



June 2024

Rushen Parish Magazine



Lk 22:
19-20

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From the Editor

Most of you will know that I am a Manchester United fan and have been since I was three years of age. So you can imagine how I'm feeling just now. The season has just ended and the team I've supported for such a long time has ended up being eighth in the premiership table, the worst position it has ever been for many years. What makes it worse is that the neighbouring Manchester team, which for years had been demoralised by United, is getting all of the plaudits at this time, and has been for many years. As I am writing this the two Manchester teams meet in the FA Cup Final on Saturday 25th May and I'm pretty sure who's going to win! However, I can't finish writing this without saying well done to our rivals.

I am quite sure that many of you are fed up with football. It dominates sport on television, a lot of the players have huge egos, and opposing fans can, and do, get violent over two teams kicking a ball full of air on grass for ninety minutes. It doesn't seem to be fair that the players earn unimaginable amounts of money, when many people in society are struggling to keep a roof over their heads, let alone feed themselves with the cost of food at the present time. None of it seems fair, although there have been some notable issues which have occurred during recent months, and need recognition.

The first of these centres around another of Manchester United rivals. Not the team itself this time, but someone who has shown the world how to look after, and nurture football players, in his management, and at the same time being a true gentleman to society as a whole. Liverpool fans must feel as though a true friend named Jürgen Klopp has left them and that they have to start all over again. As one fan wrote, *"It's sad but I am grateful. It seems like the right time to go; nine years of intense pressure must take its toll. He's been amazing, not just for the football he's given us, but for his community spirit and generosity. He was perfect for us and Liverpool was perfect for him. We'll miss each other."* Strangely I'll miss him too because as far as I'm concerned he has linked friendship with compassion and love for his individual players, and his team has reciprocated by playing a style of football which has been recognised throughout the world. My lasting memory will be him taking off his hat when the National Anthem was played at Wembley at the League Cup Final. Such respect for the country that he has served for nine years.

The second to yet another rival who I can do nothing else but admire. Phil Foden, who plays for Manchester City, has shown a talent rarely seen in an individual football player. I have watched his progress from the first time he was promoted to the first team, until the present when he has become the 'Premier League Player of the Season'. He has also been voted the 'Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year', all at the age of 23. This does not cover his previous awards which are plenty. Phil has the capacity to show off his wonderful gift in such a way as to entertain, and also to show everyone how to play the game of football without all of the histrionics shown by others who unfortunately have a knack of pretending that they're injured!

These are just two people who have devoted their lives to the game of football. They have worked exceptionally hard to get to where they are today. They are to be admired regardless of the teams they have represented. God provides us all with talents which if not used are a waste. He wants us to pursue our dreams and, however hard it may be, succeed to the best of our abilities in the many opportunities offered to us.

David

Using Rest to Pray



Most of us think of prayer as a very demanding activity, but did you know it can be extremely restful?

One of the great verses in the Bible says this: 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10). It suggests we experience God most fully when we are still. When we cease rushing around, pausing for a moment of thought and recollection, we are becoming prayerful, and God is very near. Even a break for a morning coffee can be a moment of prayer, if we slow ourselves down and allow our thoughts to turn towards God.

An essential part of resting is to breathe slowly. Christian tradition has always made a connection between prayer and breathing. You can learn to pray to the rhythm of your breathing, using chosen prayer words to focus. As you breathe in, you might say 'Abba', and then as you breathe out, add the word 'Father'. Choose words which are meaningful to you, deliberately slowing your breathing so you become relaxed and peaceful.

Perhaps you have a favourite chair where you are able to unwind easily. For a few moments sit and do nothing. Simply become aware of the present moment, reminding yourself you are in the presence of God. As you feel yourself relax, bask in the knowledge of God's love and acceptance of you. Sense His smile of approval upon you. You don't have to do anything, just 'be' for a moment. This too is prayer.

Sometimes we are forced to rest by circumstances... illness, disability, growing older and so on slow us down and we can't rush around like we used to do. Never mind. Don't fight against your circumstances. Enter into the place of rest that God is giving you. He loves you for who you are, not for what you do. Turn your thoughts into prayer and offer them to God. You don't need to advise God as to what He should do; simply hold people before Him, leaving the outcome to Him.

Prayer should be a natural expression of our relationship with God. Sometimes we have words, sometimes silence is enough. We don't need to impress God with our fervour. We can relax and be rested, even as we pray.

Tony Horsfall

(Retreat leader and author)

Keep it short

The minister stood up and said: "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. You'll be glad to know that when I asked my secretary to type this sermon out for me I asked her to eliminate any thing that was dull or confusing. So, in conclusion...."

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



At Ladies Working Party we have had a busy month. Our main event was the fundraising Coffee morning , which was very successful and we raised a total of £683 for local charities the main one being 'The Deaf Society' to which we donated £400.

Pentecost Sunday featured our ever popular Faith Lunch, which once again was a winner with great food, lots of conversation with members of our various congregations.

We have started collecting the bottle tops from milk cartons which will be recycled magically into some form of wound dressings we're told.

We are still collecting stamps (trimmed please) these will be delivered to the Bone Cancer Research Trust in UK , in June by one of our members.

Coffee and Chat still going strong with a few new local residents coming in, which is pleasing.

LWP will be participating in the Flower Festival in July.

A Diary date: September 10th when we will be visited again by Mike Hardie from the Leprosy Mission UK. All are welcome to hear this interesting and passionate man.

We meet each Tuesday at 2pm at the back of St Mary's. We will be closing for summer break. Our last Tuesday will be 16th July and we return on 3rd September.

Ginny Viner

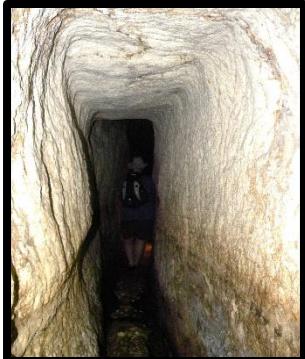
Prayer for June 2024

Dear Lord,

Here we are in June. Halfway through this year already! How the years fly by and often we are so busy, so taken up with everyday concerns that we forget to take time to be still; to consciously be in your presence; to be aware of the wonders of your world. June is such a beautiful month, so we take this moment, Lord - and we thank you for your goodness to us and your provision for us. Especially we thank you for the gift of Jesus who is the only way to you, who is your truth and who offers us eternal life, if we will turn away from our self-centredness and put our trust in Him. For June and for Jesus, Lord, we praise you and we glorify you, and we move into the rest of the year in hope and trust.

In Jesus name

Amen



Tunnels

Editor: Lester Amann considers the work of King Hezekiah.

Of all the remarkable engineering projects in the world, one is surely the Channel Tunnel. This undersea railway subway is the longest in the world and connects Kent, England with Calais, France. It is over 31 miles (50.46 km) long and was opened just over 30 years ago, in May 1994.

After six years of construction, this massive enterprise created three tunnels, running parallel to each other. Trains go through two large tunnels with a smaller service tunnel for ventilation and access. Every day, about 500 trains go through the tunnels carrying passengers, cars, lorries and coaches.

The Bible tells us of another amazing tunnelling project. King Hezekiah wanted to fortify the city of Jerusalem against the invading Assyrian armies and needed to protect the water supply. Using simple hand tools, and digging through solid rock, the completed tunnel was 1,750 feet long (533 m)! It still exists today and tourists with torches can shuffle along the cold, wet and narrow passageway from one end to the other.

Close to the tunnel is an original written inscription which describes how the tunnel was excavated. Two teams, one starting at each end of the curving channel met in the middle. Apparently, their direction was guided by men listening to hammering sounds as they gouged through the rock.

King Hezekiah's tunnel was indeed an incredible engineering feat and accomplished without modern machines and sophisticated technology. His vision and careful planning saved the people from their enemy. (2 Kings 20:20)

At the end of his eventful life, a eulogy was written that *King Hezekiah did what was right and what was pleasing to the Lord his God*. His accomplishments were done in a spirit of complete loyalty and devotion to his God.

We may well ask, when our time draws to a close, if such a fitting tribute will be given to us.

Weight

Signing the register at a wedding, the groom had difficulty in making his ball-point pen work. "Put you weight on it," said the vicar. So the groom complied: 'John Smith (twelve stone, four pounds)'



News from St Mary's Sunday School

It has been so lovely to enjoy the milder and drier weather recently! May is such a special month on the Island, when God shows off His beautiful creation in the most brilliant colours! In Sunday School we finished April with a session about The Good Shepherd (John 10: 11-18 and Psalm 23), who knows us, cares for us, guides us, and loves us so much that he lay down his life for us. We thought about the difference between a shepherd in Jesus' time and a modern-day farmer (who doesn't sleep on the hillside with his sheep and doesn't have to fight off wolves and lions!). Evan volunteered to dress up as a shepherd, and we all

played a fun team game of herding 'balloon' sheep into their pens! We talked about all the things the good shepherd does for his sheep to make sure they're OK (including looking for the lost one and bringing it back), how he risks his life for them, how well he leads them and cares for them, and that they know his voice and know they can trust him. We also had fun making sheep pictures with cotton wool balls, as well as creating delicious marshmallow sheep to eat!

In early May, we met to prepare for our all-age service the following week, which had the theme of Prayer, especially Jesus praying for his disciples (and for all future believers). We started with a game of throwing and catching sweets, to illustrate that the closer we are to each other, the easier it is to throw and catch, i.e. to connect with each other and have a positive relationship. We reminded ourselves that prayer is all about having a conversation with God, just like we would with a friend, and that it involves both speaking and listening. We can talk to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything... He is always there to listen and to respond (although not always necessarily in the way we would have wanted). We discussed different types of prayer, eg saying grace before a meal, or bedtime prayer, 5-finger prayer (about different people in our lives), and TSP prayer, reminding us to say Thank you, Sorry and Please to God, eg at the end of a day. The children enjoyed making colourful teaspoon 'puppets' to help them remember the teaspoon prayer!

Our May all-age service was led by the Rev Ginny Viner, who focused her talk on the Sunday School's song 'Prayer is like a telephone,' reassuring us that God's line is never engaged and we won't be put on hold and told we are 5th in the queue! God's line is always open and available, and He wants us to 'pick up the phone' to Him every day, because He loves to hear from us and loves to speak to us! Following her talk, Ginny invited the congregation to write on heart shapes what they would like Jesus to pray for them or bless them with, eg one of the fruits of the Spirit or a spiritual gift. The children collected all the hearts and hung them on a small tree, and later we prayed around the tree that these prayers would be answered. The Sunday School also read the lessons (many thanks to Laura for reading the lesson from the book of Acts), led the congregation in a statement of faith and in prayers of intercession. Well done everybody, especially McKenzie, who read in church for the first time!

We are about to have our annual Pentecost celebration, both in Sunday School and in church, followed by a faith lunch in the hall, which promises to be a wonderful event. May we all be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit and live our lives in His strength and power.

Love and blessings, Claudia



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



Around Kirk Christ the wild flowers have been beautiful this Spring. The bluebells have really been a show not to be missed. The flowers in the church have also looked lovely and I am so grateful to those who provide and look after them week by week through the year. We have had two weddings one in late April and one in late May. Both were wonderful events and I am sure that you like me will wish both couples every happiness in their new lives together. I would also like to thank to all those, who throughout the year, have helped me at Kirk Christ.

At St Catherine's the church grounds are looking well now that the Spring weather has eventually arrived. Visitors to the church have expressed how much they have enjoyed the silk hangings on the windows and the message that they portray. Mary Gulland does have a God-given gift. The Church Hall has been hired fairly regularly over the past month with a variety of activities, one of which will be the Messy Church afternoon which is always enjoyed. As with Kirk Christ I would like to express my thanks to those who provide and look after the flowers throughout the year. Comments in the Visitor's Book say it all. Thank you too to those of you from the congregation who help me in many aspects of church life.

Gerry Callister

Newspaper headlines where you know what they meant, but....!

Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
Man Struck by Lightning: Faces Battery Charge
New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft
Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
Hospitals are Sued by Seven Foot Doctors
Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

Early Summer Quiz 14th June 2024

**at 7pm in
St Catherine's
Church Hall**

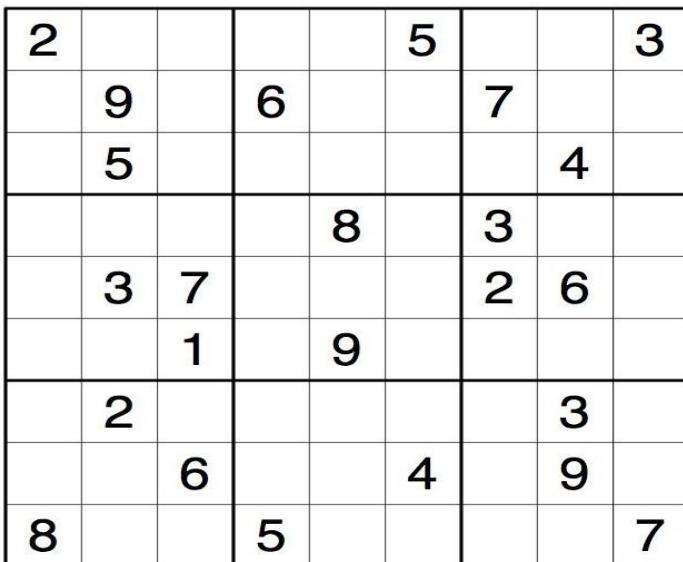
Tables of 4 – 6

**Fish or Sausage
and Chips supper**

£12.50 per person

**Book a table by phoning:
474924 or 260539**

Sudoku June 2024



Descriptions

Dust:

Mud with the juice squeezed out.

Inflation:

Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

Raisin:

Grape with a sunburn.

Mosquito:

An insect that makes you like flies better.

Beauty salon:

Where women curl up and dye.

Cannibal:

One who is fed up with people

Committee:

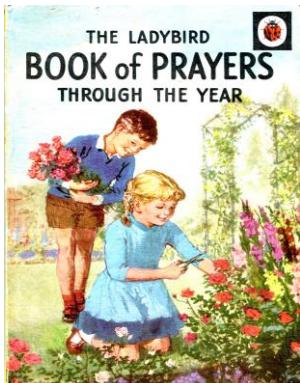
A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

May's Sudoku Solution

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

May's Crossword Solution

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



The Wonderful World of Ladybird Books...

Editor: By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

I'm really excited about a new exhibition running at my local museum this summer. It promises to prompt joyful memories of childhood for many older people – and maybe remind them of when they first learnt about Jesus.

'The Wonderful World of the Ladybird Artists' aims to "uncover the story of the talented artists who illustrated Ladybird books for more than 30 years." It's a fascinating exhibition that has already been staged in cities from Canterbury to Northumberland and is at the St Albans Museum until 8th September. The organisers say: "This colourful, family-friendly exhibition includes rare books, original artwork and artefacts, and reveals how illustrators played such an enormous role in Ladybird's extraordinary success."

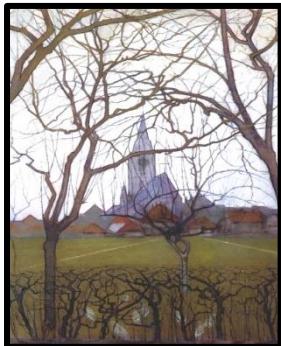
Ladybird Books also played a vital role in thousands of Sunday Schools and churches in the UK and many other English-speaking countries from the 1940s until well into the 1970s. For many children and young people, these books were their first introduction to the Bible, with numerous parents, grandparents and carers reading them as bedtime stories. 'Easy Reading' versions helped many children read about Jesus for themselves.

I've been collecting some of the Bible-based copies of the Ladybird books from local charity shops, with titles such as 'Stories about Jesus the Helper,' 'Children of the Bible' and 'Two Stories Jesus Told,' featuring the classic parables, the Good Samaritan and The Prodigal Son. I've been struck by the faithful retelling of the Bible stories, and the quality of the illustrations. These colourful books were a staple of many Scripture classes and Sunday School prize-giving and helped form the Biblical understanding of a generation of children. Today, the books have become very collectible, with prices on the rise.

Ladybird books were, naturally, a product of their times with, for example, the skin tones of Jesus and the apostles often lighter than what reality might have been. The books were produced for a time when Bible stories were more widely known, and families were routinely depicted as mum, dad, a son and a daughter.

In recent years, more bizarre incarnations of Ladybird Books – such as 'The Ladybird Book of the Zombie Apocalypse' – have introduced new audiences to the Ladybird style, with an ironic, comic twist.

Personally, I much prefer the originals!



Reflecting Faith: The Church and politics (with a small 'p')

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers the history of our village churches

When you drive in the English countryside you should be able to see at least one church spire or tower from pretty much anywhere. Just about every village has its own church building.

The size and grandeur of these village churches varies greatly, and was usually dependent on who paid for them in the first place!

In the main they were built with money from the local 'Lord of the Manor' – not necessarily a 'Lord' in the titled sense, but the person who owned the majority of the land and properties. Most people would work for him and live in a house provided by him. The two went together. Often, in order to keep their job and home, they were expected to attend 'the Lord's' church.

Many such churches were constructed at a time when people assumed that the more money you gave to the church, the greater would be your place in heaven. Hence the ostentatiousness in many a small village church!

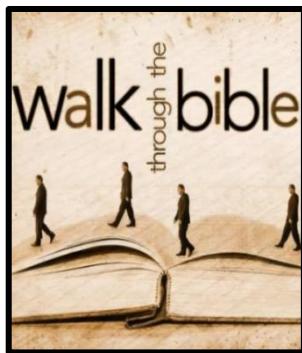
By the early 1800s society had begun to change shape rapidly. The Napoleonic Wars which had been raging in Europe for many years were concluded at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. There were new processes being discovered and invented which meant changes in working practices: the 'Industrial Revolution' was well under-way.

'Society' itself began to change with industrialisation bringing working folk into towns and away from the places, people, family members and authority figures to whom they had deferred all their lives. Politicians and Society leaders were becoming concerned that the political unrest still taking place on the continent might catch on here.

This month: Have a look at a town church or a city church this month. See if you can find out anything about its history. Was there any reason for it being built where it is that reflects faith?

Grace

The graduation banquet was about to begin when the master of ceremonies was informed that the invited clergyman would not be able to attend. He quickly asked the main speaker to give the blessing. The speaker nodded, rose, bowed his head and in all sincerity, said: "There being no clergyman present, let us thank God."



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

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series which will run to the end of 2025

The book of Ruth is a story of God's grace operating in difficult circumstances, during the period of the Judges. It unfolds as a four-act drama, telling the story of how Naomi, her husband and two sons left Judah for Moab, where her sons married. When Naomi's husband and sons died, she returns to Bethlehem in Judah.

In the first act, Naomi tells her Moabite daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to stay in Moab. However, Ruth refuses to leave Naomi and accompanies her to Bethlehem (chapter 1). In the next act Ruth meets Boaz, a relative of Naomi, while gathering barley in his fields (chapter 2).

The third act takes place at the threshing floor where Boaz is asleep and Ruth lies at his feet. She expresses her desire to marry him, as her kinsman-redeemer. But Boaz tells her of another prior claim (chapter 3). Finally, at the city gate, the other relative renounces his claim, and Boaz marries Ruth (chapter 4).

In Ruth's story we see God's unseen hand directing the lives of the characters to accomplish his purpose e.g. '*Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning*' (1:22). He transforms Naomi's sorrow into joy, rewarding Ruth with a place of honour in Israel's history. In Boaz, we see a foreshadowing of the work of Jesus Christ, as he pays the price to secure Ruth's future.

'In its artful telling of this 'outsider' widow, uprooted and obscure, who turns out to be the great-grandmother of David and the ancestor of Jesus, the book of Ruth makes it possible for each of us to understand ourselves, however ordinary, as irreplaceable in the full telling of God's story'. (Eugene Peterson).

Quiz on the Book of Ruth

1. Why did Elimelech go to live in Moab with his family?

Disagreement with his town leaders; Famine in his home town; Distant relatives invited him

2. What happened to Elimelech in Moab?

He died; He left his wife; He was killed by the King of Moab

<p>3. What relationship was Ruth to Naomi?</p> <p><i>Daughter; Granddaughter; Daughter-in-law</i></p>	<p>4. Who said, "your God shall be my God"?</p> <p><i>Naomi; Ruth; Orpah</i></p>
<p>5. What did Naomi tell the people in Bethlehem to call her?</p> <p><i>Sara; Rachel; Mara</i></p>	<p>6. Who was Boaz?</p> <p><i>Kinsman of Elimelech; Kinsman of Naomi; Town mayor</i></p>
<p>7. Why did Boaz allow Ruth to glean in his field?</p> <p><i>He was short of workers; She was beautiful; She had looked after Naomi</i></p>	<p>8. What was Boaz doing at the threshing floor?</p> <p><i>Threshing grain; Winnowing barley; Treading grapes</i></p>
<p>9. What did Ruth do while Boaz was sleeping?</p> <p><i>Uncovered his feet and lay down; Gently woke him up; Covered his head and sat next to him</i></p>	<p>10. How did the townspeople regard Ruth?</p> <p><i>As a beautiful woman; As a virtuous woman; As a caring woman</i></p>
<p>11. Why does the kinsman not want to marry Ruth?</p> <p><i>Didn't like her; Already married; Didn't want to spoil inheritance</i></p>	<p>12. What was taken off and handed over to signify the agreement between Boaz and the kinsman?</p> <p><i>Robe; Sandal; Ring</i></p>
<p>13. What was the name of Ruth's son?</p> <p><i>Obed; Boaz; Jesse</i></p>	<p>14. What was the name of Ruth's great-grandson?</p> <p><i>Jesse; David; Solomon</i></p>

Answers to the Quiz on 'Judges'

From May's magazine

1. Judah (*Judges 1:2*)
2. 100 (*Judges 2:8*)
3. Deborah and Barak (*Judges 5*)
4. A kid and some unleavened cakes (*Judges 6:19*)
5. 32,000 (*Judges 7:3*)
6. A trumpet, a pitcher and a torch (*Judges 7:16*)
7. 70 (*Judges 8:30*)
8. Manoah (*Judges 13:2*)
9. A young lion (*Judges 14:5*)
10. Foxes (*Judges 15:4*)
11. Uncut hair (*Judges 16:19*)
12. Philistine temple (*Judges 16:23-27*)

All in the month of June



150 years ago, on 22nd June 1874, the first lawn tennis sets went on sale in London. They included balls, racquets, a net, poles, court markers, and instructions. They were designed by Walter Clopton Wingfield, who is credited with having invented modern lawn tennis. Wimbledon began hosting international lawn tennis championships in 1877.

100 years ago, on 8th June 1924 George Mallory, British mountaineer, disappeared on Mount Everest. His body was found in 1999.

90 years ago, on 30th June 1934 was the Night of the Long Knives: Hitler's execution of a number of senior Nazi officials and hundreds of other (perceived) political opponents.

80 years ago, on 6th June 1944, D-Day and the Normandy Landings took place. More than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25th August. Allied victory. **Also 80 years ago, on 13th June 1944** Germany launched the first V-1 flying bomb ('doodlebug') attack on London. 9,521 V-1s were fired at London and south-east England during the war.

75 years ago, on 8th June 1949 George Orwell's novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* was published.

70 years ago, on 7th June 1954 Alan Turing, British mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst, and computer scientist died. Noted for his contributions to code-breaking during World War 2. Considered the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence. Prosecuted for his homosexuality.

60 years ago, on 4th June 1964, the Beatles' first world tour was held. Over two months they played 30 concerts in seven countries, beginning in Copenhagen.

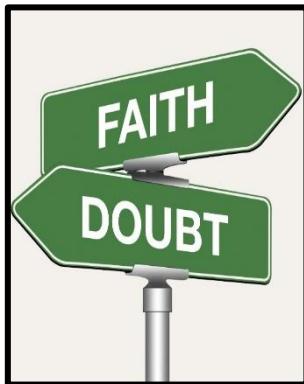
50 years ago, on 28th June 1974 chemists at the University of California, Irvine, published the first report that warned that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) could damage the Earth's ozone layer. CFCs were widely used in refrigerators, air conditioning systems and as aerosol propellants.

30 years ago, on 6th June 1994 the highest individual score in first-class cricket was achieved. Brian Lara scored 501 not out while playing for Warwickshire against Durham. It is the only score of 500 or more in first-class cricket history.

15 years ago, on 25th June 2009 Michael Jackson 'the King of Pop', American singer, songwriter, and dancer, died of an anaesthetic overdose, aged 50. His hit songs included *Thriller*, *Bad*, and *Black or White*.

10 years ago, on 29th June 2014 the jihadist group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS or ISIL or Daesh) formally changed its name to the Islamic State and declared itself a caliphate. It was formed in 1999 as an affiliate of the terrorist organisation Al-Qaeda.

Do you struggle with doubt?



Do you ever look at other Christians and wonder: "Do they REALLY believe this Christian stuff? That Jesus really was the Son of God who rose again, and is alive today?"

Doubt is an honest place to be, and it is not the opposite of Christian faith. To believe is to be in one mind. To disbelieve is to be in one mind also. To doubt is to waver between the two minds, to be in a state of 'double-ness', or 'two-ness'. To doubt something is to be willing to believe it – If you can find evidence to back up the story.

If you are in this state of 'double-ness' just now, you may find the story of the disciple Thomas (John 20:24-29) to be helpful. Unlike the other disciples, he was not present on that first Easter night when Jesus appeared to the other disciples. Instead, Thomas was told that someone whom he'd seen crucified and dead was alive again three days later, and in perfect health.

Thomas had been devoted to Jesus, but the fact that dead people don't rise again was just too much for him. So, despite the joy of the other disciples, he could get only as far as: "unless I see the nail marks... I will not believe it."

It was a week later that Jesus appeared again to His disciples and confronted Thomas. He said simply: "Put your finger here; see my hands... Stop doubting and believe."

Jesus then looked forward to all the millions of people in the future who would never meet Him in person, and so would have understandable grounds to doubt. "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Thomas needed physical recognition before he could say "My Lord and My God." Today, if you want to believe, but honestly struggle with doubt, consider using this simple prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I have never seen You in person. So, I sometimes doubt that you exist. The Bible tells us that it is only the Holy Spirit who can open our 'spiritual eyes', and so I ask You to do that for me. Please give me not physical recognition, but faith recognition. I will do my bit, and will read about you each day in the Bible. Through Your Word, please open my spiritual eyes so that I can see You clearly as Jesus, the risen Son of God. Amen."

Revd Dr Roger Roberts

Techie trouble

The vicar at our local church experienced some technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."

From the Registers

Funerals April 2024:

3 rd April	Brian T Grant	2pm	Kirk Christ	Service & Burial
8 th April	Neil Rourke	1pm	Kirk Christ	Service & Burial
12 th April	Robert Jeffcock	10am	Rushen Burial Ground	ashes only
24 th April	Seton Collister	11.30am	Crematorium	Cremation
26 th April	Brian Corrin	11am	Mount Tabor	Burial

Wedding April 2024:

27 th April	Christopher Blackburn & Elizabeth Power	1pm	Kirk Christ
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Baptism April 2024:

21 st April	Jack Alba James Ramsey	11am	St Catherine's
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Miscellaneous light-hearted observations on life:

- In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him. - Dereke Bruce
- When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall. – Anon
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis. – Anon
- Our grandchildren are going to have a hard time paying for the good times we didn't have. - Anon
- There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face. - Ben Williams
- If at first you succeed, break it and start over again. - Anon

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



When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the flower arrangements, she always kept the vicar's hay fever in mind

Rushen Mothers' Union



We have now come to the end of our Mothers' Union year and thanks must go to everyone who contributed to it being such a success. Thank you.

The year started last September with the induction of our newest member Rev Ginny Viner who has become an active and valued member of our branch. In October we had a very interesting talk from 'Housing Matters', a charity which has been well supported by Mothers' Union throughout the year by donating microwaves, kettles, toasters and even a slow cooker.

You may remember the dreadful weather that we had in November, it resulted in a reduced attendance to hear Cheryl Cousins speak very passionately about caring for our planet and environment, it was so good that we invited her back to speak to a larger audience in February. In December we hosted the Advent Service in St Catherine's Church with refreshments in the hall afterwards. It was enjoyed by all and over £600 was raised for the MU charity AFIA (Away from it all) December also saw our much-loved Christmas Party with carols, prayers, stories, poems and food.

In January Jane led us for a session of 'chair yoga', a healthy, fun, physical activity with some hilarity involved! Our March meeting was more serious as we learnt about the work of 'Isle Listen' a charity involved in supporting young people with challenges of mental health. The year ended in April with an excellent talk by Father Brydon which was much appreciated by our members. Next year we are planning another interesting and varied programme which we hope you will enjoy. It will start with our Corporate Communion in Kirk Christ on Monday 9th September at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to all our meetings, and we would be delighted to have new members join us. Details of our programme will be released when we have confirmed speakers.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 9th September	Rushen Branch Corporate Communion, Kirk Christ, 2pm.
Wednesday 18th September	MU Corporate Communion, Marown Church tbc
Tuesday 20th June	Quiet Evening, St Mark's Church 7pm Meet at Ballagarey Chapel.
Tuesday 6th August	Founder's Day, The Cathedral 7pm
Saturday 10th August	Royal Manx Show, MU stall

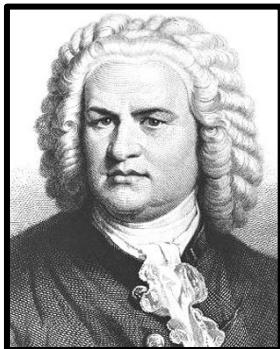
Requests:

Margaret Cleator is requesting small toy cars, new or used in good condition for the prison creche.

Milk bottle tops – please collect tops from IOM Creamery cartons, these can be recycled to make medical dressings. Please wash thoroughly before giving and bring them to church. I will take them to the collection point in Peel.

Lesley Scott

God in Music



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

'Glorious the song when God's the theme' **Johannes S Bach**

'Surprised by Joy' is the title C S Lewis gave to his spiritual autobiography. To him, joy meant not just the name of the woman he eventually married, but also an awareness of God's glory and goodness. It was something that, like Wordsworth, he experienced in childhood, and later in his thirties when his faith was relit. That experience of joy Jesus shared with His disciples at the Last Supper: it is a word that permeates chapters 16 and 17 of St John's Gospel.

And it is a word that lies at the heart of the music of J S Bach. Whenever he set Freude, the German word for joy, his music rises to a new level of movement and excitement. The joy is there, not just as a word set to music, but as the heart and life of all his compositions. Almost a thousand works with many for church worship: two Passions, three oratorios, six motets, a Magnificat, a great mass setting, nearly 200 church cantatas, 143 chorale preludes for organ, and dozens of other works – and that is just the music we have, for much has been lost.

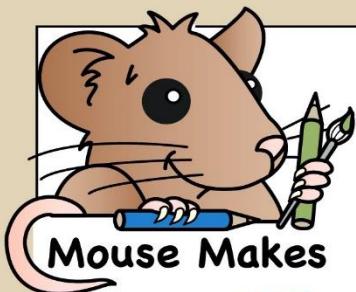
When Bach moved to Leipzig in 1723, he had the task as choirmaster of composing cantatas for each Sunday of the year for five years, as well as looking after the choir, teaching, and tending his own family. And all with a reduced salary and social status, dreary living conditions, and a choir that was ill-fed and badly housed. The miracle is that he produced work of such beauty and wonder and grace. There is a logic and a technical precision behind his music, but also a living pulse. One moment he can reach into the depths of the soul as it faces the realities of sin, death and judgment. The next, it is ecstasy and joy at the birth and resurrection of Christ.

Next month we continue our look at Bach's music.

Lost in translation

A certain vicar had a kindly, pastoral heart. He often wrote little notes to any parishioners in distress, assuring them of his prayers. Then came the day he heard that one of his favourite old ladies in the church had been injured in a bad fall. The vicar felt so much sympathy that he wanted to add a note of pastoral affection. He thought of the little postscript that his young niece always added to her emails to him, which he took as a sign of her affection, and decided to add that to this note. It read: "Dear Mrs Gantry, I am told that you fell down the stairs, broke both legs, and may be in hospital for some weeks. This is just to assure you that you are much in my thoughts." Then he added the postscript: LOL.

Children's Page



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

TFF XIBU LJOE PG
MPWF UIF GBUIFS
IBT HJWFO UP VT
UIBU XF TIPVME
CF DBMMFE
DIJMESFO PG HPE
POF KPIO UISFF: POF

Solomon's father defeated a giant
and became a King. Who was he?

1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was
healed by Jesus?

Mark 5:21

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

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God
and became
the first father?

— — — — —
Genesis 2:20

Who had a son
when he was very old?

— — — — —
Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and
Japheth's father built
a huge boat, who was he?

— — — — —
Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph
a robe of many colours?

— — — — —
Genesis 37:2-3



This Roman puzzle square
reads the same from the top,
bottom and sides and translates:
"Arepo the sower
guides the wheel with skill."

R O T A S
O P E R A
T E N E T
A R E P O
S A T O R

If you rearrange the letters it
can spell **PATER NOSTER**
which means "Our Father".

A
P
A
T
E
R
N
O
S
T
E
R
O
A P A T E R N O S T E R O

Look up the Bible verses
to find the fathers then
look for them and the words
below in the word search.

FATHER • GOD
SON • DAUGHTER
JOSEPH • ISAAC
MOSES • JOB
SOLOMON
ZECHARIAH
ZEBEDEE

The Story Behind the Hymn



Alfred H. Ackley

He Lives

*I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the
world today*

*I know that He is living, whatever
men may say*

*I see His hand of mercy, I hear His
voice of cheer*

*And just the time I need Him He's
always near*

Chorus

*He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives),
Christ Jesus lives today*

*He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way*

*He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives),
Salvation to impart*

*You ask me how I know He lives
He lives within my heart*

"Why should I worship a dead Jew?" This challenging question was posed by a sincere young Jewish student who had been attending evangelistic meetings conducted by the author and composer of this hymn, Alfred H. Ackley. In his book, *Forty Gospel Hymn Stories*, George W. Sanville records Mr. Ackley's answers to this searching question, which ultimately prompted the writing of this popular gospel hymn: "He lives! I tell you, He is not dead, but lives here now! Jesus Christ is more alive today than ever before, I can prove it by my own experience, as well as the testimony of countless thousands."

Mr. Sanville continues: Mr. Ackley's forthright, emphatic answer, together with his subsequent triumphant effort to win the man for Christ, flowered forth into song and crystallised into a convincing sermon on "He Lives!" His keenly alert mind was sensitive to suggestions for sermons, and sermons in song. In his re-reading of the resurrection stories of the Gospels, the words "He is risen" struck him with new meaning. From the thrill within his own soul came the convincing song: "He Lives!" The scriptural evidence, his own heart, and the testimony of history matched the glorious experience of an innumerable cloud of witnesses that "He Lives," so he sat down at the piano and voiced that conclusion in song.

"The thought of His ever-living presence brought the music promptly and easily."

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*



June 2024

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st The country of Ukraine and the people who have been displaced because of war
- 2nd Our families, friends, and neighbours, and those we know living far away from us
- 3rd Technology and how it has helps to keep families communicating with each other
- 4th All who seek to relieve hunger and suffering
- 5th The TT and the safety of those taking part, and the work of the marshals on race days
- 6th The works of agencies such as the Samaritans and Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7th People who are homeless, poor, and starving and in need of help
- 8th Everyone living in Port Erin and Port St Mary
- 9th All volunteers prepared to work with young people as they grow up
- 10th The police on the Isle of Man and the work they do to maintain law and order
- 11th Those in financial difficulty because of the rising costs of energy
- 12th Doctors, nurses and all people helping to look after people who are ill
- 13th The work of the Church Army
- 14th Children having to take examinations and the preparations leading up to them
- 15th Those who minister within the Southern Mission Partnership
- 16th The five PCC committees working to enhance God's work within the Parish of Rushen
- 17th Those responsible for maintaining the highways on the island
- 18th Our Government and its responsibilities in keeping law and order on the island
- 19th Being gracious and loving in our relationships with each other
- 20th The forthcoming refurbishment of St Catherine's Church.
- 21st Places in the world where lives have been lost and communities destroyed
- 22nd People who are lonely and rarely see or talk to anyone
- 23rd For good weather so that everyone can get out and enjoy our wonderful island
- 24th Young single mothers having to bring up their children in difficult circumstances
- 25th Guidance for leaders in industry and commerce
- 26th Those who look after the environment within the parish
- 27th The Isle of Man Foodbank and the help it gives to families short of money and food
- 28th Those living daily with domestic violence and the people who try to help them
- 29th All who work in dangerous and poor conditions
- 30th Volunteers prepared to work with young people as they grow up

Services June/July 2024

2 nd June (Trinity 1)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
9 th June (Trinity 2)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's all-age Service (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
16 th June (Trinity 3)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
23 rd June (Trinity 4)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
30 th June (Trinity 5)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
7 th July (Trinity 6)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer + Baptism (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
14 th July (Trinity 7)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's all-age Service (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
21 st July (Trinity 8)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
28 th July (Trinity 9)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)

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

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

St Mary's Sunday School Leader:

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St Mary's Ladies Working Party

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

St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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

Web Site/E-mail:

www.rushenparish.org.uk rushenparishorg@gmail.com

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Mr David Bowman, The Old Bakery, Qualtroughs Lane, 837117/260539
Ballafesson, Port Erin
e-mail: dbow43@manx.net

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

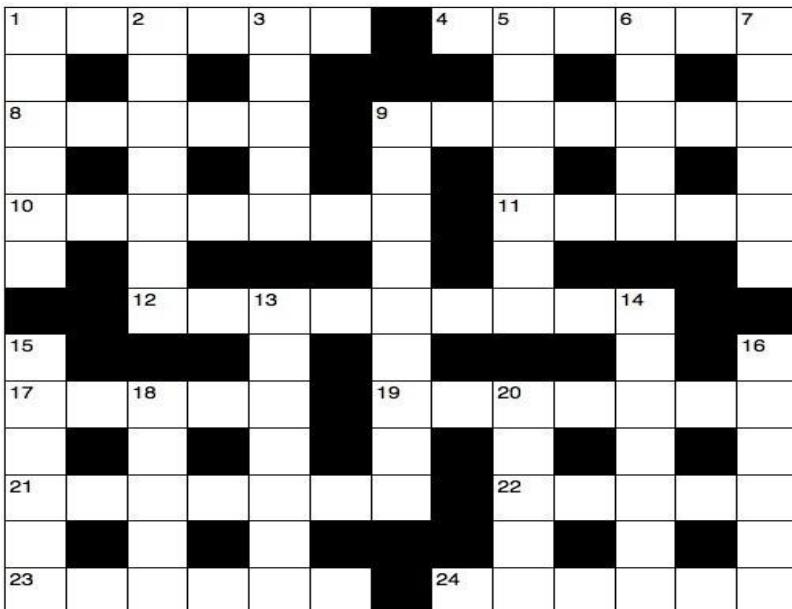
Parish Director of Music:

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

Churchyard Enquiries:

Please contact	Mr Harry Dawson:	478050/835770
	or Mr G Callister:	474924/834627

Crossword June 2024



Across

1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)

4 Place of learning (6)

8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)

9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)

10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)

11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)

12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)

17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)

19 So clear (anag.) (7)

21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)

22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)

23 Musical beat (6)

24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)

2 Art bite (anag.) (7)

3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)

5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)

6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)

7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)

9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)

13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)

14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)

15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)

16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)

18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)

20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)