



January
2025

Rushen Parish Magazine



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From the Editor

Pauline and I always attended church on Christmas morning, a tradition we treasured throughout our married life together. It hasn't always been at the same church since, like many other families, we've moved from one area to another, and worshipped at the church nearest to us. Strangely, although the same liturgy has been used at them all, the traditions at Christmastime have been varied. At our last church children from the local school would perform their Nativity for the congregation, and at another the emphasis was very much on carol singing, and groups of parishioners visiting different areas of the community, to bring Christmas cheer to the residents.

When we came to the Island in 2008 we entered into the spirit of Christmas in our parish, and followed the way in which Christians celebrated this sacred occasion. Our joint service on Christmas morning has its own tradition such as children, and parishioners, being asked what presents they had received that morning and to tell the congregation a little about them. Very often these were held up for us all to see. However, the part of the service at Kirk Christ which I love is the 'Closing Prayer'. I find it poignant, and a request for us all to leave church and begin to make a difference to the world in which we live. It reads, *'When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky has gone, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, and to make music in the heart, Amen.'*

It's a long list which none of us could achieve on our own. However, Christmas is now over and we have to get back to our own lives. No longer do we have that feverish build up to the Christmas period, we're no longer thinking about presents, cards, annual letters. We don't even have to think of Gavin and Stacey, and how the last episode kept us in the dark as to the future of Smithy and Nessa, It's all over and we ought to be thinking about the world we live in and how we might make a change to it. I'm sickened about the endless wars and somebody's desire to come out on top, or how children and adults are left to suffer because of a lack of nutrition, or the food they eat not being suitable, or the reconstruction of buildings that once housed a school, a hospital, or a place to lay one's head after a hard day's work. Why can't we make music in the heart?

One day I won't be here to moan about the world we live in. I may never see peace among nations, or the happy faces of well-nourished children being taught in superb places of learning, or people and children living in desirable homes, and tummies full of appropriate food, or our churches filled with people wanting to worship God whose guidance has given them to desire to help to make the world a better place. I'd love to see it and I'm sure that you would too. Let's concentrate on looking at that closing prayer after worship on Christmas Day. Let's help to eradicate the need for such a heart-rending prayer having to be said and that all we need ever to say is, 'Thank you God, Amen.'

David



Statement on the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury

Following the publication of the independent review by Keith Makin into the Church of England's handling of allegations of serious abuse by the late John Smyth, the Archbishop of Canterbury resigned on 12th November. He said: *"Having sought the gracious permission of His Majesty The King, I have decided to resign as Archbishop of Canterbury.*

"The Makin Review has exposed the long-maintained conspiracy of silence about the heinous abuses of John Smyth. "When I was informed in 2013 and told that police had been notified, I believed wrongly that an appropriate resolution would follow. It is very clear that I must take personal and institutional responsibility for the long and retraumatising period between 2013 and 2024. It is my duty to honour my Constitutional and church responsibilities, so exact timings will be decided once a review of necessary obligations has been completed, including those in England and in the Anglican Communion. I hope this decision makes clear how seriously the Church of England understands the need for change and our profound commitment to creating a safer church. As I step down I do so in sorrow with all victims and survivors of abuse.

The last few days have renewed my long felt and profound sense of shame at the historic safeguarding failures of the Church of England. For nearly twelve years I have struggled to introduce improvements. It is for others to judge what has been done.

In the meantime, I will follow through on my commitment to meet victims. I will delegate all my other current responsibilities for safeguarding until the necessary risk assessment process is complete. I ask everyone to keep my wife Caroline and my children in their prayers. They have been my most important support throughout my ministry, and I am eternally grateful for their sacrifice. Caroline led the spouses' programme during the Lambeth Conference and has travelled tirelessly in areas of conflict supporting the most vulnerable, the women, and those who care for them locally. I believe that stepping aside is in the best interests of the Church of England, which I dearly love and which I have been honoured to serve. I pray that this decision points us back towards the love that Jesus Christ has for every one of us. For above all else, my deepest commitment is to the person of Jesus Christ, my saviour and my God; the bearer of the sins and burdens of the world, and the hope of every person."

The Bishop of Stepney Joanne Grenfell said: "As Lead Bishop for Safeguarding for the Church of England, I have been acutely aware of the impact of the Makin report and the retraumatising effects of its publication on victims and survivors of John Smyth's awful abuse. With sadness, I fully respect and understand Archbishop Justin's decision today to resign. Although Archbishop Justin has helped the Church of England to achieve much in relation to safeguarding during his tenure, because of the failings identified in the Makin Report, it is now necessary for others to take up the baton. I have worked closely with Archbishop Justin since I took on this role and have greatly valued his personal commitment to good safeguarding and his desire to see the whole Church make this a priority."



Persecution of Christians worldwide A new World Watch List coming

On 15th January Open Doors publishes its well-known World Watch List for 2025, naming the countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian.

More than 365 million Christians worldwide face persecution and discrimination for their faith – that's a staggering one in seven believers.

The Open Doors website shares the following data from around the world:

North Korea remains at number one as the most dangerous country. It has been at the top 23 times in the past 24 years.

In 2023, 4,998 Christians were killed for their faith. According to Open Doors research, around 90% of these were in Nigeria (just over 4,000), where Christian communities are attacked by armed bandits and Islamic militants. The country with the next highest number of deaths is DRC, with 261.

Militant Islamists are exploiting the chaos in Africa. The sweeping violence against Christians in sub-Saharan Africa is being aided by economic instability, climate change and fractures in governance and security across the region.

But right across the world, as autocratic governments increase their control, Christians are being targeted: in China, Iran, and now Nicaragua, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

An alarming rise in the closure of churches and buildings. Some 15,000 churches or public Christian properties were attacked or closed in 2023 – that's seven times the number recorded in 2022. Two-thirds of these were in China (around 10,000).

Christians squeezed out of the Middle East and North Africa. The situation in Syria has worsened, and believers face extreme persecution. Ongoing conflict, pressure from the Islamic majority, the influence of extremist groups and a collapsed economy contribute to the vulnerability of Christians.

Meanwhile, Libya has reached third on the World Watch List, due to an increase in violence against Christians. And in Tunisia, pressure on Christians continues to grow as President Kais Saied's rule drifts into authoritarianism.

'Open Doors' Website



News from St Mary's Sunday School

Since you will be reading this article in January 2025, may I start by wishing you all a very happy and blessed New Year!

At the time of writing, the season of Advent is drawing to a close and Christmas is nearly here! In early December, we spent some time in Sunday School reflecting upon the meaning of Advent, the time of waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ. We thought about small acts of

kindness we could each do in Advent to help others and to brighten up their day, eg making a Christmas card for a neighbour, phoning a distant relative, helping someone put up their Christmas decorations, donating items to the Foodbank and to charity shops, or even just giving somebody a smile or a hug. We also made and coloured in advent wreaths from craft kits as well as some more nativity-themed Christmas craft activities.

The following week, we were very glad that Storm Darragh had abated just in time for our Parish Christingle service at St Catherine's in aid of The Children's Society (many thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation and making of the Christingles). It was lovely to see so many families with children of all ages, and for everyone to get involved in the service, acting out how they prepare for Christmas, sharing what they most like about Christmas and looking for the different parts of our giant Christingle! As always, it was very special to have the dark church lit up by the light of the Christingle candles, as we reflected on Jesus being the Light of the World, bringing peace and hope into the darkest situations.

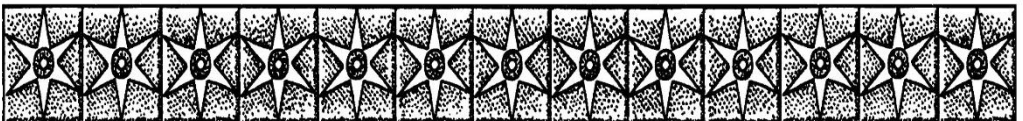
We finished the year with our annual Sunday School Christmas Party, enjoying fun games and another of Margaret Moore's legendary Christmas story pass-the-parcels (thank you, Margaret!) - as well as lots of delicious party food!

We still have our Crib Service on Christmas Eve to look forward to and then a well-deserved rest for the school holidays. We pray for safe travels for those visiting family across and that everybody has a wonderful time with their loved ones.

We wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year!

With love and blessings

Claudia



Answers to Quiz on John's Gospel from December's Magazine

- 1 To bear witness of the light (John 1:6-7)
- 2 Behold the Lamb of God (John 1:36)
- 3 Under the fig tree (John 1:48)
- 4 Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-10)
- 5 Nicodemus (John 3:1)
- 6 Living water (John 4:9-10)
- 7 38 years (John 5:5)
- 8 Nature and creation (John 5:31-47)
- 9 I am the bread which came down from heaven (John 6:41)
- 10 He that is without sin, let him first cast a stone (John 8:7)
- 11 Feeding of the 5,000, Jesus walks on water (John 6)
- 12 He anointed his eyes with clay and told him to wash (John 9:6-7)
- 13 Carpenter (John 10:11)
- 14 Martha and Mary (John 11:19)
- 15 Washed their feet (John 13:5)
- 16 Peace (John 14:27)
- 17 Father-in-law (John 18:13)
- 18 Warming himself at the fire (John 18:18,25)
- 19 Purple (John 19:2)
- 20 153 (John 21:11)

Sunday School Pictures





News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



By the time you read this article Christmas will have been and gone and we will be looking forward to the new year and praying for peace in our troubled world.

All of our Christmas services were well attended even though it was unfortunate that we couldn't have St Catherine's Church open for Christmas. Nevertheless it was enjoyable to see congregations worshipping together during the Christmas season and celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. We now look forward to opening St Catherine's Church early in the new year of 2025.

Can I take this opportunity to wish every member of our parish congregations, their families and friends a Very Happy 2024.

Gerry Callister

Ten things God won't ask you when you die

God won't ask what kind of car you drove; He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the size of your house; He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet; He'll ask how many people you helped to clothe.

God won't ask which diet you were on; He'll ask how many hungry people you helped to feed.

God won't ask what your highest salary was; He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was; He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had; He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived; He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.

God won't ask about the colour of your skin; He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Him; He'll lovingly take you into His Kingdom, not leave you at the gates of Hell.

Sudoku January 2025

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

Looking back - and forwards

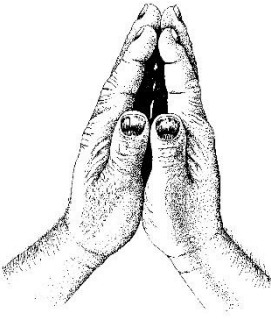
A man had spent many years as a drunkard and a layabout. But through the Salvation Army, he turned to God, and his life gradually changed. He joined a local church, and became known for his honest, if unusual, prayers. As the New Year dawned, he stood up in church and prayed: "Lord, we're not what we wanna be, we're not what we oughta be, and we're not what we're gonna be – but thanks to You, Jesus, we're not what we used to be!"

December Sudoku Solution

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

December Crossword Solution

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



Praying with the prayers of the Bible

In this series we will be looking at 12 prayers found in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. Some are prayers for personal circumstances, while others relate to family or church or nation. In studying all 12 prayers the emphasis will be on what we can learn about prayer and how we can be encouraged to pray more regularly, more fervently and more expectantly.

Praying about the Unknown Future: “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” Genesis 15:2-3.

This is the Bible’s first prayer. That doesn’t mean that no one before Abraham had prayed, but this is the first time we have a record of someone praying to God. We learn as early as Genesis 4 that “men began to call on the name of the Lord” (v.26) but it does not explicitly say that they prayed. We can hardly believe that godly men like Enoch and Noah never prayed. Enoch ‘walked with God’ and in his long pilgrimage of three hundred years of fellowship with God (Gen. 5:22) he must have prayed many times.

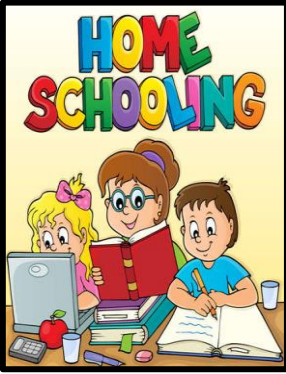
Even before Abraham’s first prayer is mentioned we are told that God appeared to him, that he built an altar for sacrifice and worship and that he called on the name of the Lord (Gen. 12:7; 13:18). But now he faces a real crisis in his life. When God first appeared to him, he had been promised that from his family a great nation would emerge (Gen. 12:1-3). Now many years later he still has no children and custom dictates that his chief servant, Eliezer, will inherit everything. Has God forgotten him? Were all those promises of being a father just make believe or self-delusion?

So he cried to God, “What will you give me?” It was a desperate prayer from a desperate heart. What was God doing? Why had He not kept His promises? Had He forgotten? Was He not able to do what He had promised? We have all been where Abraham was when he prayed that prayer. We want to believe but *why is nothing happening?* Then God answered! “Your *own son* shall be your heir” (v.4). This wonderful answer was sealed with a dramatic illustration. God directed Abraham to look up into the night sky. “Number the stars if you can,” God said. “So shall your descendants be.” Abraham would one day have as many offspring as the stars in the sky! Impossible? Incredible? Far-fetched? But it happened! The next chapter records the birth of his son Ishmael, and two chapters later we read of the birth of Isaac, the son of promise. And history, both biblical and secular, confirms that the illustration from the stars was no exaggeration!

So, the Bible’s first prayer helps us in several ways. First, when our hearts ache because of fear or doubt or uncertainty, take it to God in prayer. Second, God’s delays are not denials. Third, with Abraham who ‘believed the Lord’ (v.6), let us trust quietly in our sovereign and gracious God.

Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle

Home Schooling



Back in the 'good old days', we didn't appreciate how much education was given at home...

Our mothers taught us **TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE**: "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I've just finished cleaning."

Our fathers taught us **RELIGION**: "You better pray that that will come out of the carpet."

Our mothers taught us **LOGIC**: "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me."

Our fathers taught us **MORE LOGIC**: "Because I said so, that's why."

Our mothers taught us about **CONTORTIONISM**: "Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

Our fathers taught us about the science of **OSMOSIS**: "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

Our mothers taught us about **BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION**: "Stop acting like your father!"

Our mothers taught us about **EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION**: "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

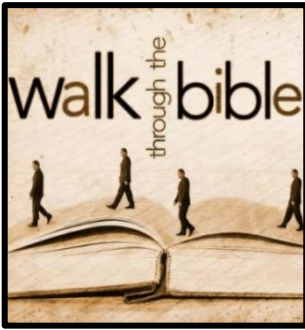
And finally, our fathers taught us about **JUSTICE**: "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

Moses revisited

Young Joseph was asked what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When Moses got to the Red Sea, his engineers built a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across it safely. Then Moses radioed headquarters to send bombers to blow up the bridge, and so all the Israelites were saved."

"Did your teacher really say that?!" asked his mother, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"



What's the Big Idea? - an introduction to the books of the New Testament: **Acts**

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible, which will run until the end of 2025.

The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke, a physician-friend and fellow-traveller of Paul. It complements his gospel, both being written for Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1), in around AD 63, during Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

While Luke's gospel records what Jesus *began* to do and teach, Acts tells us about what Jesus *continued* to do and teach through the disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit (1:1-3).

Luke's aim is:

To present a history. Christianity has a firm historical foundation. The life and teaching of Jesus Christ are recorded in the Gospels; Acts provides an account of the spread of the Church, as the result of the work of the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

To give a defence. We read speeches to both Jews (eg 4:8–12) and Gentiles (eg 25:8–11), showing us how the Early Church challenged pagan and Jewish thought, the Roman government and Hellenistic culture.

To provide a guide. We see basic gospel principles being applied to specific situations in the context of problems and persecution. These same principles are applicable for us today.

To depict the triumph of Christianity in the face of bitter persecution. The success of the Church carrying the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome and planting local churches demonstrates that it operates under the rule of the exalted Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (1:8). Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the first Christians in their witness, so He will do the same for us today!

Visit

A parishioner called the vicar during a power-cut caused by a blizzard and said she urgently needed a pastoral home visit. "I'm sorry, but I can't get out because of the heavy snow," the vicar explained. Unsatisfied, she barked, "But I can't watch TV because the power is off! So what else am I supposed to do?"



Reflecting Faith: taking down the Christmas tree decorations

*Editor: **The Revd Dr Jo White** considers the job of packing up Christmas.*

Last month we considered the decorations we put on our Christmas trees, both at home and in our churches.

Many churches keep their decorations – or at least their nativity scene - in place until Candlemas at the beginning of February, but most of us take our domestic ones down around Epiphany, on 6th January, when we recall the arrival of the Three Kings.

But how do we manage them for the rest of the year, after we have taken them down?

Our Christmas ‘baubles’ come in all colours, in matt and shiny, in all shapes and sizes. They can remind us of people, who also come in all shapes and sizes, colours and tones. Baubles are very fragile, like we are sometimes.

This year as you take down your decorations, have a good look at them and think about the care that you take to store them safely, so that they will not break.

How much more care do you take in looking after the people who make up your life? Your family, friends, neighbours, church, colleagues, local shop keepers, and so on?

It’s quick and easy to pick up the decorations and just drop them in a box, but without some gentle care, will they be okay for next year?

It’s too easy to pass folk by, and get on with what we are doing for ourselves, our own plans and goals; but aren’t people worth more than that?

Who do we know that would greatly benefit if we gave them just a bit more time, a bit more consideration?

This month: Have a look at your decorations and see if any of them need a bit of refreshing, some TLC, (tender loving care), just as we all do.

In Place of Cabbage

On Sunday after the church service, a woman told the minister that when she had sent her husband to buy a cabbage for lunch, he had fallen and broken his leg. “That’s terrible!” said the minister. “What did you do?”

“I opened a can of peas,” she replied.



All in the month of January

150 years ago, on 14th Jan 1875 Albert Schweitzer, German theologian, philosopher, physician, musicologist, writer and humanitarian, was born. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952.

125 years ago, on 14th Jan 1900 the premiere of Italian composer Giacomo Puccini's opera *Tosca*, took place in Rome.

100 years ago, on 3rd Jan 1925 Benito Mussolini declared himself dictator of Italy.

90 years ago, on 8th Jan 1935 Elvis Presley ('The King') was born. An American rock and roll singer, guitarist and actor, he died in 1977.

80 years ago, on 27th Jan 1945 the Soviet Red Army liberated Auschwitz Concentration Camp in southern Poland. It was the largest Nazi concentration camp and at least 1.1 million prisoners died there.

75 years ago, on 23rd Jan 1950 Israel declared Jerusalem was its capital city. Palestine also claims it as its capital.

70 years ago, US President Dwight D Eisenhower gave the first televised presidential news conference. It was filmed in the morning and broadcast that evening. The first live conference was given by John F Kennedy in Jan 1961.

60 years ago, on 24th Jan 1965 Winston Churchill died. He was Prime Minister 1940-45 and again in 1955, and one of the greatest wartime leaders of the 20th century. He was named as 'the greatest Briton of all time.' He won the 1953 Nobel Prize for Literature "for his mastery of historical and biographical description as well as for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values."

50 years ago, on 20th Jan 1975 Bob Dylan's album *Blood on the Tracks* was released.

40 years ago, on 23rd Jan 1985 a debate from the House of Lords was televised live for the first time.

30 years ago, on 1st Jan 1995 the World Trade Organisation was established.

25 years ago, on 1st Jan 2000 the calendar switched over to the year 2000, with no major computer problems from the Y2K 'Millennium Bug'.

25 years ago, on 13th Jan 2000 Bill Gates announced he was stepping down as chief executive of Microsoft. Company president Steve Ballmer took over, while Gates remained as chairman and chief software architect.

15 years ago, on 12th Jan 2010 the Haiti earthquake took place. The capital, Port-au-Prince, was devastated and at least 100,000 people were killed and buried in mass graves.

Donald Trump and God



On 20th January 2025 Donald Trump is due to be installed as the 47th American President. For such a position, having survived two assassin attempts, Trump says he has a divine mandate: “God saved me for a reason; that reason was to save our country and restore America to its greatness. ... We are going to fulfil that mission.” There are many factors in this election, as in all elections, such as age, gender, ethnicity and, particularly in the States, religion.

One company, which has been researching exit polls from US Presidential elections for over 40 years, interviewed some 22,200 people as they left the polls this time around. It found that four-fifths, 81%, of white evangelicals voted for Trump, as did half, 50%, of Catholics. (84% voted for Trump in 2020).

Why? Presumably, this is based on Trump’s description of himself as a “non-denominational Christian,” and his acceptance of prayer and his support of some religious ideas. The evangelicals would say that “they valued the protection of vulnerable people and wished all to live in love and peace.” Catholics would say they wanted to “treat people with civility.”

Some surveys appear to suggest Trump is seen as becoming more religious. One which took place in February 2024 found that 4% of Americans thought he was very religious, 25% somewhat religious and 68% not at all religious, the remaining 3% not answering the question. Eight months later, in October 2024, those percentages were, respectively, 6%, 31% and 62% with 1% not answering.

By comparison, some 21% of Jews voted for Trump and 33% of other religions. Two-fifths, 40%, of America’s population are Protestant and 64% of these (= 26% of the population) voted for Trump, as did 72% of those with No Religion.

Age and gender were also important. Of those aged 18 to 29, for example, 56% of the men voted for Trump, but only 40% of the women.

While this shows that Americans tend to feel religion is important in their voting decision, political party is also a vital component. George Barna’s research showed that 72% of the electorate would say they are Christian, and of these 56% gave Trump the vote, while Kamala Harris got 60% of the non-Christian vote.

Parish Pump



From the Registers

Funerals November 2024:

7 th November	Michael Allen	11.30am	Kirk Christ followed by Cremation
19 th November	Gillian Kelly	1.30pm	Kirk Christ followed by Burial (RBG)
25 th November	Pamela Bell-Scott	2.30pm	Kirk Christ followed by Cremation
28 th November	Heather Dawes	12.45pm	Kirk Christ followed by Cremation

Old love

During a wedding the mother of the bride managed to keep from crying until she glanced at the grandparents. As the bride and groom took their vows, the grandmother had reached over to the grandfather's wheelchair and was gently touching his hand. That was all it took to start the mother's tears flowing. After the wedding, she went over to the grandmother and told her how that tender gesture triggered her outburst.

"Well, I'm sorry to ruin your moment," the grandmother replied, "but I was just checking to see if he was still awake."

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, Email
psorushen@sodorandman.im. The **Diocesan**
Safeguarding Adviser has now been
appointed. For more details contact the
diocese. A copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding
Policy is available on the Diocesan website:
http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion



Rushen Mothers' Union



As the year draws to a close we can look back on a successful, fun and interesting time. We have had varied speakers and activities ranging from 'chair yoga' with Jane to a most informative talk on 'Thie dy Vea' by David Shirtliff, with many others in between.

In December I went to a craft day in St Thomas' Church where we were treated to a demonstration, lunch and afternoon tea, and a chance to create a Christmas

decoration as well as win one in the raffle. I didn't win one but I did come away with a lovely candle and the proceeds all went to the MU charity AFIA.

Jane and Elizabeth braved the storm to go to the MU Advent service in Onchan, they said that was a wonderful atmosphere and well attended. The money raised went to Victim Support. It is possible that the service next year will be in the afternoon as so many of us are reluctant to drive at night in the winter.

The year finished with a fun Christmas party in St Mary's Church, we had carols, stories, poems and quizzes, as well as crackers, super food and mulled wine. It was an afternoon full of friendship and laughter.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 13th January in St catherine's Hall at 2pm. The speaker will be Chris Kilford from Admiral Nurses.

Everyone is very welcome to attend.

The best of wishes for a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Lesley Scott



God in Art



‘The Annunciation’ - by Domenico Veneziano

During this year, we shall be ‘visiting’ different art galleries and museums in England to explore their treasures. Our first visit is to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Founded in 1816, it is a wonderful building in Trumpington Street that houses a wealth of art and antiquities.

Our painting this month is *The Annunciation* by Domenico Veneziano, who died in Florence in 1461. It is part of the Magnoli altarpiece, and other panels are on display in Washington and Berlin. The scene has been much loved of artists throughout the ages. We can read the account of Gabriel announcing the good news of motherhood to Mary in chapter two of St Luke’s Gospel. In the simplicity and beauty of Veneziano’s work, we see Gabriel kneeling with lilies, the traditional symbol of our Lady, who is standing on the far side of the canvas. It is early morning, but the two squares on the wall show the blackness of night. They stand either side of a garden where the door is closed.

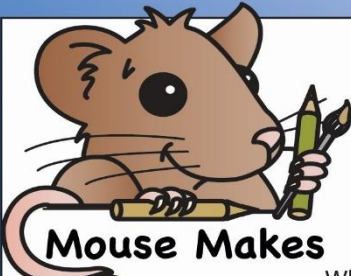
An enclosed garden, like the lilies, is a medieval symbol of Mary. ‘A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a garden locked, a fountain sealed’ we read in the Song of Songs. We might think of the Garden of the Hesperides or the apple orchard of Avalon, or perhaps a monastic herbal garden. They are all images of fruitfulness and new life enclosed by walls. Mary receives the good news of Gabriel and responds with the words, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord.’ Her words will open the garden door and lead her out into the new world of redemption, just as Genesis tells us how turning against God closed the garden door of Eden to Adam and Eve.

The pathway from the portico and garden in Veneziano’s painting will take Mary into a world where she will give birth to a son, Emmanuel. But that joy of motherhood will be coloured by a flight to Egypt and eventually the death of her Son. Then another garden will announce new and eternal life in the joy of the Resurrection. Here Mary’s words will open that door in the garden. She will walk through, trusting in God and letting love guide her steps.

We begin this New Year with an invitation to open the door of our lives to God’s guidance and love. That invitation begins with the good news of Emmanuel, God with us. Trusting in that gospel, we can open our lives, like the door of the garden, and travel in trust and love through all that the year will bring.

***Editor: For 2025, the Revd Michael Burgess
is considering the sacred in Art.***

Children's Page



J E W S
M A R Y
W S O N
O T N A

EPIPHANY is the Greek word for **MANIFEST** which means 'to show'. God shows us who He is through His son Jesus Christ

How many other words can you make from:
EPIPHANY



When they saw the star rest over where Jesus was they rejoiced and gave him three special gifts. God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod so they went home by another way.

After Jesus was born in Belthlehem, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem looking for the child born to be king of the Jews. They had seen his star and had come to worship him. King Herod was troubled so met with the wise men to tell them to let him know when they found him.



C H I L D K H M Y R R H
F R A N K I N C E N C E
J O Y A N G E L R H
G A E G Y P T P

Herod wanted to destroy Jesus, but God told Joseph to flee to Egypt to be safe.
Where did Jesus finally grow up?



READ
the story of the wise men in *Matthew 2:1-23*



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

E G O D
B O R N
F L E E
L D G E



WISE • MEN • EAST • STAR
REST • BETHLEHEM
VISIT • JESUS • GIFTS
GOLD • FRANKINCENSE • MYRRH
WORSHIP • SON • CHILD
BORN • KING • JEWS • CHRIST
SHEPHERD • JOY • GOD
HEROD • KILL • BOYS • TWO • CRY
ANGEL • DREAM • JOSEPH • MARY
FLEE • EGYPT • LAND • NAZARETH



The Story Behind the Hymn



Beauty for brokenness

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills,
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share,
peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams,
Lord end our madness, carelessness, greed,
make us content with the things that we need.

God of the poor...

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until your justice burns brightly again,
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

God of the poor...

Graham Kendrick wrote this song following a visit to India: *'Driving through Bombay in the midnight hour I saw an incredible sight: thousands and thousands of people sleeping out on the streets...There were lepers carrying babies, reaching out for rupees with fingerless hands.'*

My life was changed seeing the desperation in Kosovo following the civil war thirty years ago, and then seeing poverty and need in cities and rural communities in Brazil. I didn't fully understand it until I had seen it. From such poverty I came home to see people buying things they don't need, with money they don't have, to bring happiness that doesn't exist.

It is comfortable to distance ourselves from the poor and needy. Foodbanks, night shelters and community projects can highlight what we are doing to help them. Jesus taught in words and actions that we share in a common humanity. There is no them. It can only be us. He also showed that we are all both broken and beautiful. We share physical, psychological and moral brokenness. And yet Jesus showed and shows that within the most broken there is great beauty.

Graham writes, *'Aware of my own mixture of beauty and brokenness I pray for compassion for the poor and the weak – to feel their brokenness and see their beauty.'*

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



Dear Father, as we stand together on the threshold of a new year, we ask that you watch over us in the year ahead; guide us when we falter; and re-direct us when we lose our way. But above all, pour down on the whole world Your Love and Peace, so that all may know that you are our Father, and Lord of all. Amen



January 2025

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st A happy and peaceful year ahead
- 2nd The Diocese of Sodor and Man and the work undertaken by all its employees
- 3rd All people who are expected to work outside in adverse weather conditions
- 4th People in residential care homes across the island
- 5th People awaiting treatment in our hospital
- 6th Preparations being made for the return to school
- 7th Wildlife throughout the island as it seeks food and shelter during the winter
- 8th Travellers having to drive on sometime treacherous roads during the wintertime
- 9th The work of the Royal Lifeboat Institution
- 10th People who live in isolation with little contact with the outside world
- 11th Noble's Hospital and the doctors and nurses dedicated to making people well
- 12th The Ladies Working Party and its charitable work in the parish
- 13th Those who entertain, whether on the stage or on television
- 14th People who are suffering financial hardship after the Christmas season
- 15th Everyone who has a birthday this month
- 16th Those parishioners who read the lessons or intercede at services in the parish
- 17th Those who enjoy watching and/or partaking in sporting activities
- 18th The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which commences today
- 19th Music and the part it plays in everyone's life whether it is modern or classical
- 20th All the Home Groups which meet each week throughout the parish
- 21st The beauty of this wonderful island on which we live
- 22nd People mourning the loss of loved ones
- 23rd New mothers and fathers looking after their children
- 24th The work of the Mothers' Union and the recipients who benefit from it
- 25th The Headteacher and staff of Rushen Primary School
- 26th Hospice Isle of Man and the wonderful work it does in caring for people
- 27th The Headteacher and staff of Scoill-Phurt-le-Moirrey
- 28th The PCC meeting taking place at 7.00pm in St Catherine's Church Hall this evening
- 29th The work of aid organisations at home and overseas
- 30th The work of the Isle of Man government in maintaining services for us all to use
- 31st Our determination to serve God in as many ways possible

Services January/February/March 2025

5 th January (Epiphany)	11am	St Catherine's Joint Holy Communion (CW)
12 th January (Baptism of Christ)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's All-Age Service St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
19 th January (Epiphany 2)	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)
26 th January (Epiphany 3)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
2 nd February (Presentation of Christ))	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 February (Epiphany 5)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's All-Age Service St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
16 th February (Epiphany 6)	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 February (Epiphany 7)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
2 nd March (Last Sun. after Epiphany)	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)

(CW) Common Worship

(BCP) Book of Common Prayer

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(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.

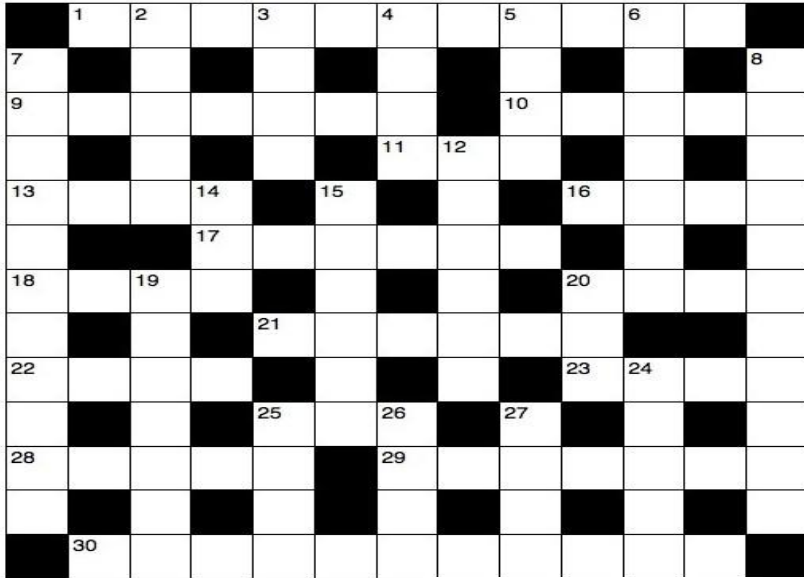
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Mr M D Porter, 10 Fairway Drive, Rowany, Port Erin 832143

Churchyard Enquiries:

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

Crossword January 2025



Across

- 1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)
- 9 Go smite (anag.) (7)
- 10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee' (Matthew 26:32) (5)
- 11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3)
- 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)
- 16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)
- 17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)
- 18 Opposite of evens (4)
- 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)
- 21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)
- 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)
- 23 Beat (anag.) (4)
- 25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)
- 28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)
- 29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)
- 30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

Down

- 2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)
- 3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)
- 4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)
- 5 Tidy (4)
- 6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)
- 7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)
- 8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)
- 12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)
- 14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)
- 15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)
- 19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)
- 20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)
- 24 Rarely used musical note (5)
- 25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)
- 26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a —, as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)
- 27 See 26 Down