

as the heavens, your f

A vibrant illustration of various kites and a bird flying in a blue sky. The kites include a red and white striped diamond, a yellow diamond with green and yellow triangles, a yellow diamond with a black cross, a long red and white striped tail, a long yellow and orange striped tail, a long green and yellow striped tail, and a long blue and white striped tail. A yellow bird is also flying.

ithfulness beyond the clouds.

Psalm 36:5

Your steady

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From the Editor

The word 'change' seems to have been used quite frequently during the past two months. The Labour Party used it a lot during its recent campaign to form a new UK government, and it seemed to work. The majority of those who voted were fed up with what they had experienced during the previous fourteen years and decided upon something different. Many were concerned about their standard of living, the lack of money in their pockets, and the behaviour of the political party that had promised so much but had failed to deliver. For now none of us know what is going to happen during the next five years, and whether the change that is promised will come to fruition.

I once read that, "in any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or step back into safety." We only need to look back at the last twelve years when our four churches needed tender loving care to keep them in a good state of repair, and places where we could demonstrate our love of God, in comfort and with gratitude. St Peter's Church was the first to undergo change. It was to become a place where visitors and parishioners alike could go and spend time in a quiet space, and to pray for their loved ones and for the needs of the world. The change didn't occur without a fuss, and people who had worshipped at St Peter's throughout their lives, were upset about what was to happen.

The next of our four churches to be transformed was Kirk Christ, and again there was opposition to change it from what it was then to what it is now. In my opinion it is a beautiful building, dedicated to God, and one of the best churches on the island. It is warm, comfortable and wonderfully atmospheric, and you only have to read the visitor's book to see that others think so too. St Mary's Church followed, and once again there was opposition to the changes planned. However the space created at the west end, fully carpeted, has provided a meeting place and is being used as such. What was 'frozen' on Sunday mornings, is now warm and a welcoming place to go into both then and throughout the week, and a credit to those who foresaw its potential as a place to spend time with God.

The last of our churches to be given a facelift is St Catherine's. It has been chosen as a place to bring worship into a 21st century setting where both young and old can enjoy contemporary worship. The opposition has been quite upsetting with many of the church's parishioners wanting to walk away and not be part of it. The plans are to bring the church into a modern day setting, and to encourage younger folk to want to learn more about God and Jesus. Personally I find it hard to come to terms with contemporary worship and, because of my age, I am unlikely to see whether there will be an increase in younger worshippers at St. Catherine's. However, I'm not opposed to a new approach to worship. After all there are three other churches in the parish at which I could worship. Can I suggest that we no longer "step back into safety and step forward into growth." Let's make all four churches into places that Jesus would be privileged to step into, and to listen to genuine concerns about our world, our lives and our loved ones.

David



Natalie Heaton Family Youth Worker

Editor: Natalie wrote this report for the PCC. I thought that it would be good to share it with you all:

It has been amazing working in the Parish this last year. I am pleased to write my final report before my maternity leave starts.

I have spent the last school term trying to 'finish well' by ensuring I have met up with the right people. This has meant I can give the PCC the assurance that all the work I have been doing/ involved with will be maintained by volunteers, in particular the youth group won't be affected by my absence. Over the last few months I have been meeting with the Acts 29 leaders and creating a plan of, dates, teaching and who will attend as leaders on which week. They are happy to take this on until I return.

I am excited to share that since starting the youth group in September with 4 young people, we now have 9 that attended regularly and 3 who attended every now and then, totalling 12. The 9 regulars also attend the Castle Rushen Christian Union most weeks and attend SUMT Residentials. This core group are now receiving a good amount of teaching and discipleship through their high school career which I pray continues for them.

**God Bless
Natalie Heaton**



**Sunday School Report
on Page 7**



Reflecting Faith: Church Towers

*Editor: The **Revd Dr Jo White** considers the highest part of our churches...*

This month I wanted to think about the highest part of the church building - the tower. This is the aspect that is most recognisable from a distance; the element that almost defines the church building.

Have you ever seen a church building without a tower? Most religions use this same structure on their buildings, so clearly there must be overlapping reasons for this. But there is not just one design even within religions.

The structures of all buildings are dependent on the materials available, the architectural knowledge, the purpose, the fashion of the day as well as the finance available.

Norfolk churches in particular have 'special' towers. There are around - pun intended! - 181 round church towers in England of which 126 are in Norfolk. They were built from as early as the ninth century onwards

So what was going on there?

Some argue that because of the flatness of the land these were thought to be more stable; while others think that it was because the materials available locally were small pieces of flint which cannot be easily worked or dressed but when set into mortar can create handsome and stable walls and buildings.

In many parts of the UK flint is used to face the outside of buildings but here they were used to be the foundational element so long as 'corners' were not required.

This month:

Have a look at a church tower near you. What shape is it? Perhaps you can get to see inside it?

How is it attached to the main body of the building? Is it at one end, central etc?

What is it used for today and what do you think its original purpose was or purposes were?

Move it

A South London clergyman who was appointed to another living received a letter from a firm of furniture removers. It assured him: "Dear Sir, we would like to remove you. In the last year we have removed 40 South London clergymen, to the entire satisfaction of all concerned."



Summer Holidays

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham looks forward to the 'easy living' of August.

'Summertime and the living is easy.' George Gershwin's words could be aptly applied to August, when many of us take holidays. It's a month to focus on summertime (weather permitting!!): family and barbeques; the beach and ice cream; long days with no school! It's a time to wind down from the hectic pace of normal routine.

However, while summer is a season, it is also a state of mind. We all have periods in life, which are summer-like, when life goes well. How can we walk by faith in the summers or good times of our spiritual lives?

Summer Distinctives:

When we go through times of sickness, financial pressure, difficult relationships and other problems, we more easily focus on God. In a spiritual summer season, we can subtly find ourselves enjoying the gifts without acknowledging the Giver! The greatest danger in the summertime season of life is to forget the One who is responsible for the good things we are enjoying.

Summer Distractions:

Our normal routine revolves around clocks and calendars, but we can easily get distracted when we break these disciplined routines. In the spiritual summer seasons of life, there is a temptation to miss out on our regular times with God in Bible reading and prayer! Things that make summer seasons enjoyable can also become big distractions.

Summer Directives:

How can we make the most of this summer season and keep focused on God? We need to maintain a gratitude attitude: thankful to God for all His blessings: 'When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God.' (Deuteronomy 8:10/11).

So let's stay close and stay grateful to God in this summer season of life!



Sy Mary's Sunday School

Due to various other events, including the Christening of our youngest Sunday School members Angus and Eadie across in England, our only time together in July was our Sunday School Anniversary service on 14th July (as well as a short practice the day before). The service was led jointly by the vicar Joe and Margaret Galloway, who arrived with a variety of interesting props for the 'Learning Together' part. The Sunday School led the congregation in singing "Jesus is the way, the truth and the the life" with

ribbons and percussion instruments, before Beatrix treated us all to a beautiful rendition of the song "The Sunflower." (In April she had performed this song at the Guild and had gained third place in her age group. Well done, Bea!) Margot and Bea shared the gospel reading (Matthew 11:2-12), and they both did very well!

Margaret started her very engaging and 'enlightening' talk by shining a light on all of us (in the form of a head torch), saying that sometimes we need a bit more light to help us see things clearly, to find what has been lost, or to discover hidden things. She then called on John the Baptist to come forward (James really looked the part!), and after talking about his clothes and what he ate, she explained that John had come to prepare people for the coming of the true Light: Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. As well as John, there were also a king, a shepherd, a fisherman and a person with bandages coming to the front - people who had met Jesus on earth and were amazed at all the things he said and did, eg helping them catch lots of fish or healing them. They all agreed that Jesus was the true 'King,' the Messiah, their Saviour, even if he didn't save them from the Romans in the way John and others had expected. Margaret finished by encouraging us all to let our light shine for Jesus every day, so that the people around us would know His love for them and would come to believe in Him, too. The Sunday School further emphasised Margaret's message with one of its favourite songs, "This little light of mine." With glow sticks, bells, flags and ribbons we sang and danced along to this upbeat version by Listener Kids, which brought big smiles to the whole congregation, who were also singing and clapping along.

Many thanks also to Thomas for reading our first lesson from Ephesians and to Laura for helping with the prayers. All the children did very well with their readings, prayers and singing (many thanks also to the parents for helping them prepare), and they enjoyed receiving their well-deserved prizes from Margaret at the end of this joyful celebratory service. Grateful thanks also to Mike Porter for playing the organ and to the ladies for the much appreciated refreshments. We are hoping to finish off our year with a family picnic at Silverdale, but the weather may necessitate a change of plan. We are then having our summer holiday break and are hoping to see those families staying on Island at Port St Mary Beach Mission!

Wishing you all a very blessed and restful summer - Claudia



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



At Kirk Christ there was a wonderful response to the Flower Festival which was held during the first week of July. The community supported it so well with many beautiful exhibits. Both primary schools in Port Erin and Port St Mary were involved as were many other local groups, all of which put on a wonderful display. I would like to give my thanks to all who participated. Altogether over 500 people visited the exhibition and contributed £690.00 towards church funds. During one of the evenings we were entertained by a local choir and this was enjoyed by everyone who attended. During the month of July we also had a wedding and two baptisms.

Work on the re-ordering of St Catherine's Church has commenced. During July the pews were removed with half of them being sold to those who wanted them. The work is scheduled to take approximately sixteen weeks. It will be very different when we return for our weekly services when cushioned chairs, carpet tiles, new oak steps, screen and sound system will have been added, along with some redecorating. Whilst all this is going on the congregation of St Catherine's will meet in the hall for its weekly worship.

Gerry Callister

summer
concert series

**At the Erin Arts Centre
@ 7.30pm**

**Admission Free
Retiring Collection**

1 st August	Lon Vane Ladies Choir
8 th August	Lon Dhoo Male Voice Choir
15 th August	John & Karen Elliott & Friends

**Sunday
18th August** **(Commencing at 2.30pm)**
**Tamworth Ladies Choir,
The Mercian Singers, and
Caarjyn Cooidjagh**

22 nd August	Gareth Moore & Friends
29 th August	Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band

Could have been worse

A very long train with two engines was making its way across America. While crossing the Western mountains, one of the engines broke down. Slowly, the train chugged on. Farther along, the other engine broke down, and the train shuddered to a halt in the middle of nowhere. Not to be discouraged, the train driver announced: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that both engines have failed, and we will be stuck here for a couple of days until the additional engines arrive. The good news is that we are not making this announcement this on a plane."

Sudoku August 2024

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

Game rules

During the local football game, the coach asked one of his young players: "Do you understand what cooperation is?" The little boy nodded yes. "Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes. "Okay," the coach continued, "do you also understand that when the referee makes a decision, you don't argue or curse or threaten to attack him, right?" Again, the boy nodded vigorously.

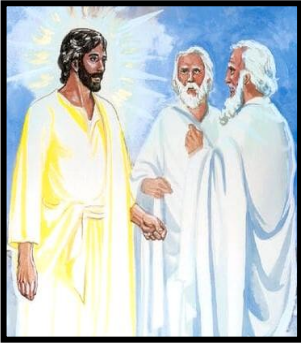
"Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain all that to your mother."

July Sudoku Solution

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

July Crossword Solution

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



6th August - The Transfiguration, a glimpse of Jesus' future glory

The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36). It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular, when people were seeking Him out.

But on this day, He made time to take Peter, James and John, His closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the fourth century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount

Tabor (and there is a great church up there today), but others believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rise to about 9,000 feet, and overlook Caesarea Philippi.

High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His friends. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.

Peter was staggered, but enthusiastic that he was - immediately suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so, a cloud covered them, and a Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved Son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our listening to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Why Moses and Elijah? Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Why on top of a mountain? In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by His coming death in Jerusalem.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16-19, invariably the reading for this day.

The Eastern Churches have long held the Transfiguration as a feast as important as Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension and Pentecost. But it took a long time for the West to observe the Transfiguration. The feast starts appearing from the 11th and 12th centuries, and the Prayer Book included it among the calendar dates, but there was no liturgical provision for it until the 19th century.

St Mary's Ladies Working Party



On 16th July the Ladies Working Party held its final meeting before the summer break, so there is little to report this month.

We will resume our weekly meetings on Tuesday 3rd September in St Mary's Church at 2pm. Everyone is most welcome as this is not an exclusive group. We would love to have more ladies joining from the other congregations in our parish, all are welcome.

A date for your diaries. On Tuesday 10th September a Coffee Morning will be held in St. Catherine's Church Hall from 10am to 11.30am to raise funds in aid of the Leprosy Mission. The speaker will be Mike Hardie from the mission itself. Please come and, if you can, invite a friend or neighbour.

Although we will not be holding our Tuesday meetings, we will be continuing Monday morning's 'Coffee and Chat' sessions throughout the summer. When the Beach Mission is in operation from 30th July until 11th August 'Coffee and Chat' will also be closed as the church is likely to be used by the mission. Since we started coffee and chat we have begun to attract more people from the community which has been very pleasing. If you have not visited us yet why not drop in on Monday mornings and enjoy some time out?



Ginny Viner

Rushen Mothers' Union



MU does not meet in July or August but there are some dates to put in your diaries.

6th August

There is a chance to meet Ish Lennox, the Faith and Church Relations Manager, who is visiting from Mary Sumner House. **There will be a 'Faith Tea' at the Centenary Centre in Peel from 5 until 6.15pm.** Everyone is invited and if you are attending there is a request that you bring a small plate of 6 portions of sweet or savoury to share. In the evening there is **The Founder's Day Service in the Cathedral at 7pm.**

9th – 10th August

MU have a tent at the Agricultural Show.

9th September

Our own Corporate Communion Service will be held at **Kirk Christ at 2pm**

18th September

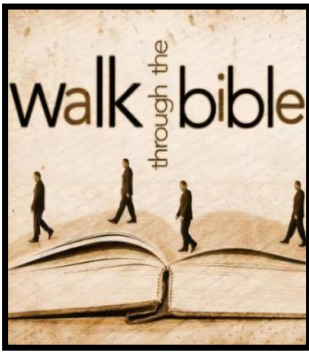
MU Corporate Communion at **Marown at 2pm.**

14th October

The first meeting of the Rushen Branch will be at **St Mary's Church** when we hope to have Ali Vondy speaking to us from 'Isle Stand up to Suicide'

Everyone is welcome

Lesley Scott



What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: 1 & 2 Kings

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

1 & 2 Kings is a single literary work telling the history of Israel's monarchy from the end of David's reign until the Babylonian exile following the fall of Jerusalem (586 BC). After Solomon's reign, Israel was divided into two kingdoms: Israel to the north and Judah in the south. In the north 20 rulers reigned over 210 years until the fall of Samaria (722 BC). In the southern kingdom there were also 20 rulers, spanning a period of 345 years.

This account is not like reading a modern history book. The author views the story through the lens of God's relationship with His people. The welfare of Israel depended on their leaders' trust and obedience in God, e.g. Solomon building the Temple, as well as listening to the prophets e.g. Elijah and Elisha. The kings who receive the most attention are those whose disobedience is greatest (e.g. Ahab and Manasseh) or those who truly follow God (e.g. Hezekiah and Josiah).

The book ends with exile in Babylon, fulfilling God's warning of the consequences of disobedience for both kingdoms (Dt 28:64–68). However, this doesn't mean that there is no hope for the future. At the end of the book, Jehoiachin is released from prison in Babylon, and he is given a place of honour (2Ki 25:27-30). The future remains open for God to fulfil His promises to the house of David.

'We begin to realise that if God's sovereignty is never cancelled out by the so deeply sin-flawed leaders ('kings') in both our culture and our church, we can quite cheerfully exult in God's sovereignty as it is being exercised in all the circumstantial details of the actual present.' (E Peterson).

Quiz on Elijah

This quiz is connected with the article on the books of 1 & 2 Kings

1. Elijah was a....? <i>(Nishbite, Fishbite, or Tishbite)</i>	2. Which king of Israel did Elijah warn about an imminent drought? <i>(Ahab, Omri, or Ahaziah)</i>
3. Which animals brought Elijah food during the drought he prophesied? <i>(wolves, ravens, or bears)</i>	4. How many times did Elijah stretch himself over the widow's dead son before he was revived? <i>(once, twice, or three times)</i>

<p>5. Where did Obadiah hide one hundred prophets of the Lord from Jezebel?</p> <p>(palace dungeons, caves, or house of the prophet)</p>	<p>6. How many prophets of the goddess Asherah were called to Mt Carmel for Elijah's sacrificial challenge to the prophets of Baal? (400, 450, or 500)</p>
<p>7. After Elijah mocked the prophets of Baal, what other ritual did the prophets try to gain Baal's attention?</p> <p>(danced around the altar, cut themselves with knives, or beat their chests with sticks)</p>	<p>8. Why did Elijah choose 12 stones to build his altar?</p> <p>(that's all he could find, the number of years Ahab had reigned, or one for each tribe of Israel)</p>
<p>9. What did Elijah's servant see from Mt Carmel on the seventh time he looked out to sea?</p> <p>(a cloud, an island, or a boat)</p>	<p>10. How did Elijah return to Jezreel from Mt Carmel?</p> <p>(Chariot, ran, or a donkey)</p>
<p>11. After the prophets of Baal were killed, to where did Elijah run to escape the death threat from Jezebel?</p> <p>(Hebron, Shiloh, or Beersheba)</p>	<p>12. Who awoke Elijah for food as he slept in the desert wanting to die?</p> <p>(ravens, an angel, or Elisha)</p>
<p>13. Who was the small quiet voice that spoke to Elijah on Mt Horeb?</p> <p>(Ahab, Moses, or God)</p>	<p>14. What did Ahab do when Elijah told him of God's anger at the murder of Naboth?</p> <p>(Laughed, threw a spear at him, or repented)</p>
<p>15. What of Elijah's was left behind after his was taken away from Elisha by the whirlwind?</p> <p>(cloak, staff, or sandals)</p>	

Answers to last month's quiz based on 1 & 2 Samuel

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Peninnah (1 Samuel 1:4-6) | 11. 5,000 (1 Samuel 17:5) |
| 2. Priest (1 Samuel 2:11) | 12. He pretended to be insane (1 Samuel 21:13) |
| 3. He fell off his chair (1 Samuel 4:18) | 13. In a cave (1 Samuel 24:3-4) |
| 4. Dagon (1 Samuel 5:2) | 14. Prophets of Baal (1 Samuel 28:6-7) |
| 5. It was carried on a cart pulled by cows (1 Samuel 6:10-12) | 15. Seven and a half years (2 Sam 5:1-5) |
| 6. A king (1 Samuel 8:5) | 16. Ark (2 Sam 6:6-7) |
| 7. Benjamin (1 Samuel 9:1-2) | 17. Nathan (2 Sam 12:1) |
| 8. Donkeys (1 Samuel 9:3) | 18. Oak (2 Sam 18:9-10) |
| 9. Honeycomb (1 Samuel 14:24-27) | 19. 70,000 (2 Sam 24:15) |
| 10. Musician (1 Samuel 16:23) | 20. Araunah's (2 Sam 24:18-25) |

All in the month of August



AUGUST

300 years ago, on 25th August 1724 George Stubbs was born. This British artist is best known for his paintings of horses.

250 years ago, on 1st August 1774 oxygen was discovered by British chemist Joseph Priestley. He was the first scientist to publish his findings on the discovery.

125 years ago, on 13th August 1899 Alfred Hitchcock was born. This British-born American film director, producer and screenwriter was known as the Master of Suspense. Known for his films *The 39 Steps*, *Dial M for Murder*, *Rear Window*, *Vertigo*, *Psycho*, *The Birds*, and many more.

100 years ago, on 15th August 1924 Robert Bolt, the British screenwriter and playwright was born. Known for his screenplays for the films *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Doctor Zhivago*, and *A Man for All Seasons*.

90 years ago, on 19th August 1934, in a referendum in Germany, voters approved the creation of the position of 'Führer', which combined the roles of Chancellor and President into one and gave Adolf Hitler sole power.

80 years ago, on 1st August 1944 15-year-old Jewish diarist Anne Frank made the final entry in her diary while hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam. On 4th August her hiding place was raided by Nazi police following a tip-off. She and her family were taken to Auschwitz concentration camp, and she was transferred to Belsen in October. She died in February 1945. **Also on 25th August 1944** Paris was liberated from the Nazis. The Germans had occupied the city for four years. General Charles de Gaulle (later President of France) entered the city in triumph.

75 years ago, on 24th August 1949 the North Atlantic Treaty came into effect, establishing NATO.

65 years ago, on 7th August 1959 the USA launched the Explorer 6 satellite, which sent back the first images of the Earth from space.

60 years ago, on 12th August 1964 Ian Flemming, British novelist and creator of the character James Bond, died.

50 years ago, on 8th August 1974 US President Richard Nixon announced his resignation, effective from noon the following

40 years ago, on 5th August 1984 Richard Burton, Welsh stage and film actor (*Cleopatra* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, and many more, died.

30 years ago, on 28th August 1994 Sunday trading was legalised in England and Wales. **Also, on 31st August 1994** the IRA agreed to a complete ceasefire after 25 years.

25 years ago, on 16th August 1999 Vladimir Putin became Prime Minister of Russia. He became President in May 2000.

When tourists get lost



Have you ever got into trouble while abroad? The story is told of a group of tourists who went to a Mediterranean country and wanted to see the sites of an old city. Four members of the group got so engrossed in taking pictures of each other by a castle that they ignored the summons from the tour group leader to go back to the bus. A little while later, they realised that they were all on their own in a strange foreign city. That's when their problems started.

The four tourists decided to head back to their hotel. But no one could remember the name of the hotel. So, they hailed a taxi, and asked it to drive around looking for the hotel. An hour or so later, the driver gave up and demanded payment. That's when they discovered that they did not have enough money to pay the driver. So the driver took them to the police, who demanded some identification. That's when the four tourists remembered that they had left their passports in the hotel safe...

Some hours later, the tour guide tracked down the missing tourists. They greeted her with tears of relief as she provided the police with their passports, paid their debt, and prepared to lead them safely back to their hotel. The police warned the tourists: "From now on, you stay close to your friend!"

Stay close to your friend. It's good advice for all of us. If your life is going in the wrong direction, if you have run up debts of wrong-doing, if you feel lost and alone, you need to take action. You need to stop going on like this. Turn around, and go in another direction. The Bible calls this action of 'stopping and turning around' repentance.

Repentance is when you stop, and you turn to God. For the good news is that there is a heavenly tour guide on whom we can all call. Only God can save us from the mess we are in. He sent us His Son to forgive us our sins, to provide us with an identity and, if we walk with Him, to lead us safely through life. As the Bible says: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Parish Pump

Fearless in the line of fire

A six-year-old girl was taken by her grannie to a very 'high' Anglican church. Afterwards she tried to explain to her father what it had been like. "They tried to run us out – they brought in a smoke bomb and shook it at all the people in the front row. But grannie wasn't scared one bit. We stayed until the very end."

From the Registers

Memorial Service June 2024:

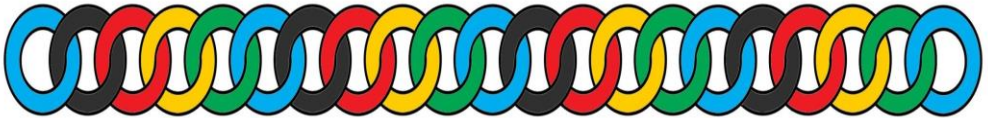
17 th June	Fred Chapman	11,30am	St Peter's Church
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Funerals June 2024:

19 th June	Heather Hodgett	12 noon	St Mary's (Service only) Burial Arbory Churchyard
25 th June	Lisa Conley	11 am	Kirk Christ (Service/Burial)

Belonging

A vicar tells the true story of how, when he was a curate, the rector of a nearby parish used to like not only to attend all the parish groups, but also to identify himself with them by belonging to them, so that he could address them as "We Scouts", "We Rotarians," etc. One day he went too far and began: "We mothers..."



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



"How thoughtful, wearing something all the wedding guests could shelter under in case of rain."

Rose of Lima



How will you become a better person than you are now? Have you ever denied yourself in order to try and please God? No matter what your dedication, it is unlikely that your efforts will ever have outshone those of Rose of Lima (1586–1617), who in 1671 became the first saint of America, and patron of South America. Her whole life raises the issue: how do you draw closer to God?

Rose was born in Lima, Peru, in 1586, into a Spanish family that had once been rich. Her beauty earned her the name, and her character

was just as attractive. She was eager to please, produced exquisite lace and embroidery, and was known for her charity. Her parents hoped for a good marriage for her, but it was not to be. Rose did not want a husband and a place in the corrupt and wanton society of Lima at the time. Rose was an intensely spiritual person, and spent hours in contemplation of Jesus and St Mary, and took the 'Blessed Sacrament' on a daily basis. She devoted herself to prayer and simple acts of mortification. In those days 'mortification' of the flesh was seen as a way of keeping your earthly appetites under control, and therefore drawing nearer to God.

At 20, Rose joined the Third order of St Dominic, taking as her model Catherine of Siena. Her love of God continued, as did her charity to others, but now a darker side to her spirituality began to grow. Rose lived as a recluse in a hut, and increased her acts of mortification. She wanted to suffer, because she thought it would bring her closer to God. She cut off her hair and rubbed pepper and lye into her face until it was raw and blistered. She fasted until she could hardly stand. She drank gall mixed with bitter herbs. She filled her bed with broken glass, thorns and sharp things. She wore a tight iron chain around her waist.

She embraced every penance that she could think of, and yet still she suffered at times a feeling of terrible loneliness and desolation, for God seemed far away. Then she would pray: "Lord, increase my sufferings, and with them increase your love in my heart." Sometimes she would indeed feel God near her, and then she would be in ecstasy for hours. It is hard to explain why Rose thought she needed to inflict needless suffering on herself, in order to get closer to God. One scholar has suggested that perhaps Rose wanted to "make reparation for the widespread sin and corruption" in her society at the time. She had said once that she wanted to pay for the sin of the idolatry of her countrymen.

Again, this is hard to understand because the Bible never once says that any human being can 'make payment' to God for the sins of another person. We may grieve over the sins of others, but only Christ can offer them forgiveness. Only He has died for them.

In Uganda a number of years ago a nun asked a bishop for help. "I have done penance all my life. I have tried so hard to please God – but I still don't feel any joy. What am I doing wrong?" The Bishop said gently: "Because, dear sister, you are hoping to find joy in what you have done for God. I am joyful because I have discovered what Jesus has done for me."

Poor well-meaning but confused Rose: after a long illness which seems to have had some psychological as well as physical elements to it, she finally died, only 31 years old.

God in Music

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

Surely angels play Mozart at home

The German theologian, Karl Barth, is reputed to have said, “Whether the angels play only Bach in praising God, I am not quite sure; I am sure, however, that *en famille* they play Mozart.” It is a lovely image of angels in the heavenly courts above, mirroring the human enjoyment of music making here

on earth. And what more wonderful music than Mozart’s! From child prodigy to fully mature composer in the space of just 35 years – encountering frustrations and disappointments, poorly paid and exploited, beset by problems of debt and ill-health – and yet rising above all that to create a wealth of music for voice and instrument that continues to lift the human heart. Mozart was nothing if not life affirming in his music. He enjoyed life, in spite of the disasters and tragedies that occurred along the way. This from a letter he wrote to his father after the performance of one of his symphonies: “It was performed on *Corpus Christi* day with great applause. I was so happy that as soon as it was over I went off to the Palais Royal, where I had a large ice.” Enjoying this world, he had that rare ability to transcend it, and open up a greater world of beauty and harmony. That realisation caused Schubert to write in his diary in 1816, “O Mozart, immortal Mozart, how many, how infinitely many inspiring suggestions of a finer, better life have you left in our souls!”

As illustrations of that, we focus this month on two works, one early and one late in his composing life. In January 1773 Mozart wrote a motet, *Exsultate, jubilate* for a castrato who had appeared in one of his operas. It is almost a concerto in miniature for the voice. The opening *Allegro* calls on heaven to join in the praises of earth and leads into an *Andante* of great beauty, where Mary is praised as the mother who brings light to a darkened world. The work ends with a glorious *Alleluia* with notes cascading off the page and into the air. Perhaps Mozart had in mind a thank offering for the success of his opera *Lucio Silla*. Whatever the music’s origin, we cannot deny the inspiration and skill with which Mozart weaves together words and music to dazzle and transport the listener. In the last year of his life in 1791, when his mortal body began to fail, his mind took on a new vitality with the composition of two operas, a clarinet concerto, a Requiem, and a wonderful, concentrated setting of *Ave verum corpus*. This motet in praise of Jesus on the cross and in the sacrament was written for the choirmaster at Baden. It is just two pages in the manuscript, written out by Mozart without any corrections. There are no flourishes and runs here as in the earlier work. The music is simple and yet sublime as Mozart conveys a sense of holiness and serenity. Michael Levey has written of this work: “Short but not slight, it seems to float like a cloud of incense on the air.” Here, as in all Mozart’s music, a creation of this world opens up for us that greater world where all is light and joy.



Children's Page



Mouse Makes



"Always be full of **joy**.
Never stop praying.
Whatever happens,
always be **thankful**."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



"AND WHEN YOU PRAY,
PRAY THEN LIKE THIS ..."

Where does Jesus say
to go to pray?
Matthew 6:6



What does God know
before you ask Him?
Matthew 6:8

What can we ask God
to deliver us from?
Matthew 6:13

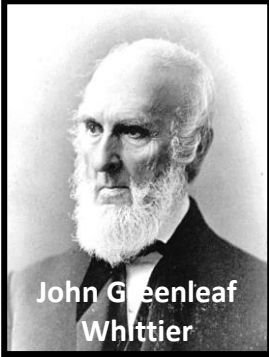


If you forgive others
what will God do?
Matthew 6:14

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

ROOM • PRAY • ASK • NEEDS • HEARD • JESUS
LORDS PRAYER • OUR • FATHER • HALLOWED • HONOURED
NAME • THY • KINGDOM • COME • YOUR • WILL • DONE
EARTH • HEAVEN • DAILY • BREAD • FORGIVE • DEBTS
SINS • TEMPTATION • DELIVER • EVIL • AMEN

The Story Behind the Hymn



Immortal Love for ever full

Immortal Love for ever full,
for ever flowing free,
for ever shared, for ever whole,
a never-ebbing sea.

Our outward lips confess the name
all other names above;
love only knoweth whence it came
and comprehendeth love.

O warm, sweet, tender, even yet
a present help is he;
and faith has still its Olivet,
and love its Galilee.

The healing of his seamless dress
is by our beds of pain;
we touch him in life's throng and press,
and we are whole again.

Through him the first fond prayers are said
our lips of childhood frame;
the last low whispers of our dead
are burdened with his name.

Alone, O Love ineffable,
thy saving name is given;
to turn aside from thee is hell,
to walk with thee is heaven.

John Greenleaf Whittier was born on a farm in Massachusetts. In his youth, he read a book of verse by the Scottish poet Robert Burns, which fuelled his interest in writing verse. Today, he is considered to be in the ranks of America's greatest poets.

Whittier was a Quaker (a member of the Society of Friends), and eventually gained fame as the "Quaker Poet." He was a strong advocate for the abolition of slavery in America. (Was attacked by mobs several times because of this.) When he attended Haverhill Academy, he supported himself by teaching, and by working as a shoemaker. In 1835 Whittier was elected to the Massachusetts legislature. He also served as the editor of several publications, and published many books of his poetry.

Some fine hymns have been taken from Whittier's poetical works, but he did not consider himself a hymn writer. He said, "I am not really a hymn writer for the good reason that I know nothing of music....A good hymn is the best use to which poetry can be devoted, but I do not claim that I have succeeded in composing one."

The hymns taken from John Greenleaf Whittier's poetry include: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*, and *Immortal Love—Forever Full*. You may find the last of these listed as *We May Not Climb the Heavenly Steeps*. It is the same hymn, taken from the same poem, but just starting in a different place. The words "immortal love" actually begin the poem, while "We may not climb" is the opening phrase of a later verse.

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

Dear Lord, we give you thanks for the month of August. As each day of the month dawns, we thank you for bringing us out of the shadow of night and into the light of morning.

We also thank you for the joy of spending each day in your service, so that when the evening comes, we can once more give you the thanks that you deserve, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen**

August 2024

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Those still suffering the after-effects of the global pandemic
- 2nd The work of aid agencies throughout the world
- 3rd Families in debt, unable to find a solution, and in despair
- 4th Those who work in financial institutions
- 5th Peace throughout the world
- 6th The beauty of God's creation found on the Isle of Man and throughout the world
- 7th Joe and his ministry in the Parish of Rushen
- 8th All sportsmen and women who enjoy partaking in sport rather than winning
- 9th The Archdeacon of Sodor & Man and the tasks she has to perform
- 10th All grandparents and their grandchildren
- 11th The Mothers' Union and its tireless work throughout the Isle of Man
- 12th All Christians to serve Jesus faithfully and to behave like He did throughout His life
- 13th The Salvation Army and its work with the homeless
- 14th Those receiving treatment in hospital
- 15th All parents and their children
- 16th Authors and the books they write which give such enjoyment to their readers
- 17th One parent families and the work of agencies which help them
- 18th The people who kindly buy and arrange flowers in our four churches
- 19th The coastguards who ensure the safety of all who venture on our beaches
- 20th The Royal Family and all it does for everyone living in the Commonwealth
- 21st Farmers preparing their crops for harvest time
- 22nd Teachers preparing for the new term in September
- 23rd The Southern Mission Partnership and its work in integrating parishes in the south
- 24th The work of the National Royal Lifeboat Institution in saving lives
- 25th The beauty of music in all of its forms
- 26th Those who entertain through the media of radio and television
- 27th The work of doctors and nurses throughout the world
- 28th Children preparing for the new term ahead
- 29th The work of the National Health Service here on the island and in the UK
- 30th The disabled and the work of those who try to help them
- 31st The continued success of Messy Church and for those who help to run it

Services August/September 2024

4 th August (Trinity 10)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
11 th August (Trinity 11)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's all-age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
18 th August (Trinity 12)	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)
25 th August (Trinity 13)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
1 st September (Trinity 14)	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)
8 th September (Trinity 15)	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)
15 th September (Trinity 16)	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)
22 nd September (Harvest)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Harvest Service
	11am	St Catherine's/St Mary's Joint Harvest (*)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Harvest Service
29 th September (Trinity 18)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)

(CW) Common Worship (BCP) Book of Common Prayer
 (*) At St Mary's Church followed by a Faith Lunch in the Hall

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

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St Mary's Ladies Working Party

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

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

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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:

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Please contact

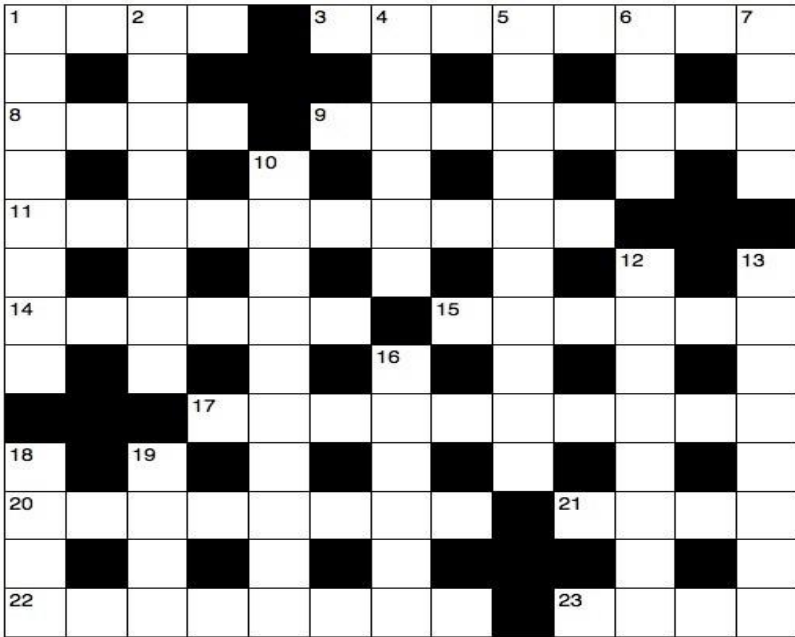
Mr Harry Dawson:

478050/835770

or Mr G Callister:

474924/834627

Crossword August 2024



Across

- 1 & 3** Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
- 3** See 1 Across
- 8** 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
- 9** O Simon is (anag.) (8)
- 11** Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
- 14** How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15** In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
- 17** Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20** Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21** Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22** 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23** Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

Down

- 1** David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2** 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4** 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5** Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6** Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7** 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10** 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12** Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13** One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16** 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18** 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19** Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)