was born in 1098, the tenth child of noble parents who lived in western Germany. Aged only eight, she was given into the care of Jutta, abbess of a monastery in the Rhineland, near Bingen. There she lived the life of an enclosed nun, her only contact with the world outside via a grille through which food was passed.

After 30 years, Hildegard left that cell and was assigned a scribe, who wrote down her visions and meditations in two volumes. She founded two monasteries, wrote books on medicine and natural healing and the first morality play, and composed a great range of songs. She corresponded with the great and the good, and as the ‘Sybil of the Rhine,’ her advice was sought by popes and emperors, by kings and bishops. A truly creative life of prayer and service until her death in 1179.

The starting point for her own compositions was the plainsong of that time. Modern techniques of singing and performing often make plainsong slow and heavy. The secret to bringing plainchant alive is to sing it with relaxed attention. In many ways that is the secret of the life of prayer: that paradox of resting in the Lord while being alert to the promptings of his spirit. Hildegard realised that secret as she brought to her music, as she did to everything, an intensity of emotion and faith, developing the medieval plainchant into melodies that flowed off the page and soared into the skies.

It is all there in the chant ‘O ignis spiritus’ on the CD – an ecstatic song, praising the life of God’s Spirit as breath and spark of flame, as a power within and armour without. As Hildegard contemplates this gift, her music moves and grows, reaching upwards to God’s throne of glory in praise and adoration and outwards to those who listen.

# Children's Page



## Mouse Makes

"I am the **resurrection** and the life.  
The one who believes in me will live  
even though they die."  
*John 1:25*



READ the Bible passages to find the answers to the crossword clues

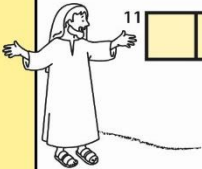
*Matthew 21:1-11*

- 1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
- 2. What did he ride on?
- 3. What did the crowd shout?
- 4. What did clothes did they put down?
- 7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



*Matthew 26:17-29*

- 15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
- 12. Who did he celebrate it with?
- 11. What did Jesus break to eat?



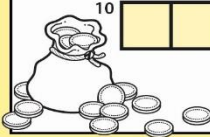
*Matthew 26:36-75*

- 6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
- 18. Who denied Jesus?



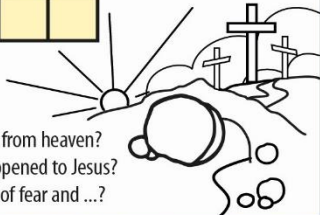
*Matthew 26:14-16*

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
- 10. How many silver pieces was he paid?

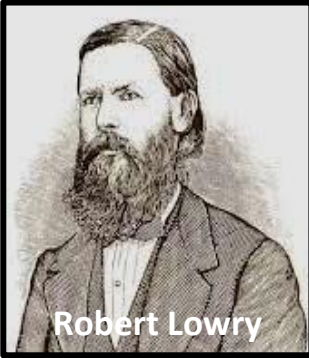


*Matthew 28:1-10*

- 5. Who descended from heaven?
- 19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?



## The Story Behind the Hymn



### *Christ Arose*

Low in the grave He lay  
Jesus my Saviour!  
Waiting the coming day,  
Jesus my Lord!

*Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign,  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch His bed,  
Jesus my Saviour!  
Vainly they seal the dead,  
Jesus my Lord!

Death cannot keep his prey,  
Jesus my Saviour!  
He tore the bars away,  
Jesus my Lord!

*By Robert Lowry (1826-1899)*

This Easter marks the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of this much-loved hymn, sung each year by millions of Christians worldwide. It all began on a little pump organ in the living room of a college professor in Pennsylvania, back in 1874.

Robert Lowry was professor of literature at Bucknell University, and pastor of a nearby church. He had a passion for poetry and music, and explained his 'muse' this way: "I watch my moods and when anything strikes me, whether words or music, no matter where I am, at home, on the street, I jot it down. My brain is a sort of spinning machine, for there is music running through it all the time. Sometimes the words come, and the music follows."

Easter 1874 was approaching, and on this particular day Robert Lowry had been meditating on the gospel narratives of the Passion and Resurrection. The angel's words at the empty tomb, 'He is not here, but is risen' kept running through his mind. There was something there... Lowry moved to the little pump organ in his living room and gave himself up to the moment. Soon the words and the music for this joyous Easter hymn just fell into place.





## Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

*My dearest Lord,  
be thou a bright flame before me,  
be thou a guiding star above me,  
be thou a smooth path beneath me,  
be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
today and for evermore. Amen*



### March 2024

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Farmers as they prepare their land for the seasons ahead
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Families as they enjoy the weekend together
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The Mariners' Service taking place at 6.30pm at Kirk Christ today
- 4<sup>th</sup> Children returning to school after a busy weekend
- 5<sup>th</sup> The famine in Ethiopia which is causing hardship and death, especially to children
- 6<sup>th</sup> The work of the Social Committee and its commitment to raise funds for our parish
- 7<sup>th</sup> Soup Inn taking place today in St Catherine's Church Hall from noon to 1.30pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> Michal Kewley for organising the summer concerts at St Catherine's Church
- 9<sup>th</sup> Those bereaved recently or who are remembering the death of loved ones
- 10<sup>th</sup> All mothers on Mothering Sunday
- 11<sup>th</sup> For the springtime and the signs of new life in the trees, farms and gardens
- 12<sup>th</sup> Those in financial difficulty
- 13<sup>th</sup> The Mothers' Union and the good work it does in our parish
- 14<sup>th</sup> The emergency services in their effort to bring relief to those in distress
- 15<sup>th</sup> Those responsible for maintaining the highways on the island
- 16<sup>th</sup> Voluntary helpers in schools who give their time to help the children
- 17<sup>th</sup> All participants in sporting activities taking place today
- 18<sup>th</sup> The works of agencies such as the Samaritans and Alcoholics Anonymous
- 19<sup>th</sup> All saints and martyrs who have remained steadfast in their faith
- 20<sup>th</sup> Shopkeepers in Port Erin and Port St Mary
- 21<sup>st</sup> Those who intercede at our services in the parish
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Students in colleges undertaking courses to further their knowledge
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Those who prepare for and participate in the activities during Messy Church today
- 24<sup>th</sup> Chaplains in hospitals, prisons and the armed forces, and their ministry
- 25<sup>th</sup> People who are housebound, unable to enjoy the pleasures of outdoor life
- 26<sup>th</sup> Actors and Actresses who provide such pleasure to theatregoers
- 27<sup>th</sup> Those families hoping that they will be able to have a summer break
- 28<sup>th</sup> Residents and helpers at care homes on the island preparing for their daily activities
- 29<sup>th</sup> The work of the Church Army
- 30<sup>th</sup> Headteachers in schools within the Southern Mission Partnership
- 31<sup>st</sup> The safety of children at play now the lighter evenings are upon them

**Services March/April 2024**

3 <sup>rd</sup> March <b>(Lent 3)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
10 <sup>th</sup> March <b>(Mothering Sunday)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
17 <sup>th</sup> March <b>(Lent 5)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
24 <sup>th</sup> March <b>(Palm Sunday)</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> March <b>(Easter Sunday)</b>	6.30am	Kirk Christ Dawn Service
	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
7 <sup>th</sup> April <b>(Easter 2)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
14 <sup>th</sup> April <b>(Easter 3)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
21 <sup>st</sup> April <b>(Easter 4)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
28 <sup>th</sup> April <b>(Easter 5)</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>

(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](http://www.rushenparish.org.uk)

[rushenparishorg@gmail.com](mailto:rushenparishorg@gmail.com)

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*e-mail:* dbow43@manx.net

*Articles for the magazine should be submitted to the editor no later than 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. This arrangement is subject to change.*

**Parish Director of Music:**

Mr M D Porter, 10 Fairway Drive, Rowany, Port Erin 832143

**Churchyard Enquiries:**

Please contact

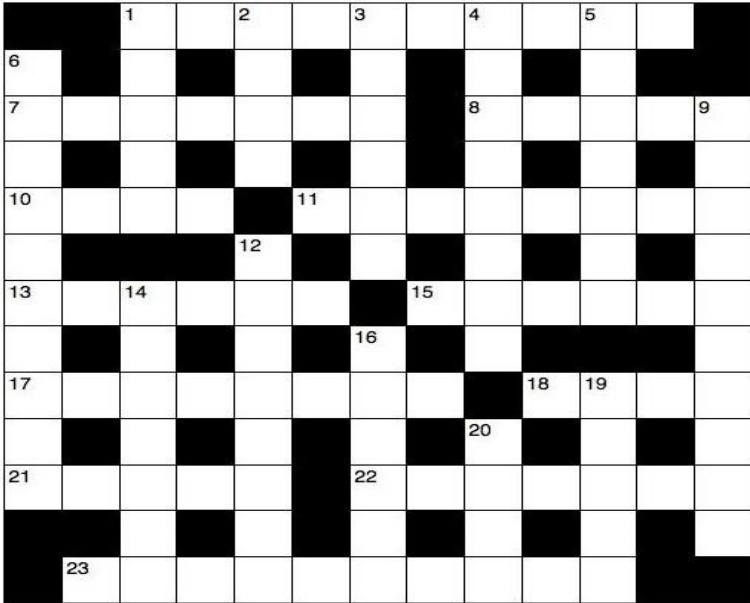
Mr Harry Dawson:

478050/835770

or Mr G Callister:

474924/834627

## Easter Crossword March 2024



### Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — ' (**Joshua 8:4**) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (**Luke 22:15**) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (**Matthew 5:14**) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (**2 Kings 2:12-13**) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (**Matthew 26:36, 39**) (10)
- 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (**Matthew 13:57**) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
- 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (**Matthew 27:26**) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)

### Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (**Mark 14:67**) (8)
- 4 Well-being (**Proverbs 3:8**) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (**Galatians 5:19, 21**) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (**Acts 26:20**) (4)
- 10 ' — — , the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me' (**John 14:19**) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (**John 21:16**) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (**Mark 15:39**) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (**Mark 8:14**) (4)
- 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)