

May
2024

Rushen Parish Magazine



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From the Editor

It's amazing to find things in places where you don't expect them. Whilst away I spent a lovely evening at 'The Sun Inn', a beautiful 16th Century public house situated in a lovely village called Bredgar, not far from Sittingbourne, Kent. It was Mothering Sunday, so it was appropriate for us to spend the evening having a pleasant meal, and enjoy the ambiance that such a setting affords.

As with all old buildings of this type, the owners had adorned the walls with pictures appropriate to its age and in keeping with the setting. I was fascinated with one of these which seemed to spell out the rules for living a happy and fulfilled life. Not wanting to leave without some record of what was written I took a photograph of it. I also had an ulterior motive which was to share its content with you, the readers of this magazine. I'm sure that there will be some of you who have seen similar pictures, or may have one on your wall. If that's the case forgive me for writing about it here. This is what the picture states: *'Be thankful, Do your best, Always tell the truth, Help others, Laugh out loud, Say please and thank you, Work hard, Try new things, Love one another, Say your prayers, Keep your promises, Listen, Speak kindly, Smile'*.

We are living in an uncertain world where so many factors affect everyone. The wars in Israel and Palestine, in other parts of the Middle East, and the Ukraine, are all playing a part in our concerns. Global warming is beginning to have an alarming affect on our farmers whose lands are becoming waterlogged and unable to produce the crops that are needed for some to survive. Flooding is becoming so prevalent throughout the world some people don't know where to turn for help. Food prices, although better of late, are so high that families are struggling to keep roofs over their heads. Interest rates are high and mortgage and rent prices increasing at an alarming rate.

In Galatians 5:22-23 the Bible states, *'...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control....'* Coupled with the statement I photographed in a 16th century public house, there seems to be a message from both that mankind needs to take note of. Just imagine that if from this moment on, every new-born child was taught the qualities required to live their lives as the fruit of the spirit, and behaved in the way as described in my photograph. The world would be transformed and begin to look like the one which our Saviour, and His disciples, wanted for us all, and not one that seems to be leading to hopelessness.

David



Why your television is like the Trinity

*Editor: 26th May is Trinity Sunday. Many people, when they think about it all, struggle to understand the concept of a God that is Three in One. So, the following article by the **Revd Michael Harding** may help...*

Here is a trick question: How many colours does your television set use?

Answer: Just three: red, green and blue. And in that order, just like a rainbow (where reds are at one side, blues at the opposite side, green in the middle). This is known as "RGB".

These are TV's three primary colours which, when their luminescence is fired at your eyes, give all the colours of the visible spectrum. These are all 'additive' colours. In fact, mix these three together in different proportions, and your screen can offer you 16 million colours.

You thought the sequence was red/yellow/blue? No, that's for painted or printed colours. A TV set positively gives out light in three different colours, whereas paint daubed on paper absorbs and removes some colours, to reflect back merely a small part of the light falling on it the colour that you see.

You'll soon call out the repair man if your television loses one of its three colours and all the presenters look as though they came from Mars. But change the intensity of any one colour (red, green or blue) even slightly and you change the overall colour.

Switch them all off, and you are left with black. Let all three of them shine at full brightness, at the same point – and then as if by magic you have a totally different colour: WHITE!

It's a parable which illustrates the Holy Trinity. Three completely distinct persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), just as your TV set has three quite separate colours: red, green, blue.

Take away any One member of the Trinity, and you slip into theological error; take away any one of the three colours, and you call out the TV repair engineer!

So -

It DOES matter that God is our Creator and Father - otherwise our whole life is merely a meaningless illusion.

It DOES matter that Jesus is God the Son, for otherwise His death is simply a human tragedy, with no promise of salvation or eternal life.

It DOES matter that the Holy Spirit is with us here and now, otherwise we are disconnected from God.

Yes it really does matter! Just as it is essential that a TV set can produce white by the equal intensity of all of its three colours. In fact, the more you think about it, the more it seems that the doctrine of the Trinity is far from being a complicated bit of theological nonsense, but is a sort of theological test-card, to make sure that we've got the right picture of God, without distortion.

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



Women's Fellowship

Our **St Mary's Warm Space 'Coffee and Chat'** mornings are ticking over nicely and gaining in popularity. The *'come and join us'* board which Peter kindly made does attract attention with its cheerful message and offer of a warm welcome. We would also love to see anyone from our Parish family join us for these Monday Morning 10 to 11.30am sessions and bring a friend so that we can get to know one another better. This could then become a Rushen Parish Outreach!

One of our projects for April was to decorate St Mary's for the Easter celebration and everyone joined in donating enough spring flowers and greenery to fill Covent Garden. On Easter Sunday morning the church was a beautiful riot of colour which, helped by the cold weather, lasted through the next two Sundays.

The stamp collection for **The Bone Cancer Research Trust** has been hugely successful and we have received lots of used and new stamps, most of which have now been trimmed ready to go. We have received the special envelopes from the Trust in UK, and now await someone traveling across to take them and pop them into a UK post box.

Our weekly meetings continue to be well attended, and our prayers ongoing for all the afflicted and hurting in the Parish.

We congratulate David Scott, our chairperson Lesley's husband, on being elected as a Port St. Mary Commissioner this week and pray that his term will both be satisfying and productive for him and for Port St Mary.

We are all prepared for our coffee morning on 26th April where we hope to raise a good amount for The Manx Deaf Society. We hope many Rushen Parish members will attend, with families and friends to make this a really successful event. A speaker from **'The Manx Deaf Society'**, will be attending and giving us a short talk on its work.

Rev Ginny Viner

Spring Concert

Thursday 16th May 2024 at 7pm

Manx Children's Choir and Scoill Phurt Le Moirrey

St Catherine's Church Hall

Admission Free

Retiring Collection



Time to pray for our church wardens

With the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in mind, which in our case takes place on 14th May, a solicitor, considers the role of Church Wardens. He begins with two Church of England prayers

O Eternal God... enlighten with Thy Grace the Wardens of this church, and so rule their minds and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek Thy Holy Will... Amen.

O Lord, ...we beseech Thee to bless all who, ...give themselves to the service of their fellow worshippers. Endue them with wisdom, patience and courage to strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall... that they may worthily minister in Thy Name to the suffering, the friendless and the needy... Amen

Churchwardens have a vital and historical role in the life of the church. They are elected by the parish, not just the members of the church. Anyone in the parish can vote for them, not just people on the church's electoral roll.

So, if you want to be a churchwarden, just invite your neighbours on the day of the parish meetings in church!

Wardens used to have a significant role in the wider life of the parish with responsibilities for charity, poor relief and even bridges and roads.

Their church duties today include:

- Maintaining order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service
- Being entrusted with the property of the church
- Having a duty to cooperate with the vicar
- Encouraging parishioners in practice of "true religion"

Quite a job! These are their legal duties, but I also like the prayers above as it reminds us to pray for them to seek God's will, not theirs or ours, but God's, and to strengthen the weak and encourage the fallen.

They may feel most of the time that they are weak and have fallen, but they are equipped with our support and prayers to look after other people who need strength or support - which is probably most of us at times!

St Mary's Sunday School



Our Easter Sunday service at St Mary's was a very joyful celebration of our Lord's resurrection! The church was beautifully decorated with an abundance of colourful flowers (thanks to the ladies!), as well as the Sunday School's Easter garden, and we had our Easter banner (painted by Peter) and bunting outside by the front gate. It was a very festive atmosphere, aided by Mike's accomplished playing of the organ (so good to have him back!) and the choir leading the congregation in singing triumphant Easter hymns! It was

lovely to have some visitors and family members of all ages join us for the service, and Rev Ginny Viner made sure we all greeted each other enthusiastically with 'Alleluia - He is risen indeed!' The Sunday School contributed to the service with the song 'We have a King who rides a donkey, 'accompanied by percussion instruments and by Lukas on the mandolin. Following the service, the children and young people all enjoyed our Easter egg hunt outside! Many thanks to members of the congregation who had donated eggs for the children to find and share.

Having had a short break from Sunday School for the Easter holidays, with several families enjoying a trip across, we got together again for our April all-age service, which was led by our vicar Joe. Laura read the reading from Acts, and the dramatic reading of the gospel (Luke 24:36-48) was led by Megan as narrator and Cameron as Jesus, who appeared to the disciples in the upper room on the evening of Easter Day. To illustrate the disciples' confusion until they were convinced that Jesus had truly risen from the dead, Joe gave us a secret message to work out, which didn't make any sense until we read it backwards! Similarly, it was only when the disciples had met the risen Jesus and shared a meal with Him that they truly understood who Jesus really was, namely the risen Son of God, "the Way, the Truth and the Life!" Everything that had happened before and the things Jesus had told them suddenly made sense. Joe encouraged us to view the gospels in the light of the resurrection, the true starting point, and to discuss in small groups how our favourite gospel stories would have made much more sense to the disciples by hindsight. He also encouraged us to follow in the disciples' footsteps by being witnesses to our faith and to the wonderful things Jesus still does today in our own lives! Many thanks to the children and young people who helped with leading the congregation in singing 'Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life' and with reading prayers and Bible readings. Well done to all who contributed to this inspirational service in any way!

We will be continuing the Easter journey in our Sunday School sessions, as we look forward to the celebration of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church! May we all experience a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, to guide us and strengthen us in our Christian witness!

With love and blessings

Claudia



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



The Dawn Service at Kirk Christ on Easter Sunday was attended by 40 parishioners making it a joyous occasion. Seeing the sun rising reminded us of our Lord rising from the tomb well over 2,000 year's ago on that first Easter Day. Worship continued at Kirk Christ at 9.30am when Holy Communion was celebrated. The Easter decorations were once again done beautifully by church members. A big thank you to them for this and for looking after the flowers each week throughout the year. Similarly, thank you to our church members who serve refreshments at the close of all our services. The Tenebrae Service on Good Friday, also at Kirk Christ, had an atmosphere of its own with reading and music of the Passion. Again thanks are due to those who read lessons, and the music group, who contributed to the service.

Again Thanks are due to church members who decorated St Catherine's in preparation for Easter Day. It looked beautiful and must have been well received by the mixed congregation that attended the 11am Holy Communion service. The Music Group, and organist Steve Daykin provided great Easter hymns for everyone to sing. Before Easter on Good Friday at 11am members of the congregation read St Mark's Passion Narrative and I am grateful to all those who took part in acting out this Gospel reading so well. Soup Inn was held on Thursday 4th April and once again I must thank those who kindly donated soup and desserts, and to those who came along and supported this event and helped in any way.

Gerry Callister

National Mills Weekend

11th & 12th May 2024

KENTRAUGH MILL

This ancient mill is open:

Saturday 11th May 10am – 5pm

Sunday 12th May 11am – 5pm

Come and see it running

Donations to the USPG

Enquiries: 832406

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 14th May

***Annual Parochial Church
Meeting***

Kirk Christ at 7pm

Friday 14th June

***Early Summer Quiz (7pm)
St Catherine's Church Hall
Fish/Sausage & Chip Supper
£12.50 per head
Tables of four to six***

Sudoku May 2024

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

Board meeting

"There will be a meeting of the Board immediately after the service," announced the minister. And so, after the close of the service, the Church Board gathered at the back of the church for the meeting. But there was a stranger in their midst - a visitor who had never attended their church before. "My friend," said the minister gently, "Didn't you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?"

"Yes," said the visitor, "and after today's sermon, I suppose I'm just about as bored as anyone else who came to this meeting."

April's Sudoku Solution

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

April's Crossword Solution

U	█	E	█	A	█	A	█	I	█	T	█	A
T	R	A	N	S	G	R	E	S	S	O	R	S
M	█	S	█	S	█	C	█	I	█	H	█	A
O	U	T	█	E	P	H	E	S	I	A	N	S
S	█	E	█	M	█	E	█	N	█	A	█	O
T	H	R	O	B	█	R	A	M	A	D	A	N
█	O	█	█	L	█	█	█	O	█	█	█	█
N	E	A	R	E	S	T	█	N	E	A	T	H
U	█	P	█	█	█	I	█	A	█	R	█	A
C	H	I	L	D	L	E	S	S	█	A	N	T
L	█	E	█	O	█	D	█	T	█	R	█	R
E	X	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	C	A	T	E
I	█	E	█	█	█	P	█	C	█	T	█	D



DailyHope is on the line – again!

A free telephone line that provides spiritual support for older people has been relaunched.

The DailyHope telephone line serves many people in later life unable to participate in person with church life in the community, either in the long term, or temporarily due to sickness or medical treatment. It was launched during the Covid pandemic.

The recorded phonenumber provides a vital spiritual resource aimed at the around six million UK people aged over 65 who are either unable to use the internet safely and successfully or are not online at all.

The organisation 'Faith in Later Life' announced earlier this year that the line would have to be suspended because of a lack of funding. It came as many churches were being encouraged to 'grow younger' and put an emphasis on reaching younger people.

Now their chief executive officer Alexandra Drew has announced that the phonenumber is back in action.

She said: "Closing the DailyHope line was an extremely heart-wrenching decision to make. I know that it's been a lifeline to many older people, especially those unable to attend church in person, and without access to spiritual comfort."

Now additional funding has been secured, DailyHope has been relaunched, with a drive to find new content and content-providers.

Alexandra Drew said: "We're looking forward to welcoming new callers, as well as content providers and funding partners, to help us to continue to bring DailyHope to older people, and others who are staying at home."

Broadcaster Pam Rhodes, an ambassador for Faith in Later Life, said: "DailyHope has brought Christian fellowship through the landline into the homes of so many, filling their hearts and souls with God's presence and comfort through word, prayer and song.

"It's no wonder that DailyHope has remained so popular – and the thought that this vital service may have been lost to those who value and rely upon it brought real despair. But now, we're thankful to God that DailyHope has been saved. This is wonderful news."

The DailyHope free telephone service is available on 0800 804 8044. Churches and Christians are being encouraged to publicise the telephone number widely.

Rev'd Peter Crumpler

(Former communications director for the C of E)



Reflecting Faith: the church as a building

Today's church buildings are rich and varied in their designs, sizes, materials, plans and groupings; from large cruciform churches to simple single room designs; from red brick to stone, and so on.

I wanted to look up some information about the fact that today's church buildings, although they may be 'modern', are usually built upon or very close to a previous church building. In other words, they stand quite literally in a long succession of church buildings.

However, on entering 'church building footprint' into the computer search engine, it responded in a related but unexpected, to me, way: *'The Energy Footprint Tool is a great way of monitoring your church building's carbon usage and energy efficiency.'*

A very real issue for today's world! - and one we are very conscious about when we enter the building on a Sunday morning to find, even with the heating turned on for a number of hours, that it is considerably cooler than our own centrally heated homes.

Whilst it is theologically wonderful to have high ceilings, we can see how future remodelling might well lower the ceilings, bring in the walls, and shrink the glassed areas.

And so it has been through the ages – church buildings have constantly been amended.

When you look carefully at a church that is more than a few hundred years old, in any part of the world, you can trace the development of its use by its architecture. Perhaps you'll see a door or window bricked up or a new one opened. The widening of the nave by the addition of arches and one or more aisles. Change in stone or building materials as later technology was available or even a change in design as new techniques came into safe use.

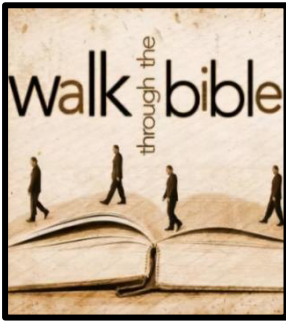
This month:

Have a look at a couple of local churches and spot the changes in their buildings over the years. Why do you think they took place? What changes would you make and why?

Rev'd Dr Jo White

Christian Aid Week – 12th – 18th May

Christian Aid is urging its supporters to 'push back against poverty this Christian Aid Week' by bearing in mind the coming General Election in the United Kingdom. The charity says that people hoping to represent everyone in the next UK Parliament will soon be on doorsteps, vying for votes. Christian Aid says that these would-be MPs will: "be in listening mode, keen to hear what makes the voters in their community tick." And so, urges the charity, Christians can use this opportunity," to show that the church cares about poverty, and if elected it is upon new MP's to act upon it." This year the charity has launched the '70K Challenge for May', encouraging its supporters to do a sponsored "Move 70km during May. Walk, run, or cycle. However, how you move is up to you."



What's the Big Idea?
An Introduction to the Books of
the Old Testament: Judges

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

Following Joshua's death, a generation grew up who didn't know God (Judges 2:11) and 'every man did what was right in his own eyes' (17:6, 21:25). The book of Judges is a study in God's response to a permissive society.

The book takes its name from the *deliverers* that God raised up during this time. God empowered both men and women with His Spirit to rule and deliver the people. They included Ehud, Deborah, Gideon and his son Abimelech, Jephthah and Samson. The judges operated in the 350 years (from 1050 BC) between Joshua's death and the monarchy. We see a recurring cycle of apostasy, oppression, penitence and deliverance played out. When the people fell into sin, God sent an enemy nation to oppress them. As a result, they cried to God for help, and He responded by raising up a deliverer to free them.

The saddest words in Judges are those applied to Samson, '*He did not know that the LORD had left him*' (16:20). Rejecting God in our lives can begin with tolerating those things that are not in harmony with His will for our lives. The people's toleration of the beliefs of their pagan neighbours led to a conformity in life and worship with them. Yet God waited for His people to return to Him, when He responded with grace to deliver them.

Gideon stands out as somebody who was unwilling to compromise with the surrounding culture. Despite his weaknesses, God used him to deliver Israel from the Midianite invaders. We read: '*the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon*', lit: '*the Spirit clothed Himself with Gideon*' (6:34). God's grace and faithfulness is at work in those who are prepared to trust Him.

Quiz on the Book of Judges

<p>1. Which tribe was the first to fight the Canaanites?</p> <p>Judah, Zebulun, or Dan</p>	<p>2. How old was Joshua when he died?</p> <p>80, 100, or 110</p>
<p>3. Who sang a song celebrating the downfall of Sisera?</p> <p>Hannah, Deborah & Barak, or Shamgar & Ehud</p>	<p>4. What offering did Gideon present to the angel of the Lord?</p> <p>Two turtle doves, A bullock and a grain offering, or a kid and some unleavened cakes</p>

<p>5. How many volunteer soldiers did Gideon have initially?</p> <p>5,000, 10,000, or 32,000</p>	<p>6. What equipment did Gideon issue to his soldiers?</p> <p>A sword, a shield and a helmet, A trumpet, a pitcher and a torch, or Slings and stones.</p>
<p>7. How many sons did Gideon have?</p> <p>10, 24, or 70</p>	<p>8. What was the name of Samson's father?</p> <p>Manoah, Phileas, or Amon</p>
<p>9. What surprised Samson on his way to Timnah with his parents?</p> <p>A thunderstorm, A young lion or An attack by his enemies</p>	<p>10. What animal did Samson send through the Philistine fields?</p> <p>Cattle, Foxes, or Sheep</p>
<p>11. Which of these was the source of Samson's strength?</p> <p>New ropes, Uncut hair, or Woven hair</p>	<p>12. Where was Samson when he died?</p> <p>Philistine temple, Delilah's house, or Jerusalem</p>

Answers to the Joshua Quiz – April 2024

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) Moses (1:2) | (8) 7 (6:6) |
| (2) Nun (1:2) | (9) Achan (7:18) |
| (3) Jericho (2:1) | (10) Woodcutters and water-carriers (9:27) |
| (4) Rahab (2:4) | (11) Hailstones (10:11) |
| (5) 12 (4:9) | (12) Levi (13:33) |
| (6) God stopped providing manna (5:12) | (13) 85 (14:10) |
| (7) Take off his sandals (5:15) | (14) Simeon (19:9) |
| | (15) Accidental murder (20:3) |

'Prove It' by Megan Carter

1. Prove it they cried, that You're the Messiah
Wouldn't He come as a conquering king?
Not as a poor man riding a donkey
How do you think we'd believe such a thing?

2. Wherever He went large crowds would follow,
He calmed the storm and turned water to wine,
The lame could walk and the deaf made to hear,
Fully a man and yet also divine.

3. His teaching had never been heard before,
He fed the five thousand with fish and bread
Gave sight to the blind and lepers were healed,
He cast out demons and raised the dead.

4. He died on a cross to take away sin
Rose up from the grave, what more could He do?
To prove of His love for all of mankind
Believe it or not it, it's all up to you.

All in the month of May



200 years ago, on 7th May 1824 the first performance of Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 took place in Vienna. It is regarded as Beethoven's greatest work and is one of the most-performed symphonies in the world.

150 years ago, on 9th May 1874 Howard Carter, British archaeologist and Egyptologist, was born. He discovered the tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun in 1922. **Also on 29th May 1874**, the British writer G. K. Chesterton was born. A novelist, short story writer, philosopher and critic, he was best known for his Father Brown stories.

100 years ago, on 4th May 1924 the British children's writer E. Nesbit (Edith Nesbit) died. Best known for *The Railway Children*.

90 years ago, on 25th May 1934 the British composer, Gustav Holst, died. Best known for *The Planets*. **Also, on 28th May 1934**, the first Glyndebourne opera festival was held, in East Sussex.

75 years ago, on 12th May 1949 the Soviet Union lifted its blockade of Berlin. The blockade had led to the Berlin Airlift, in which British and American planes had delivered millions of tons of food, coal and medical supplies to the isolated people of West Berlin.

70 years ago, on 6th May 1954 Roger Bannister became the first person to run a mile in under four minutes (3 minutes, 59.4 seconds), in Oxford. **Also, on 20th May 1954** Bill Haley & His Comets released the song *Rock Around the Clock*. It brought rock and roll into the mainstream and is regarded as one of the most important records in music history. **Also, on 29th May 1954** Diane Leather became the first woman to run a mile in under five minutes (4 minutes, 59.6 seconds), in Birmingham.

60 years ago, on 2nd May 1964 Nancy Astor, American-born British politician died. She was the first female Member of Parliament (MP) to take her seat in the House of Commons.

50 years ago, on 24th May 1974, Duke Ellington, American jazz pianist, composer, and big-band leader, died. Regarded as the greatest jazz composer of the 20th century.

40 years ago, on 17th May 1984 Prince Charles described a proposed extension to the National Gallery in London as a 'monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved and elegant friend'. (The design was scrapped, but his comment sparked controversy over the Royal Family's role). **Also, on 19th May 1984** John Betjeman, British poet, writer, and broadcaster died. He was Poet Laureate 1972-1984.

30 years ago, on 6th May 1994, the Channel Tunnel linking England and France was officially opened. **Also, on 10th May 1994** Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president, after more than 300 years of white rule.

25 years ago, on 1st May 1999 the body of mountaineer George Mallory was found on Mount Everest. He had been missing since 1924. **Also on 6th May 1999**, the first general elections for the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales, took place. Donald Dewar became First Minister for Scotland and Alun Michael became First Secretary for Wales.

20 years ago, on 19th May 2004 the world's first stem cell bank opened at the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control in Pottery's Bar, Hertfordshire.



Children's Exam Papers

The following real-life answers to various exam papers explain why teachers need long holidays...

What is a nitrate?

Cheaper than a day rate.

What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?

He is a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for bicycles.

What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common?

Unusual names.

Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements.

Learning to speak Latin.

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.

Two polar bears. Four seals.

Assess Fashion House plc's choice to locate its factory near Birmingham. Is Birmingham the right location for this type of business?

No. People from Birmingham aren't very fashionable.

How does Romeo's character develop throughout the play?

It doesn't, it's just self, self, self, all the way through.

Name the wife of Orpheus, whom he attempted to save from the underworld.

Mrs Orpheus.

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?

At the bottom.

What happens during puberty to a boy?

He says goodbye to his childhood and enters adultery.

State three drawbacks of hedgerow removal.

All the cows will escape. The cars drive into the fields. There is nowhere to hide.

What is the meaning of the word varicose?

Close by.

What is a fibula?

A little lie.

Why would living close to a mobile phone mast cause ill health?

You might walk into it.

What is a vibration?

There are good vibrations and bad vibrations. Good vibrations were discovered in the 1960s.

Where was Hadrian's Wall built?

Around Hadrian's garden.

Editor: **Canon Paul Hardingham** considers the Ascension, which this year we commemorate on Thursday 9th May

The Truth of the Ascension

'While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:51).

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: 'Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus' (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purposes for our lives and world.

The Ascension gives us a job to do: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:18,19). God's way of working in the world is through us. He commissions us for this task at the Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

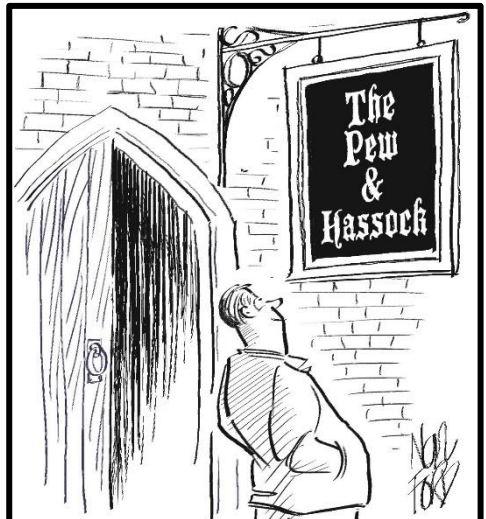
Safeguarding

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



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

Rushen Mothers' Union



We had a very good turnout of members and guests at our last meeting in April, to hear Revd Dr Michael Brydon, Chaplain to the Bishop and Priest in Charge at St Mathews; having heard from him before, we knew we were in for a great talk. We began as usual with a short service including hymns chosen and played by Mrs Iris Mitchell, a reading from Mrs Audrey Hibbert, and prayers from Mrs Pat Thomson and Mrs Jane Gunn. We sent our love and prayers to those whose health prevented them from attending, and to our three indoor members. It was a joy to see Mrs Valerie Vaughan back amongst us again, looking so well, and getting enjoyment from the meeting.

Mrs Lesley Scott had attended the Spring Council Meeting and Pat read out her notes in her absence. The Spring Newsletters were distributed, in which information of the overseas links, AFIA fundraising, Rise Up Campaigns and future diary dates can be found.

Father Michael's talk was entitled "Give me a ticket to heaven; the Church of England and the Railways", and it was as excellent as anticipated; meticulously prepared and beautifully delivered, packed with information, anecdotes and historical detail. Mr David Bowman gave a vote of thanks on our behalf, followed by our saying of The Grace together. We all then enjoyed refreshments supplied by Mrs Elsie Faragher, Mrs Sue Bould and Mrs Jane Gunn, during which Father Michael went round every table chatting to members. He has since written to say that he wishes to thank everyone for their generous welcome, and for the contents of his envelope.

Our next branch meeting will be on 13th May at 2pm in St Catherine's Hall, at which we shall plan for next year. Further Dates include:

17th April: Festival Service, 2pm, in St John's Church

12th May: St Michael's 100th Celebration service, 10 15am, followed by a Bring & Share lunch (please advise by May 1st if attending)

20th June: Quiet Evening, St Marks, 7pm

6th August: Founders Day Service, Cathedral 7pm

9-10 August: Agricultural Show.

24th September: Autumn council Meeting, St John's church hall, 6.30pm

5th December: Advent Service St Peter's Parish Church, Onchan. 7pm TBC

With love and very best wishes to all, particularly to those for whom health issues have recently been demanding.

Pat Thomson



'Glorious the song when God's the theme'

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music - the Stabat Mater

May is traditionally the month of Mary, the mother of Jesus. When we read of Mary in the Gospels, we sense the heartache and trial of much of her life: a teenage mother giving birth in a stable, fleeing with her new-born baby and Joseph to Egypt, losing the child Jesus while on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, following her son on His ministry but always in the background, and there at the foot of the cross as her son is crucified. It is then Mary must have thought back to that occasion in

the temple when Simeon took her child and told her that a sword would pierce her own soul.

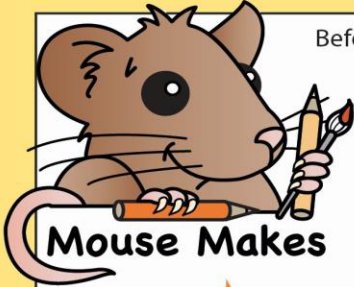
That sense of heartache and the sorrow it brings is poignantly expressed in a beautiful poem of the Middle Ages called *Stabat Mater*, which pictures Mary at Calvary and that sword of desolation and sadness that pierces her soul. We are not sure who wrote this poem. It is ascribed to Jacopone da Todi, who became a Franciscan friar on the death of his wife in the 13th century. The contemplation of Mary's sorrows in the *Stabat Mater* has inspired many composers, and there are wonderful settings by Palestrina, Rossini, Dvorak, Verdi and Poulenc.

This month let's focus on a very simple setting, but one that captures those searing pangs of sorrow at the heart of the poem. It is by Antonio Vivaldi, who was born in Venice in 1678. In 1703 he was ordained a priest, but by then he had made his name as a skilled violinist and composer. He continued to compose throughout his life: a vast amount that includes some 40 operas (though only 18 survive), 400 concertos, and over 100 choral works. In 1730 Charles de Brosses described him as 'an old man with a prodigious fury for composition.' For much of his life Vivaldi was music director of the Ospedale della Pietà, a music school for girls. Then in 1740 he left Venice hoping for preferment in Vienna. That was not to be, and his final days were marked by poverty and neglect, and in 1741 burial in a pauper's grave. Most of us know Vivaldi through the brilliance and colour of 'The Four Seasons' and his setting of the Gloria. The tone is more restrained in his setting of the *Stabat Mater*. There is a very fine CD recording entitled 'Vespers of Sorrow' where the work is linked to a sonata, a psalm setting and the Magnificat for an imagined celebration of our Lady's feast.

The *Stabat Mater* is a long poem and Vivaldi restricted himself to setting eight verses for contralto and strings: the solo voice standing for Mary as she sings of the despair and agony as the mother of Jesus. The opening verse, 'At the cross her station keeping' captures the intensity of emotion with the throbbing rhythms of the accompaniment – that mood recurs throughout the work. And then with the verse, 'Eja Mater, fons amoris' (O thou Mother! Fount of love!) the violins and viola accompany without any bass instruments. It is a pivotal point in the work as the solo voice cries out 'Mater' across the heights and depths of the music, leading into the prayer that the love of Mary will touch all human hearts.

The final verse set by Vivaldi begins 'Make me feel as thou hast felt,' and so Mary stands for all mothers who have lost loved ones: perhaps sons killed in Afghanistan, perhaps daughters dying through disease. Mary's love for Jesus, her son, touches the hearts of them and of all parents. Hers was a protective, sacrificial love that led her to the foot of the cross, where Jesus gave His mother and John, the beloved disciple, into the care of each other. The sacrificial love of a mother mirrored in the sacrificial offering of her son in death.

Children's Page



Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
has come upon you, and you will be my
witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...

...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
they were all together in one place,
and they were all filled
with the Holy Spirit."



READ the story
of Pentecost
in Acts 1-2
Look up the Bible
verses to find
the answers to the
crossword clues.

How many
words can you
make from
the letters of:
DAY OF
PENTECOST



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? Acts 1:12
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? Acts 2:3
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? Acts 2:14
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? Acts 2:4
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? Acts 1:14
- 5d Which special day was it? Acts 2:1
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? Acts 1:26
- 7 Who had prophesied this? Acts 2:16
- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? Acts 2:2
- 9 What did they start speaking in? Acts 2:4

The Story Behind the Hymn



Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God Fall afresh on me
Spirit of the Living God Fall afresh on me
Melt me, mould me,
Fill me, use me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me

Soul of heaven, heart of God wash over me,
Soul of heaven, heart of God wash over me,
Cleanse me, teach me,
Hold me, reach me,
Soul of heaven, heart of God,
Wash over me.

Holy presence love divine, cast out my fear,
Holy presence love divine, cast out my fear,
Shield me, free me,
Call me, lead me,
Holy presence,
Love divine,
Cast out my fear.

To sing a simple hymn is a blessing for those of us who have trouble with difficult music. To pray a powerful prayer is a blessing to everyone who has asked Jesus to be his or her Saviour. Both of these experiences express the joy of singing this beautiful hymn about Pentecost.

The composer, Daniel Iverson, was born in Brunswick, Georgia, on 26th September 1890. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1914. He organised and served for 25 years the Shenandoah Presbyterian Church in Miami, Florida. After his retirement to Asheville in 1962, he was in great demand as a speaker and preacher in many churches. He died there in 1977.

When this hymn was first written, Iverson was attending an evangelistic crusade in 1926, directed by the George Stephens Team in Orlando, Florida. This hymn is the product of a sermon about the Holy Spirit during that crusade. The text is from Acts 11:15, "The Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning." Those words inspired Iverson to seek for his own Holy Spirit renewal.

After the morning service, he went alone to the nearby First Presbyterian Church. With the great teaching still fresh in his ears and heart, he sat at the piano and prayed. He wanted to express in music his desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God. The words and music came quickly. He simply asked God to be melted, moulded, filled and used in ministry.

That evening, the song leader for the Stephen's Team was impressed with the hymn, and taught it to the congregation. It was used throughout the campaign and then widely distributed for others to sing.

As we read in Acts 1:8, we see that Jesus told his disciples to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. He said, "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you shall receive power."

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

Lord Jesus, open our ears and hearts today to Your message so that through the power of Your death and resurrection we may walk in newness of life in accord with the teachings of Your Gospel
Amen



May 2024

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Anyone awaiting a diagnosis from their general practitioner or the hospital
- 2nd Those involved in bringing the news to us on radio, television, or other means
- 3rd The safety of all aid workers in places of unrest
- 4th Our vicar and readers as they relay the Word of God during their sermons
- 5th The staff at the Diocese of Sodor and Man
- 6th All those affected by the recent natural disasters and are looking for help
- 7th The work of missionaries and evangelists
- 8th Everyone involved in the recruitment and training of clergy
- 9th Christ's glorious ascension to heaven
- 10th Doctors, nurses and all of the key workers trying to catch up after the pandemic
- 11th All who are anxious, distressed or discouraged
- 12th All teachers of the Christian Faith
- 13th The courage to carry Christ within us and to present Him wherever we go
- 14th Peace and stability in troubled areas of the world
- 15th Children who are hungry, orphaned or homeless throughout the world
- 16th Those who regularly read the lessons and lead our intercessions
- 17th The life and witness of the Apostles
- 18th Farmers as they prepare their land for a fruitful harvest
- 19th People who are lonely and isolated and would love neighbours to talk to them
- 20th Preparations being made for holidays during the summer
- 21st The war in the Ukraine and the safety of its citizens day after day
- 22nd Skills given by God to surgeons as they carry out dangerous procedures
- 23rd Students having to depend on their coursework as the only means for success
- 24th Technology that has helped to link friends and family together
- 25th The Rev Ginny Viner and the Christian message she shares with us all
- 26th Tourism on the island and how it affects the economy
- 27th Help in places throughout the world where food and water are in short supply
- 28th For all those hoping to be married this year
- 29th Those who live rough and who sleep out in cities throughout the United Kingdom
- 30th Charitable organisations which devote their energy and resources to those in need
- 31st Mary, the Blessed Virgin, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ

Services May/June 2024

5 th May (Easter 6)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
12 th May (Easter 7)	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)
19 th May (Pentecost)	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)
26 th May (Trinity Sunday)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
5 th June (Trinity 1)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
12 th June (Trinity 2)	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)
19 th June (Trinity 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)
26 th June (Trinity 4)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
2 nd July (Trinity 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)

(CW) Common Worship (BCP) Book of Common Prayer

Contact Details for Rushen Parish cont'd....

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St Mary's Ladies Working Party

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

St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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e-mail: dbow43@manx.net or dbow43@gmail.com

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

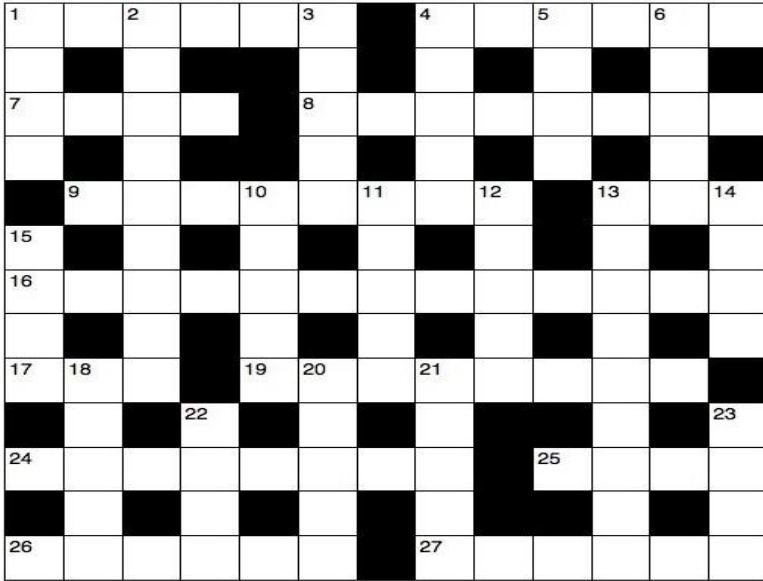
Parish Director of Music:

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 May 2024



Across

- 1** One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4** 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7** Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8** This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9** 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13** And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16** What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17** Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19** Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24** 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25** The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26** 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27** One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

- 3** In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4** 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5** Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6** In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10** How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11** Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12** 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13** One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14** Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15** 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18** Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20** Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21** 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22** Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23** 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

Down

- 1** 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2** Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)