



March  
2025

# Rushen Parish Magazine



Thank you!

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# From the Editor

Many years ago my school was invited to compete with other schools in a project involving technology. Six children aged between 10 and 11 years of age were chosen. Obviously, because it was a competition, we chose children who were technology savvy. We were not told of the project until we arrived at the grammar school hosting the event. Altogether there were eight schools taking part. In one corner of the room there were a number of tables on to which had been placed Lego bricks, balsa wood, plastic sheets, glue guns, plastic wheels of all sizes, paints, cereal packets, construction materials of all sizes and shapes, tools, lollipop sticks, masking tape, string, pulleys, magnetic gears, batteries, wires, pipe cleaners and a host of materials, too many to list here.

At the appointed time we were allowed to open the envelope containing the project. We were given three hours to complete it. We were asked to make a vehicle which could move in any direction. It had to be robust and have features such as lights that could be switched on and off, gears to make it go slow or fast, and its livery had to be pleasing to the eye! Finally it had to go through a course containing obstacles none of which could be touched by the vehicle. It was a daunting task, and looking at everyone else in the room, it was for them too.

Adults were not allowed to give any ideas or thoughts to the children. It was their task and theirs alone. I spent the three hours watching each school attempting to achieve an almost impossible task. However, I was astounded at the attempts the children were making. They seemed to know that this was a collaborative exercise and that delegation was key. Each group had individual children carrying out tasks in order to achieve the objective. All sorts of vehicles were being made, painted and tested some of which seemed to be better than others. Mark Victor Hansen, an American author, wrote,

*"Don't wait until everything is just right. It will never be perfect. There will always be challenges, obstacles and less than perfect conditions. So what. Get started now. With each step you take, you will grow stronger and stronger, more and more skilled, more and more self-confident and more and more successful."*

This is so true, and indeed a message to everyone who is given an assignment to achieve. We are all God's children, and are given the task of spreading His love to as many others as we can. This, like the building of the vehicle, is daunting, especially in a world where self-importance seems to be the one thing that everyone strives for, and the teachings of Jesus rejected, because they don't apply to them. I'll be the first to admit that to spread the Word of God to disbelievers is something I wouldn't find easy. I have been with many groups of intelligent people over the years, and if ever the Bible or religion is mentioned, excuses are given because those present don't want to know. I suppose I could say that I am a coward and not prepared to be scorned by others, especially when I could perhaps spend my time more productively? I am in awe of those who can spread God's Word quite happily and are prepared to put up with the flack. You are the true ambassadors of God.

As for the vehicle challenge, the attempts by each group were breathtaking and to be commended. I suppose I can say that because my school won!

**David**

## How do we find the next Archbishop of Canterbury?



It is not a simple process. Stephen Knott, The Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments, has written to members of General Synod to confirm expected timings for the process of nominating the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

He writes: "The Canterbury Diocese 'Vacancy in See' process commenced in December and, late last year, it was announced from Downing Street that the Prime Minister had appointed Lord (Jonathan) Evans of Weardale to chair the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC). My colleagues and I are supporting Lord Evans, working with him on the detailed planning. "During February and March, Jonathan Hellewell (the Prime Minister's Appointments Secretary) and I will undertake an extensive consultation exercise and, as part of this consultation, it will be possible for you to contribute.

"The themes that emerge through this consultation will then sit alongside the 'Statement of Needs' produced by the Diocese of Canterbury, as well as other information provided by the National Church and Anglican Communion, in informing the CNC of the needs of the mission of the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion.

"It is expected that the full membership of the Commission will be known by mid-March, by which time the names of the three individuals elected from the Diocese of Canterbury's Vacancy in See Committee, the outcome of the election of the episcopal member(s), the Central Members and the Anglican Communion representatives will be announced. The election process for the episcopal membership will be overseen by the Central Secretariat and further information on this will be circulated in the next weeks.

"Once the Diocese of Canterbury's Vacancy in See process has concluded, the extensive consultation exercise has been completed, and the full membership of the CNC is known, the Commission will convene for its first meeting in May, followed by two further meetings – one in July and one in September. "Through these meetings, the Commission will agree the 'Role Profile' and 'Person Specification' for the next Archbishop, as well as longlist, shortlist and interview potential candidates.

"While the discernment of the Crown Nominations Commission is necessarily confidential, we are committed to sharing relevant updates and information whenever available. To provide clarity on the timeline and sequence of events concerning the appointment and CNC process, there is a dedicated page on the C of E website for your reference."

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/archbishops/appointing-new-archbishop-canterbury>



## Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

Lesley Scott has chaired the Ladies Working Party very well, and most efficiently, for several years. In addition she has been treasurer and has compiled the rosters. Sadly, because of other commitments, she has had to relinquish her role as chairman in order to ease her already full diary. As a consequence, at the end of January, the Rev'd Ginny Viner became the new chairman.

We are very grateful for all the work Lesley has done so faithfully. Her introduction of a 'Coffee & Chat' session, on a Monday Morning, generates an extraordinary circle of Christian friendship and support, all of which is open to others. During this unrelenting season of harsh and bitterly cold winds, the Ladies Working Party has been pleasantly surprised that the Coffee & Chat sessions have been so well attended, and steadily growing in numbers. Everyone who comes into St Mary's Church on a Monday morning is assured of a warm welcome, a hot cup of coffee, or tea, and some lively conversation. We feel it is providing an important service in our community, especially when there are no other coffee venues open on Mondays.

One of the charitable causes that LWP support is the Leprosy Mission. Its treatment centre/hospital in Anandaban, Nepal, has been virtually washed away by recent flood waters. It is tragic and the Ladies are doing their best to raise awareness, and funds, towards the rebuilding of this vital resource. **To this end the LWP will be holding a fundraiser on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. It will comprise of Afternoon Tea in St Catherine's Church Hall.** The Speaker will be Mr. Sam Stockhill, a senior member of the Leprosy Mission Team, who works hands-on with its Missions overseas. He will provide up to date information about the Mission's hospitals and other services.

**The delicious afternoon tea, will be supplemented with a Bring and Buy table with a variety of new/unused items for sale, A bric-a-brac table, and a fun question sheet on each table to get people talking Please put the event and date into your diaries.** We do hope our Parish Family will support this worthwhile event by coming along and bringing a friend or neighbour.

It just remains for me to wish all our Parish Family a truly blessed Lenten Season, full of peace, prayer and an ever deepening relationship with Jesus Christ.

Rev'd Ginny Viner

## World Day of Prayer 2025

The 2025 World Day of Prayer service is being held on Friday 7th March 2025 at Colby Methodist Church. This ecumenical service has been prepared by the Christian women of the Cook Islands and the theme is "I Made You Wonderful" based on Psalm 139. Refreshments will be served in the Coffee Lounge from 10am before the 11am service. There will be a Fairtrade table and everyone is most welcome to attend this special service.

Sheila Preston

## St Mary's Sunday School



We finished January with a lesson about David, the young shepherd boy, who was chosen by God to be the next king of Israel (1 Samuel 16). After the children had found a variety of toy sheep hidden around the room, we played a guessing game with wrapped up items to help us realise that things are not always as they seem (eg what looked like a ball from the outside contained a chocolate bar inside several layers of wrapping paper). This led us to the story of the prophet Samuel, who was sent by God to anoint one of Jesse's sons to be the next king, and while everyone expected the oldest or strongest to be chosen,

God chose David, the youngest, because God does not look at the outside - God looks at the heart! To remind us of this message, we learnt a song and we also made medals with hidden treasure (a 50p coin) to represent our inner qualities, the things God sees when He looks at our hearts, eg being kind, caring, brave, adventurous, or funny.

In preparation for our February all-age service, we looked at the gospel reading from Luke 5:1-11, in which Jesus helps Peter and his friends catch a huge amount of fish and calls them to follow him. Our lesson started with a fun (home-made) magnetic fishing game, followed by a brief discussion about the Christian fish symbol (Ichthys). Having watched a short video of the Bible story, we had fun acting it all out with makeshift boats (rugs), a real (old) fishing net and lots of laminated coloured paper fish! We also thought about how we can each follow Jesus in our own lives, we practised our song and prayers for the service, and we enjoyed some crafts and colouring.

Our all-age service the following week was led by our vicar Joe. It was wonderful to see so many families with children and young people at St Mary's, all happily engaging and contributing to the service in various ways. After Thomas had read the OT lesson from Isaiah 6 (in which God asks who will go for Him, whom can He send, and Isaiah replies: "Here I am! Send me!"), the Sunday School led the congregation in joyfully singing 'Follow Me, says Jesus, follow Me!' The gospel reading from Luke 5 was brought to life by our dramatisation, showing the miraculous catch of fish, and Peter and his friends leaving everything behind to follow Jesus.

Joe started his interactive talk by asking the congregation about the most impressive building they had ever seen, with answers ranging from the Burj Khalifa in Dubai to Peel Cathedral and King William's College! This linked into the wonderful image of the greatness and glory of God as described in Isaiah, which filled the prophet with awe and made him realise that he was 'a man of unclean lips' in the presence of the one holy Almighty God! Joe also asked who our role models were, and again we had a wide range of answers, including the cartoon character Wile E. Coyote (because he never gives up!). This led to a short discussion about Jesus and why He is worth following and even giving up some things for (if not everything), such as a former career (as in Joe's case). It may not be easy and we may mourn the loss of some of these things from a 'former life,' eg the comforts and security, but if we are serious about following Jesus and building His kingdom here on earth, we must follow His call whole-heartedly just as the disciples did 2000 years ago, trusting that doing God's work will be much better and more rewarding than anything we've done before.

As an act of commitment, everyone was invited to write or draw on a paper fish their own personal response to Jesus' call to follow Him; all the fish were then brought up to the altar as part of our offering. The service concluded with prayers read out by members of the Sunday School, followed by the very apt hymn 'Will you come and follow me if I just call your name.' As always, refreshments after the service were much appreciated and enjoyed by all. Thank you!



We are having a short break for Half Term, but are looking forward to meeting again in March, when we will have two all-age services; our regular second Sunday, as well as Mothering Sunday at the very end of March.

**With love and blessings**

**Claudia**



**Open The Book  
Celebrates 25 years of  
Bible storytelling**

Do you remember hearing your first Bible story? Most of us would have been children at the time.

If you had the privilege of hearing them often, those stories would now be a part of you, giving you hope in dark times, and a way to understand the world around you, and a sure

sense that the God of the Bible exists. All in all, Bible stories are important to know.

This year Bible Society's Open the Book turns 25. It has seen remarkable progress in getting Bible stories 'out there', to young children right across the world. Open the Book brings the Bible to life through its creative and interactive storytelling approach.

From England to Kyrgyzstan, storytelling teams visit schools and present a ten to fifteen-minute scripted Bible story, designed to be interactive.

Over many years, hundreds of volunteers and creative storytelling teams have shared the ageless stories in thousands of primary schools. They have created lasting memories, sparked the imagination, given hope, taught important lessons, connected generations and touched the hearts of countless young people and their teachers.

Fiona, a member of the Open the Book staff team at Bible Society, says:

"With 95 per cent of children no longer in church, who else will tell them these powerful, life changing stories and take the word into our neighbourhoods?"

Would you like to share Bible stories with primary school children? Why not become a storyteller and get a team started from your church? Find out more at:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/>





## News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



Work on the extra lighting at Kirk Christ began in mid-February so the church was not functional as a place of worship on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Hopefully it will reopen on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March for it's 9.30am service of Morning Prayer and the Mariner's Choir Service at 6.30pm on the same day. This has now become an annual event with the choir singing and the congregation joining in, later in the proceedings. It will be a good event to see how effective the new lighting has been.

The congregation at St Catherine's Church is now settling in to its new surroundings after the disruption caused by the reordering. Many seem appreciative of the work that has been done and the more contemporary style of worship. A Scripture Union Stars Day was held during February and the children and leaders enjoyed the comfortable space and seating. Bishop Tricia joined the congregation on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and dedicated the new window in the porch depicting a Celtic Cross which was designed by Margaret Galloway. So much had been done to enhance worship at St Catherine's. All this is with gratitude to the late Arthur Cregeen, a past churchwarden, for the legacy he left to the parish. Without this none of recent refurbishment would have been able to take place.

With Thoughts and Prayers for the coming Lenten Season  
**Gerry Callister**

**The Parish of Rushen**  
**Spring Concerts 2025**  
**St. Catherine's Church, Port Erin**

**March 13** Manx Saxophone Ensemble  
Concert commences at 7.30pm

**April 3** Rushen Silver Band  
Concert commences at 7.30pm

**May 15** Manx Children's Choir and  
Scoil Phurt Le Moirrey  
Concert commences at 7.00pm

RETIRING COLLECTION  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING CONCERTS

### Prayer for March

**Dear Lord** In this month when Lent begins, we remember the difficult journey Jesus made to the cross, to take upon Himself our sins and the sins of the whole world, to bring us the hope of eternal life by His resurrection. Lord, we bring to You our own journeys through our daily lives. We bring our disappointments, our bewilderment, our pain, as well as our happy times. We thank You that You are with us in and through all of it. We thank you that the message of Christmas is the message of Lent and the message of every day – You, our God, are with us always, giving us hope and life, because of Jesus. Thank You that He made that journey for us, and all we have to do is trust in Him. Help us to do that and to share His good news with others, especially those in distress. We pray in His name. **Amen.**



## Sudoku March 2025

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

### Family Tree

At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. "Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror," observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked, "What about you dear? Can you go back very far?" "Not very far," came the reply. "You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood."

### February Sudoku Solution

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

### February Crossword Solution

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



## A Tribute to Alexander Fleming

Editor: **Tim Lenton** looks back on a remarkable man who has touched all our lives.

Seventy years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1955, the Scottish bacteriologist Sir Alexander Fleming died. He was joint winner with Ernst Boris Chain and Sir Howard Walter Florey of the 1945 Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine for discovering penicillin. Fleming was not the tidiest researcher, and his discovery of penicillin came about more or less by accident, as he said himself. He regarded his earlier discovery of lysozyme, a mildly antiseptic enzyme which is present in body fluids, as his best scientific work.

The discovery of penicillin was much more significant in practical terms, but for some years he was unable to persuade fellow-experts of its importance – another example of the scientific consensus being wrong. In the end Chain and Florey were vital to its success, having discovered a method of turning penicillin into a practical, useful treatment.

Fleming came from a Presbyterian background but was described as “not particularly religious”. He served through the First World War in the Royal Army Medical Corps, working in battlefield hospitals in France, where he observed that closed wound treatment often had adverse effects.

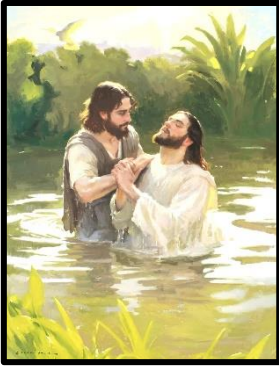
He was a member of the rifle club at his medical school, St Mary’s, which led to his joining the research department there.

The discovery of penicillin and its subsequent development as a prescription drug marked the start of modern antibiotics. Fleming was knighted in 1944. In 1999 he was named in *Time* magazine’s list of the 100 most important people in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and three years later as one of the 100 Greatest Britons in a BBC poll. He was also voted third greatest Scot in 2009.

When he heard that penicillin production had been patented in the US in 1944, he was furious that his discovery, given free, should become a profit-making monopoly in another country.

### ***Lot’s wife***

*A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. ‘The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.’ His son looked up, concerned, ‘What happened to the flea?’*



## Reflecting Faith The Meaning of Baptism

*Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers the history of baptism*

Last month we considered the overall 'look' of a church building and how that often reflects the way faith is celebrated inside. One of the clearest visual symbols inside a church building relates to where the font, used for baptism, is placed. We often think of Baptism as being uniquely Christian, but this is not the case. Most established religions have some form of rite to welcome a new person, regardless of their age, into their fellowship. If you think of Jesus being baptised in the river Jordan by John, it is clear that this was something within the Jewish practice happening before 'Christianity' came into being.

When Paul writes to the Corinthians in his first letter, he compares the Christian rite with baptism 'into Moses in the sea'. This comes from him being a Hillelite rabbi who argued that as 'the Jews passed from slavery in Egypt through the Red Sea into Canaan, so the Gentile passed from heathenism through baptism into the "promised land" '.

Baptism was intended as a symbolic action of outward cleansing, meaning change, from not being part of the 'group' to being welcomed into it. It was accepted that the person's inside did not change! There was and still remains nothing magical about that (unfortunately). In the Book of Acts there is an instance where one person chose to follow Christ, and the whole family was baptised.

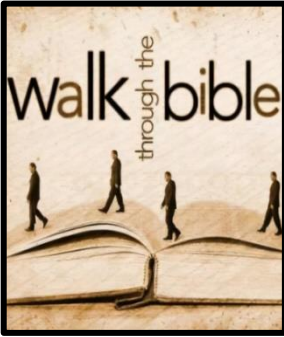
The Early Church took baptism very seriously, and new believers had to spend a good length of time preparing for it. As the years passed, the babies of Christian believers came to be baptised shortly after birth.

### ***This month***

Have a think about your own Baptism. What value do you place on it? Do you feel it makes you part of the Christian Family, or was it so long ago that for you, it's become an irrelevance?

### ***Guilty Verdict***

*A woman was found guilty in traffic court and when asked for her occupation she said she was a schoolteacher. The judge rose from the bench. 'Madam, I have waited years for a schoolteacher to appear before this court.' He then smiled with delight. 'Now sit down at that table and write "I will not run a red light" one hundred times.'*



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

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

This month we continue our examination of a selection of books from the Old Testament.

*'The Psalms have a unique place in the Bible, because most of the Scripture speaks to us, while the Psalms speak for us' (Athanasius of Alexandria).*

The Book of Psalms contains 150 prayers or songs of praise, the majority (73) attributed to David, although some were composed later. They were mostly composed for liturgical worship. There are songs of praise, in which people joyfully express praise for God's work of creation and sustaining (eg 135 & 136). In others, the psalmist recounts a desperate situation and gives thanks for God's answer to his prayers (eg 30 & 116).

There are a significant number of psalms of lament, both individual (eg 3-7; 22) and communal (eg 44), which begin with a cry for help. Some express deliverance from sin (51 & 130), or point to the certainty that the Lord has heard their prayer (7, but contrast 88). The theme of trust is central in many psalms (23, 62 & 91).

The 'royal psalms' (eg 20, 21 & 72) point to the promised Messiah, fulfilled in Jesus. There are also psalms teaching wisdom (eg 37, 49); 'torah' psalms, focussing on the law of the Lord (eg 1, 19 & 119), and psalms which celebrate the history of Israel and God's faithfulness (eg 78, 105 & 106).

The psalms can help us in our own prayers, by providing us with models to follow, as they express our own deepest feelings as we approach God: *'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul'* (Psalm 23:1-3).

### Snoring

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. "It has to STOP," he insisted.

The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?"

"Well, it's not just me," confided the minister. "She is bothering the whole congregation."



## Praying the Prayer of Forgiveness

*Numbers 12:13, 'O God, heal her, I pray.'*

These six words are Moses' prayer for his sister Miriam. They tell us a lot about Moses and a lot about prayer.

For some time Miriam and her brother Aaron had been simmering with anger against Moses. They protested that he had married a Cushite woman (v.1), but the real cause of their animosity was jealousy. 'Has the Lord spoken only

through Moses?' (v.2). Don't we have a ministry as well? Hasn't God also spoken through us? Why does everyone look to Moses? Why are we overlooked?

Jealousy is a powerful and deadly emotion. God had given ministries and honour to Miriam (Exod. 15:20,21) and Aaron had become the chief priest (Num. 3:1-3), but neither of them were satisfied with that. It looks as if Miriam fomented and took the lead in criticising Moses. Suddenly the Lord intervened (v.4). He called Moses, Aaron and Miriam together and defended His servant Moses. Moses is faithful in all my house! (v.7) Whereas the Lord had often spoken to other prophets in dreams and visions, He speaks to Moses 'mouth to mouth' (v.8). How dare Aaron and Miriam question Moses whom the Lord called 'my servant' (v.8). Having so strongly defended Moses and rebuked his critics, the Lord departed and then the divine judgement fell. Suddenly Miriam, the leader of the conspiracy, was struck down with the dreaded leprosy.

Aaron immediately cried out to Moses, confessing his own and his sister's sin and foolishness (vv. 11,12). Then Moses demonstrated why the Lord honoured him so highly. He expressed no anger, no vindictiveness, no spirit of 'settling scores' against his brother and sister. In spite of their antagonism and jealousy, Moses loved them both and 'cried to the Lord' on behalf of Miriam. He prayed one of the shortest prayers found in the Bible. 'O God, heal her, I pray' (v.13). He was grieved and full of compassion to see his sister so terribly afflicted. The prayer was prompted by the love that forgives, the love that overlooks what others have done to us, the love that wants God's best for them. And only God's grace can make us like that. The prayer is so short, so simple, so direct, so personal. 'O God, heal her, I pray.' And God heard and answered. As a warning to others who might challenge Moses' authority, Miriam was quarantined for seven days, then fully healed and restored (vv.14, 15). How does this incident help us in our prayer life?

First, true prayer is born in compassion. The lips express the deep feelings of the heart.

Second, God will not hear our prayers if our hearts are not right with him and with one another. While we cherish resentments and grudges, our praying is powerless.

Third, while there are many times when prayer needs to be persistent, there are also times when it is a simple, deep cry from the heart.

**Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle**

## All in the month of March



**175 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1850**, the Britannia Bridge linking Anglesey and mainland Wales across the Menai Strait was officially opened. Designed and built by railway engineer Robert Stephenson, it had to be replaced after a disastrous fire in 1970.

**150 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1875**, the French composer Maurice Ravel was born. Best known for *Bolero*.

**100 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1925**, Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh was officially opened.

**90 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1935**, driving tests were first introduced in Britain. Three days later, on 19<sup>th</sup> March, a speed limit of 30 mph in built-up areas was also introduced, under the Road Traffic Act of 1934.

**80 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1945**, Operation Varsity took place in Wesel, Germany. The USA, Britain and Canada carried out the largest single-day airborne landing operation in history, involving more than 16,000 paratroopers and thousands of aircraft. Allied victory.

**70 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1955**, Sir Alexander Fleming, Scottish bacteriologist died. Joint winner of the 1945 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering penicillin

**60 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1965**, the first US troops arrived in Vietnam. This marked the beginning of the USA's main involvement in the war. **Also 60 years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1965**, Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov became the first person ever to make a spacewalk.

**50 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1975**, the Biological Weapons Convention came into effect. This multilateral disarmament treaty banned the development, production and stockpiling of all biological and toxin weapons.

**40 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1985**, British miners voted to return to work after a year-long strike over pit closures and job losses.

**30 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1995**, the 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was arrested for his role in the collapse of Barings, Britain's oldest merchant bank. Four days later, on 6<sup>th</sup> March, the Dutch bank ING purchased Barings, for the nominal price of £1.

**20 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005**, Dave Allen, Irish comedian, died.

**10 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015**, Terry Pratchett, British fantasy novelist best known for his Discworld series, died of Alzheimer's, aged 66. **Also 10 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015**, the Germanwings Flight 9525 crashed in the French alps, killing all 150 people on board. An investigation found that the co-pilot had deliberately caused the crash. His doctor had declared him unfit to fly due to suicidal tendencies, but he had reported for work anyway.





## **God in the Arts** **'Menorah' by Roger Wagner**

In the midst of the dreaming spires and Gothic splendour of Oxford stands the Ashmolean Museum. Its classic proportions are a contrast to the buildings around. Within, the addition of thirty new galleries has doubled the exhibition space, and the visitor to the museum will discover a wealth of beautiful and impressive works – Renaissance drawings, Eastern art and British paintings. The last category includes this

month's work: 'Menorah' painted by Roger Wagner. It was painted in 1993 and at that time it was the largest contemporary painting acquired by the Ashmolean. It is now on loan to St Giles' Church at the northern end of the city.

Roger Wagner was born in 1957. He graduated from Oxford and now worships at the Romanesque church of Iffley. He works on a small scale with book illustrations, but also creates large canvases that juxtapose traditional religious images with contemporary symbols in a startling and arresting way. The background of 'Menorah' is Didcot Power Station, which can be seen from the windows of the Oxford-London train. The central chimney and the cooling towers around form the shape of the seven-branched candlestick of Judaism. In front of them are the three crosses of Calvary. Around the scene of crucifixion we can see a couple consoling each other in the foreground and isolated individuals wandering in the mud in grief and perplexity. They are dressed in Hasidic robes.

An earlier work of Roger Wagner's is 'The Burning Furnace' where angels are painted in the setting of a Victorian iron works. It is the same contrast of ancient and modern in this painting: the Good Friday of 2000 years ago and an industrial, bleak landscape of today. The artist is also contrasting the menorah of Judaism and the cross of Christianity – the suffering of the Holocaust and the suffering of the Saviour.

The menorah would burn in front of the Holy of Holies as a sign of God's invisible presence. In the book of Revelation, St John describes his vision of Jesus the Lamb in the midst of the same seven flaming torches, moving with grace and glory. Here in 'Menorah' the figure of Jesus is insignificant against the immense scale of industrial buildings spewing out pollution into the bright sky.

But it is that figure of Jesus on the Cross who draws us this month in Holy Week and draws us in this painting. The mourners around look like figures in a concentration camp: victims of man's inhumanity to man. The cooling towers are a vivid reminder of our violation and destruction of mother earth. And in the centre we see our crucified Lord. We hear Isaiah's song of the suffering servant that there is no sorrow like this sorrow. We also hear Jesus crying 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' And we can ponder this painting as we ask, Is it a sign of the absence of God, or, like the Menorah lit in the temple, a sign of the presence of God? There is human chemistry creating the destruction of life and earth as depicted by Roger Wagner. Can we proclaim a divine chemistry at work which will transform suffering and death into the new life of Easter in the power of the Resurrection?

**Michael Burgess**

## ***From the Registers***

### ***Funerals January 2025:***

10 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	2.00pm	Pauline Carr	Ashes	Rushen Burial Ground
16 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	10.30am	Linda Ridge	St Catherine's	Crematorium
17 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	2.00pm	Ian Haworth	Kirk Christ	Crematorium

### ***Wedding January 2025:***

25<sup>th</sup> January 2025      1.00pm      Colin Sudbury & Shuli Krishana      St Peter's

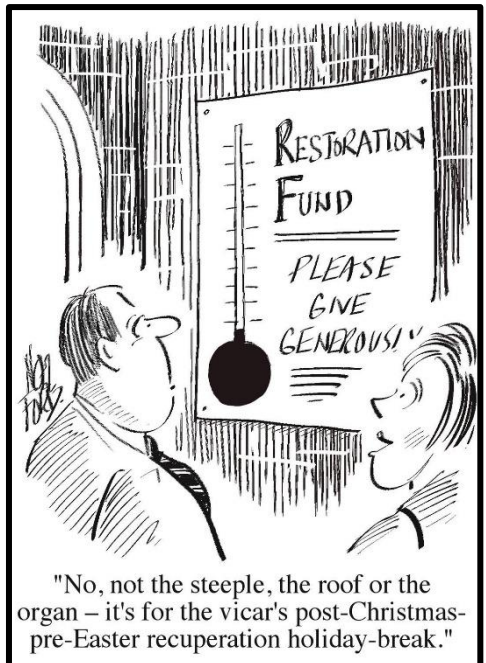
## ***An extract from the Daily Mail 30th December 2016***

*A teacher was talking to her class of five-year old kiddies about whales. She said it was impossible for whales to swallow human beings because, although they're very large in size, their throats are quite small. One quizzical kiddie in front, Candice, put up her hand and said, 'But poor old Jonah was swallowed by a whale, wasn't he?' As the teacher did not have a good reply to give the girl, she merely reaffirmed her assertion that it is physically impossible for whales to swallow humans. Undeterred, Candice replied: 'When I get to Heaven, I'm going to ask Mr Jonah myself.' The now irritated teacher responded, by saying, 'And what if poor old Jonah went to Hell?' The little girl replied: 'Then you can ask him.'*

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



## Rushen Mothers' Union



In February about 20 of us met in St Catherine's Hall for a very interesting and informative talk from David Bowman. We saw a different side of David as he told us about the history of him taking up the hobby of cross stitch! It all started as an interest that he could share with his late wife, Pauline. There may have been a little competition between them as well. David showed us some exquisite pictures that he had completed. His interest has been with Manx trains, and he managed to

capture very accurate likenesses. We were all very impressed by these works of art that he spent so many hours producing.

David has not touched his cross stitch since he has been unable to work beside his beloved wife, but he is now ready to pick up his needle again. He would like to create a picture for the Mothers' Union and has asked for ideas. Please think about photos, drawings or objects with a MU theme, that David might use to produce one of his fabulous cross stitch pictures.

We were delighted to welcome MU President Ann Corlett to our meeting. She has asked us to host the jewellery coffee morning. Members of the Mothers' Union have been collecting pre loved costume jewellery which will be sold to raise money for AFIA (Away From It All) the MU families charity.

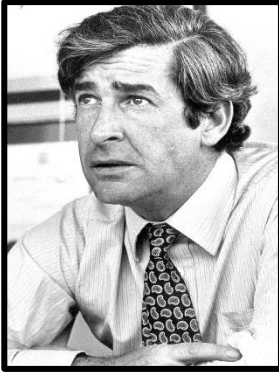
We will be holding a coffee morning on Easter Monday, 21st April at St Catherine's Hall from 10 until 12. We shall have stalls selling all the beautiful jewellery that has been donated. Please save the date and give us your support.

MU are organising a day trip to Chester Zoo on 19th April. The cost is £85pp. This includes the return ferry trip, coach to and from the zoo and the entry fee. Numbers are limited so if you are interested please contact Kirk Michael Branch member Mrs Sigrd Kneale on email; sigridkneale131@gmail.com Booking needs to be made by 1st March 2025.

### Dates for Diaries:

Monday	10th March	Spring Council Meeting St John's Hall 7pm
Tuesday	25th March	Festival Service Kirk Michael Church 2pm
Saturday	19th April	Chester Zoo Day trip
Monday	21st April	Coffee Morning St Catherine's Hall 10 am
Sunday	6th July	Archbishop of York, Lord's Prayer Tour at the Cathedral (more information to follow)

**Lesley Scott**



## Remembering Dave Allen

*Editor: **Tim Lenton** considers the colourful life of a popular comedian.*

Twenty years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005, Irish comedian Dave Allen died – in his sleep, of sudden arrhythmic death syndrome.

Allen, real name David Tynan O'Mahony, was best known for his observational comedy, but provoked indignation, sometimes outrage, by highlighting religious and political hypocrisy.

O'Mahony was well connected: his father was managing editor of *The Irish Times*, and his mother and aunt were both well-known writers. But his father died when he was 12, and the family moved to England, where his agent eventually persuaded him to change his name "because no-one in the UK could pronounce O'Mahony correctly". The comedian agreed because he thought a name starting with A would get him to the top of agents' lists.

Before that he had been educated at the Catholic University School in Dublin, where he developed a disrespect for the disciplinary methods of the Roman Catholic Church. Later this extended to the Church of England: he was known for mocking their exercise of power rather than their beliefs, but he was certainly a sceptic, calling himself "a practising atheist – thank God".

Although Allen became well known in many parts of the world, including Australia, it wasn't always a smooth path: he worked at one time in a toy shop in Sheffield and as a door-to-door salesman of draught excluders. But although he was also an actor, he became best known for his stand-up (or rather sit-down) routines involving a stool, a cigarette and a glass.

He said he was always bothered by the misuse of power, and in his native Ireland he was particularly controversial, both among some southern Catholics and Paisleyite Protestants. It may not have helped that he ended his act with the words "Goodnight, thank you, and may your God go with you."

### ***Lost in Translation***

*Are you travelling this Spring? Keep an eye out for those delightful translations into English that didn't quite make it...*

*Danish airline: We take your bags and send them in all directions.*

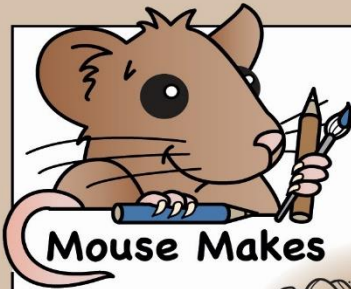
*Heathrow: No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.*

*Japanese taxi: Safety first: please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident.*

*Beijing shop: Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.*

*Swedish furrier: Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.*

# Children's Page March 2025



## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

\_\_\_\_\_ Luke 4:1

For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

\_\_\_\_\_ Luke 4:2

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

\_\_\_\_\_ Luke 4:8



**READ**

the story in  
**Luke 4:1-13**



Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

\_\_\_\_\_ Luke 4:12

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

\_\_\_\_\_ Luke 4:3

What happened after the temptation of Jesus?  
see Luke 4:14-15

JESUS • LED  
WILDERNESS  
DESERT  
TEMPTATIONS  
DAYS • DEVIL  
HUNGRY • SON  
STONE • ROCK  
KINGDOMS  
WORLD • GLORY  
WRITTEN  
SCRIPTURE  
WORSHIP • ONLY  
SERVE • LORD  
JERUSALEM  
HIGH • TEMPLE  
THROW • DOWN  
JUMP • ANGELS  
HANDS • HOLD  
LIFT • FOOT

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

Find the words from the questions too!

## The Story Behind the Song



Brian Howard

### *If I Were a Butterfly*

### *The Butterfly Song*

If I were a butterfly  
I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings  
If I were a robin in a tree  
I'd thank you Lord that I could sing  
If I were a fish in the sea  
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee  
But I just thank you Father for making me, me

#### **Chorus**

*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile  
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child  
And I just thank you Father for making me, me*

If I were an elephant  
I'd thank you Lord by raising my trunk  
If I were a kangaroo  
You know I'd hop right up to you  
If I were an octopus  
I'd thank you Lord for my fine looks  
But I just thank you Father for making me, me

#### **Chorus**

If I were a wiggly worm  
I'd thank you Lord that I could squirm  
If I were a fuzzy, wuzzy bear  
I'd thank you Lord for my fuzzy, wuzzy hair  
If I were a crocodile  
I'd thank you Lord for my great smile  
But I just thank you Father for making me, me

#### **Chorus**

Gold Record award-winning songwriter, Brian Howard, writes music that touches people's hearts! God's people all over the world have been touched by his extraordinary musical gifts. Brian's mission is to help everyone experience heartfelt worship and the joy of the Lord in a new and fresh way. Brian's award-winning songwriting brings the "child out in everyone!"

His music for children, choirs, praise groups, and congregations is inspiring, moving and easily sung by people of all ages. Brian's special gift is creating music that is life giving and heart-stirring. Music with "catchy" tunes that give God's people a new sense of joy, heartfelt worship and a deeper experience of the love of God. Brian is the author of two of the most popular children's praise songs of all time, *The Butterfly Song (If I Were a Butterfly)* and *I Just Wanna Be a Sheep*.

Currently sung in over 38 countries. His heartfelt music ministry is based on his commitment to bring the children to Christ, and all the big adult children too! Brian's Bible-based, fun music brings the child out in everyone!



## Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

Let's pray...

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

**Amen**

Let's pray...

### March 2025

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

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

## Services 2<sup>nd</sup> March – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025

2 <sup>nd</sup> March <b>(Sunday before Lent)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
	6.30pm	Kirk Christ Mariner's Service
9 <sup>th</sup> March <b>(Lent 1)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
16 <sup>th</sup> March <b>(Lent 2)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
23 <sup>rd</sup> March <b>(Lent3)</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> March <b>(Mothering Sunday)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
6 <sup>th</sup> April <b>(Lent 5 )</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
13 <sup>th</sup> April <b>(Palm Sunday)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Morning (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
20 <sup>th</sup> April <b>(Easter Sunday)</b>	5.45am	Kirk Christ Dawn Service
	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
27 <sup>th</sup> April <b>(Easter 2)</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>

<b>Contact Details for Rushen Parish cont'd....</b>
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**St Mary's Sunday School Leader:**

Mrs Claudia Koenig, Fois Fraon, Fistard, Port St Mary      832974/495630

**St Mary's Ladies Working Party**

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

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

**St Catherine's Hall Bookings:**

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**Web Site/E-mail:**

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

**Magazine Editor**

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Ballafesson, Port Erin

*e-mail:* dbow43@manx.net

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

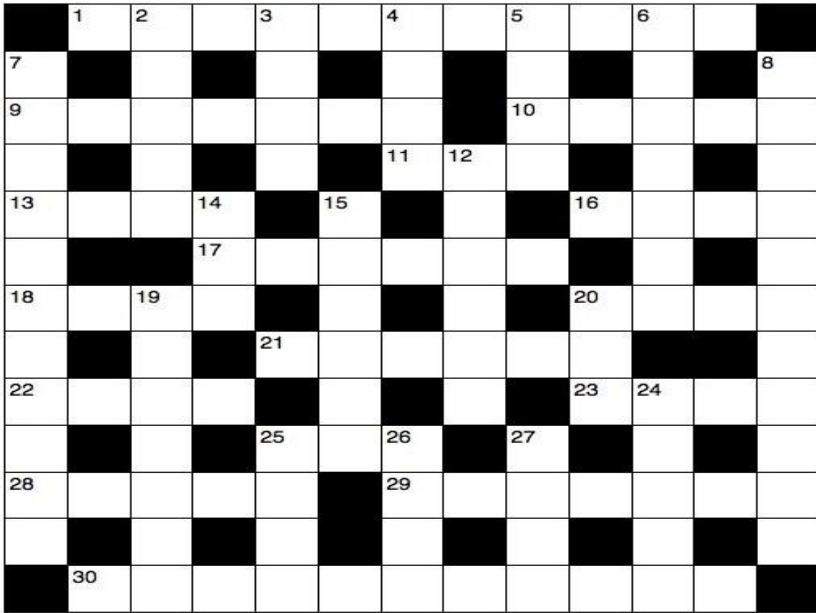
**Parish Director of Music:**

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

**Churchyard Enquiries:**

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

# Crossword March 2025



## Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)  
 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)  
 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)  
 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)  
 13 Mede (anag.) (4)  
 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)  
 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)  
 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)  
 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)  
 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)  
 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)  
 23 Edit (anag.) (4)  
 25 Who believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)  
 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)  
 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been —, he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)  
 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

## Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)  
 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1)  
 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)  
 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)  
 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)  
 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)  
 12 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)  
 13 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)  
 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)  
 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)  
 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)  
 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)  
 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord —' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)  
 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)  
 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)  
 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)