

April 2025

Rushen Parish Magazine

THE HEAD THAT
ONCE WAS
CROWNED WITH THORNS



IS CROWNED WITH
GLORY NOW

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From the Editor

As a child I loved April Fool's Day. I suspect that the reason for this was my parents who, on the 1st April every year, tried their best to play a trick on me. Of course, as I grew older, I became aware of their devious methods of catching me out, and was ready for whatever pranks they had prepared. To be fair, I was caught out more times than not, and on the odd occasion when I discovered their trick, I felt on top of the world!

Even as far back as my school days I can remember the many tricks that were played on our teachers. Thinking about them as I write they were never state-of-the-art tricks, and nine times out of ten the teachers had the last laugh. It nevertheless was good fun and taken in good part by those meant to teach us.

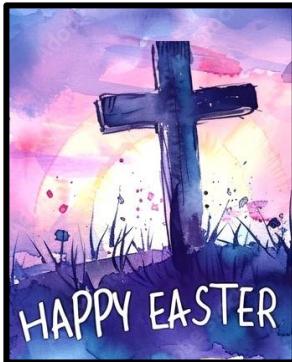
When I became deputy head of a Church of England primary school, on the outskirts of Warrington in Cheshire, the staff, in league with the children, decided to play an April Fools prank on me. My home was about 500 metres from the school, and to get there it used to take me ten minutes. Normally I could hear the children playing their games in the playground before school. On this particular day there was no noise, in fact it was eerily silent. There weren't any staff cars outside the school either. I began to wonder if all schools were closed and I had forgotten. I went to the front door and it was locked. I had a key and went inside. Nobody was there. I became more and more bewildered and decided to phone the education office to see if indeed the school was closed and I hadn't been informed. Of course they told me that schools were not closed. I never thought for a minute that it was 1st April and the staff and children were out to catch me. I phoned the headteacher at her home to see what was going on. Mobile's didn't exist then, and anyway there was no reply. In the end I decided to go home assuming that I had got something terribly wrong.

At about 9.45am there was a knock on the door. Outside there were two children from my class, in full school uniform, asking why I wasn't at school. I was mortified. I grabbed everything as quickly as I could and walked back to school with the children. They just chatted, although I asked them why they weren't at school. They looked at me as though I was being silly. When we arrived the front door was open, and I could see all the children in the school hall, as if they were in assembly. I walked into the hall to be greeted with 'April Fool.' They had well and truly got me! Apparently the head and staff had asked the parents to drop their children off at the church as they were going to have an assembly there. Those who walked to school went straight to the church. The plan had worked and I was totally caught out.

The one April Fool that will never catch me out is the one that occurred on that first Easter Day when our Lord Jesus rose from the dead. Nobody can trick me into thinking it couldn't have happened. How wonderful it is that Christians around the world will celebrate Christ's Resurrection, and know that when they die they will enter paradise and enter into a kingdom where there is no war, no violence, no poverty, no hunger and a place where people can live in peace for ever and ever. Please don't think that the Resurrection of Christ is just a trick that's trying to catch you out. It isn't, it's real, and everyone is welcome.

David

The Real Easter



Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the effect of Easter...

In CS Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the lion Aslan is put to death by the White Witch. The stone table on which He is killed cracks in two, but Aslan meets with Lucy and Susan alive again. He explains the Witch's failure:

'her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack, and Death itself would start working backwards.'

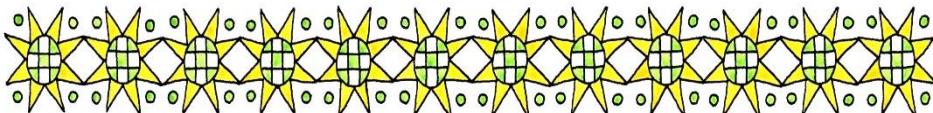
This is a great picture of what Jesus' cross and resurrection has achieved. As Paul writes, '*I want to know Christ, to know the power of His resurrection*' (Philippians 3:10). To understand the real Easter, we should experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!

New Hope: Like the girls in the story, Easter highlights the sadness and confusion that loss brings. Yet the resurrection of Jesus brings new hope, as it demonstrates the victory secured by the cross over sin, Satan and death. We can face life's difficulties knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

New Love: Our relationships are often characterised by a lack of forgiveness, hurt and betrayal. Yet Jesus' resurrection opens the possibility of new love, as His power enables us to accept others and forgive them.

New Life: When we are trying to make sense of life, like the girls in the story, Jesus offers us a living relationship with Himself. It's a friendship with God through Jesus that can begin today and continue for eternity.

When Lucy met Aslan again, she cried: '*Oh, you're real, you're real!*' We too can find the real Easter through a life changing encounter with the living Christ.





Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

A short and sweet report from our Ladies Working Party this month. The major event being our afternoon tea held on 11th March in St Catherine's Hall, to raise funds for The Leprosy Mission. The main speaker, Sam Stockhill was incredibly informative, knowledgeable and passionate about the work being undertaken in Asia and especially India with sufferers of Leprosy. We were moved to be told that it takes only £25 to provide a permanent cure for one sufferer. That's a lot less

than a Netflix annual subscription. We have more information and forms available at St Mary's if anyone would like to make a donation, and change some unfortunate person's life, in future. We were thrilled that the afternoon tea raised over £600 for the cause, and we thank everyone who was involved in any way, and those who supported us.

Our next task is to make the bunches of flowers for Mothering Sunday.

We continue faithfully with our prayers for the congregation and parish members .

Monday Morning Coffee and Chat is fast becoming the place to be in Port St Mary on a Monday morning, and everyone is welcome to come along for a hot drink, a few laughs, and the possibility of new friendships.

Please note that we are still collecting used stamps for the Bone Marrow Research Trust. Kindly trim the stamps leaving a ½ inch paper border around them, this makes my life much easier!

Spring Blessings.

Rev Ginny Viner

Prayer for April 2025

Living Lord Jesus. We, your Easter People of today, thank You for the Easter People of the Gospel accounts. For the women, who loved You so much that they went to the tomb, early in the morning, while it was still dark. Thank you especially for Mary, who wept, then rejoiced, then ran to tell the others, "I have seen the Lord!" Thank you for Thomas, who doubted, then devoted his life to You, his Lord and his God; for the disciples who ate breakfast on the beach with You; for Peter, who was forgiven and re-commissioned by You. Thank You for them and Your witnesses through all generations. Thank you for Your true and living written Word, proclaiming You, our true and living Lord, who lived and died and rose again to offer us forgiveness and life. Thank you, Lord that because You live, we have hope and assurance, whatever challenges the world might bring.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again, Hallelujah!

St Mary's Sunday School



Following our Half Term break, we met again at the beginning of March to think about Lent and prepare for our all-age service the following Sunday. After a brief catch-up and sharing of holiday highlights, we talked about why Christians keep Lent (to remember Jesus' time in the wilderness and to prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter). As well as perhaps giving up treats during Lent, we thought about what we could 'take up' during this time, eg reading/watching Bible stories, praying more, helping others, or saving a bit of money for a charity. Each family received a copy of the Church of England's 'Living Hope' Lent booklet with readings, prayers, and practical ideas for families and children.

We watched a short animated video about Jesus being tempted in the wilderness and talked about how Jesus used 'God's Word' to overcome all three temptations. This led us to think about our own temptations, eg to tell a lie, to take something that isn't ours, to disobey our parents, to cheat in a game etc., and that remembering the Word of God (especially the 10 Commandments - God's Top Ten!) can help us in those situations. We also practised two songs for the all-age service the following week and a dramatised version of the gospel. In order to help us collect some money for charity during Lent, each child received a tube of Smarties to enjoy the sweets and then decorate the tube and try to fill it with change over the next few weeks.

Our March all-age service (the first Sunday in Lent) was led by the Rev'd Ginny Viner. The Sunday School contributed by reading the first lesson and acting out the gospel reading about Jesus being tempted by the devil (the cutest devil Ginny had ever seen!), as well as leading the congregation in singing 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God' and the 'Jesus Rap' about the temptations (to the tune of 'We will rock you'!), with the chorus "We will, we will do right!" We also led the prayers of intercession later in the service.

Ginny's talk focused on the theme of trust. She told the children a story of a boy who broke his mother's trust by inviting a friend to play a computer game when he had promised to finish his homework instead. In a similar way, every time we give in to a temptation which causes us to sin, we break God's trust in us. This can lead to us feeling shame and guilt, but the good news is that we can repent and come to God, asking for His forgiveness, which He always gives to those who are truly sorry.

The Sunday School gave a fun visual demonstration of how the Word of God can protect us when we are tempted. We asked members of the congregation to come forward and wear signs around their necks with some of God's Top Ten, eg 'Love God and worship

Then the children tried to throw paper ball ‘temptations’ at them, but the signs representing God’s Word protected the people wearing them. (They may have got hit on the arm or leg, but God’s Word protected their hearts!)

The service ended with joyful singing of the hymn ‘You shall go out with joy.’ Many thanks to John Binns, who played the organ for us. A huge thank you to all the children, young people and their parents who contributed to the service - they all did very well indeed! After so much action, everyone was more than ready to enjoy the refreshments served by our wonderful church ladies. Thank you!

We are now looking forward to our next meeting, which will focus on preparing for our Mothering Sunday service on 30th March, before we have a break for the Easter holidays. We will hopefully all be together again for our Easter Day service, followed by our annual Easter egg hunt.

Wishing you all a blessed Lent and a very joyful Easter!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With love and blessings, Claudia

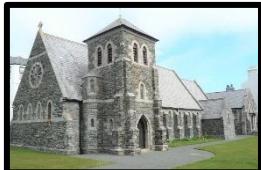


April Fool's Day 1st April

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1st April, everyone is ‘fair game’ to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a ‘fool’s errand’.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove’s milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve’s Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: ‘Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.’ Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: ‘April-Fool-Day’s-past-and-gone-you’re-the-fool-and-I-am-none!’



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



On 2nd March the Mariner's Service was held at Kirk Christ. This was an enjoyable evening with the service led by the Rev Joe Heaton. The event was followed by a wonderful buffet served by ladies from the four churches in the parish. As usual a huge thank you to those who kindly gave the food. Their help at this service, and throughout the year, is gratefully received. As is happened the new lighting system at Kirk Christ was used for the first time when visitors were present. They have definitely made a huge improvement to the lighting at the church.

At St Catherine's, on 23rd February, the new Bishop celebrated Holy Communion with members from the four churches. It was good to meet her husband who had accompanied her to the event. During the service she was able to dedicate the new window in the porch which depicts a Celtic Cross drawn by Margaret Galloway. Prior to this Margaret gave us all a fascinating account of how the cross had been created and details of the symbolism it represents.

We are now in the season of Lent during which spring flowers will remind us that we are nearing the time of Jesus' death, and His Resurrection on Easter Morning.

Gerry Callister

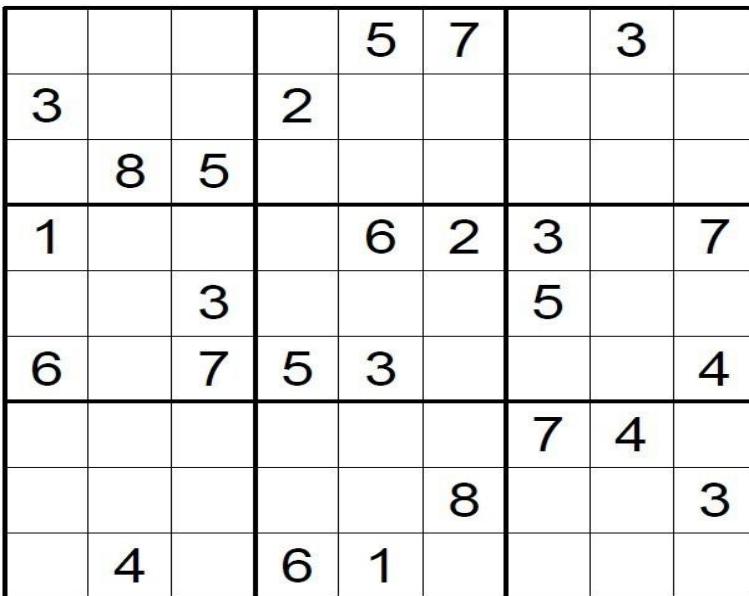
Pre-loved Costume Jewellery Sale
In aid of the Mothers' Union Families Fund
St Catherine's Church Hall
21st April 2025 10am-12noon
Entrance £1
(includes refreshments)
Raffle

Spring
CONCERT

THURSDAY 3RD APRIL
ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH
RUSHEN SILVER BAND

START 7.30 PM / REFRESHMENTS
RETRIVING COLLECTION

Sudoku April 2025



Praying for Wheels

A boy was desperate for a bicycle, and his minister urged him to pray for one. A few days later he met the boy on the road, on a new bike, and so he congratulated him on his quick answer to prayer. 'So, will you keep praying?' the minister said encouragingly. 'Oh yes,' the boy replied, 'More than ever. You see, I stole the bike and now I'm praying for forgiveness, and also that I won't get caught.'

Sudoku Solution March 25

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

Crossword Solution March 25

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



Could older people hold the key to church growth?

New research is highlighting the wide range of activities that churches are offering to older people – and the growing opportunities to present the Christian gospel. The survey, carried out in the UK and Ireland by Christian charity Faith in Later Life asked churches what they were doing to minister to seniors in their congregation and beyond. The results reflect a broad spectrum of events and activities.

These include lunch clubs, exercise sessions, singing classes, tea and coffee times, outings and a broad range of social activities open to the community. Some churches offered a ‘holiday at home’ with special events organised, and one provided a monthly chiropodist’s visit.

Many churches are visiting care homes and holding services in their lounges. One respondent recalled “It was so uplifting to see the joy on their faces. Many with severe dementia were recalling words long forgotten and joining in.”

Alexandra Drew, chief executive officer of Faith in Later Life, explained, “There is something very powerful about ministering to those who are very old, and the experience of journeying with someone to the very end of life.”

Community work goes hand in hand with reaching out with the gospel. The research showed that 83 per cent of those delivering social activities for older people are also running worship services, Bible study groups and groups to explore faith. A quarter of those who responded had seen people come to faith in the last year, and half had seen people grow in their interest in faith.

Faith in Later Life is a charity “dedicated to inspiring and equipping Christians to reach, serve and empower older people everywhere, through the local church.”

The research highlights the important role of ministry to older people at a time when many churches are focussing on ‘growing younger’ – and perhaps overlooking increasing numbers of older people in our communities. Many respondents felt that ministry with seniors was marginalised or neglected within their church.

Alexandra Drew said, “The impact on the wider church of mission to older people is significant. More than half of those responding said their work is leading to greater recognition of older people, more age-inclusivity and greater awareness of older people’s spiritual needs.”

Revd Peter Crumpler

(Former communications director for the C of E)



(Self Portrait)

The Paintings of JMW Turner

It was 250 years ago, on 23rd April 1775, that ground-breaking British artist J M W Turner was born. The London-born watercolourist and printmaker transformed the established methods of painting, sweeping aside classical preoccupations of form and order.

Joseph Mallord William Turner, known in his time as William Turner, was a child prodigy born to a modest lower middle class family. He enrolled at the Royal Academy of Arts when he was 14 and exhibited his first work there a year later. He was a controversial figure, prone to depression and eccentric ideas, such as having himself tied to the mast of a ship during a storm so that he could experience what he wanted to paint.

Nevertheless Turner, who never married but had two daughters by the widow Sarah Danby, had many admirers and supporters from the outset. He travelled widely, particularly around Europe in 1802, and worked in the open air on detailed pencil sketches which he then turned into paintings.

One of his supporters was the MP and artist Walter Fawkes of Farnley Hall, near Otley in Yorkshire, and Turner returned to the area frequently to paint. He was also a friend of the Norwich School artist and clergyman Thomas Daniell.

Turner was certainly not a conventional Christian, but he had attended a Methodist Sunday school as a child and had a deep belief in God as Creator, which he reflected in his use of light in landscapes. Many of his paintings had Biblical themes.

Considered one of the most influential artists of all time, Turner is pictured on the £20 banknote, and this year sees a twelve-month festival of events and exhibitions across the UK to mark the 250 years since his birth.

Tim Lenton

*Come
and
see
it
running*

National Mills Weekend

10th & 11th May 2025

KENTRAUGH MILL

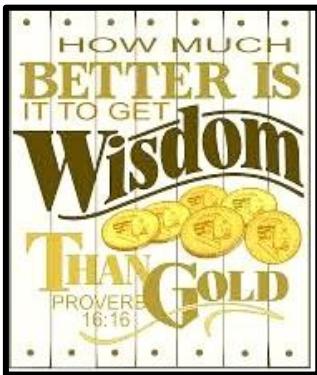
Saturday 10th May 10am – 5pm

Sunday 11th May 11am – 5pm

*United
Society
Partners in
Global
Mission*

Donations to the USPG Tel: 832406 Entry at own risk

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Proverbs



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

The Book of Proverbs is an anthology of sayings ('*mishle*') that are generally attributed to Solomon (Proverbs 1:1), who uttered 3000 proverbs (1Kings 4:32). The purpose of these oracles is '*for attaining wisdom and discipline*' (1:2). Solomon was concerned that people, especially the young, would understand '*the sayings and riddles of the wise*' (1:3-6). His guiding principle is that '*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge*' (1:7).

To give an idea of the recurring themes in the book, here are a few examples:

Knowing God: '*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding*' (9:10).

Guarding Our Speech: '*A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver*' (25:11).

Marital faithfulness: '*May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth*' (5:15-20).

Our Work: '*Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!*' (6:6-11).

Dangers of Strong Drink: '*Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise*' (20:1).

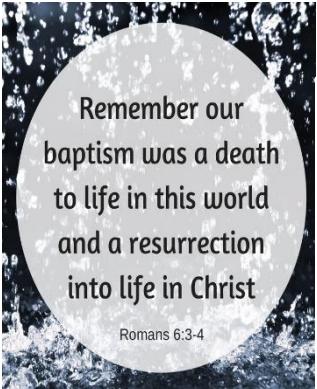
Justice and Honesty: '*The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight*' (11:1).

Underlying these sayings is a conviction about God's omniscience, '*For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and He examines all his paths*' (5:21); providence, '*Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails*' (19:21) and goodness, '*The LORD is far from the wicked but He hears the prayer of the righteous*' (15:29).

Proverbs reminds us that God is concerned with the way we live today. '*Wisdom is the art of living skilfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves*' (Eugene Peterson).

Canon Paul Hardingham

Reflecting Faith Baptisms and Easter



Remember our baptism was a death to life in this world and a resurrection into life in Christ

Romans 6:3-4

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers the time of year you were baptised.

What time of year were you baptised? For the first few centuries of the Early Church, baptisms were only held at Easter, with the preparation being taught in the few weeks beforehand.

Leo I, Bishop of Rome from 440 to 461 AD, was a strong advocate of holding baptisms solely at Easter.

He wrote: "... for in the baptismal office death ensues through the slaying of sin, and threefold immersion imitates the lying in the tomb three days, and the raising out of the water is like Him that rose again from the tomb."

But, as the years went by and more adults began seeking baptism for their children, the practise changed. The Church was keen to not put any obstacles in the way, and so baptisms became a sacrament to be freely given at any time of the year.

This was especially important because for many years it was mistakenly thought that unbaptised babies should not be buried in a churchyard, and, even more importantly, would not get into heaven.

Thankfully the Church moved away from those wrong positions long ago. Now most of us were baptised when we were very young, often in our first few months of life, at any time of the year.

One thing is certain: baptising a child is not so that God will love them more. It is instead to say that the parents believe in God, and therefore intend to raise the child as part of the family of God.

This month:

Have a think about your own Baptism. How old were you? Do you know – if you were a child at the time – why your parents chose that age?

Mothers and teenagers

A woman was confiding in her neighbour just how hard it was for her to get her teenagers out of bed in the morning. The neighbour replied that she never had any trouble at all with her son. "I just open the door and throw the cat on the bed," she explained. The woman was puzzled, and asked how that might help. "Easy. My son sleeps with the dog."

All in the month of April



250 years ago, on 23rd April 1775 J M W Turner, the British artist was born. Known for his landscapes and turbulent marine paintings.

175 years ago, on 16th April 1850 Madame Marie Tussaud, French artist known for her wax sculptures, died. Founder of Madame Tussaud's wax museum in London. **Also on 23rd April 1850** William Wordsworth died. A Romantic poet, he was Poet Laureate from 1843-50.

150 years ago, on 17th April 1875 the game of snooker was invented by Neville Chamberlain, a British army officer stationed in India.

125 years ago, from 14th April - 12th November, the 1900 Paris Exposition, a World's Fair, was held. Nearly 50 million people visited Paris that year.

100 years ago, on 10th April 1925 F Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*, was published.

80 years ago, on 30th April 1945 Adolf Hitler, Austrian-born German Nazi Party Leader, Chancellor of Germany (1933-45) and dictator (1934-45) committed suicide along with his wife, Eva Braun.

70 years ago, on 5th April 1955 Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced his retirement because of failing health. He was succeeded by Anthony Eden on 7th April. **Also on 10th April 1955** British nightclub hostess Ruth Ellis shot and killed her lover, David Blakely. On 13th July she was hanged at Holloway Prison, the last woman to be executed in the UK. **Also on 18th April 1955**, Albert Einstein, German-born American theoretical physicist, died. Considered the most influential physicist of the 20th century. Known for developing the special and general theories of relativity.

50 years ago, on 4th April 1975 Microsoft, the computer software/hardware company, was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in Albuquerque New Mexico.

40 years ago, on 23rd April 1985 the Coca-Cola Company changed the formula of Coca-Cola and launched it on the market as New Coke. The public were out-raged, and the original formula was restored within three months.

30 years ago, on 19th April 1995 the Oklahoma City bombing took place. A truck bomb exploded outside the Alfred P Murrah Federal Building, killing 168 people and injuring 500 more. Timothy McVeigh was convicted of the bombing and executed in June 2001.

25 years ago, on 22nd April 2000 the 'The Big Number' change took place on the UK's telephone system. Many area codes were updated or replaced, and new ones created for mobile, freephone, local rate, national rate, and premium rate services.

20 years ago, on 9th April 2005 Charles, Prince of Wales, married Camilla Parker Bowles, who gained the title the Duchess of Cornwall.

Easter Thoughts in a Churchyard



It's a yearly paradox. You've brought some flowers to the churchyard to lay on the grave of a loved one. All around you are graves and headstones, reminders of the inevitable end of life's earthly journey. But it's Easter Day, and from within the church you can hear the singing: 'Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!' Perhaps then you notice a few other things. You're standing among the fresh daffodils and the grass that's suddenly green and growing again. For a moment you pause and reflect on the reverse of an old saying. In the midst of death - we are in life!

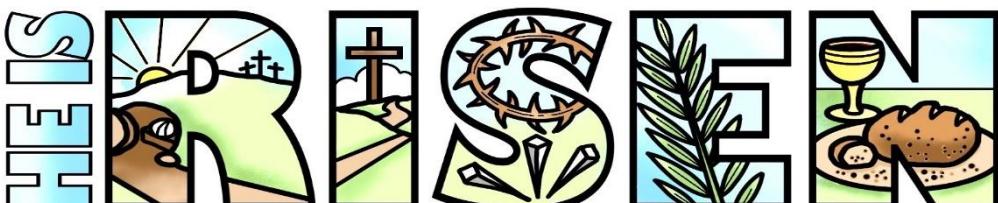
That essentially is what Easter is about - an annual reminder that death is not the end of the story. Cookham, in Berkshire, was once the home of the great 20th century painter, Stanley Spencer. Perhaps his most famous painting is 'Resurrection in Cookham Churchyard', which depicts local residents - many of them recognisable village characters - rising up out of their graves to be greeted by the risen Jesus, standing in the church porch. It's a glorious, vivid, shocking reminder of a great assertion. The graveyard is not a terminus, but a junction.

The resurrection of Jesus (and hence our resurrections, too) is the defining claim of Christianity. Christians don't follow the teaching of a prophet who died many centuries ago, or of a holy man whose life is an example to follow, excellent as that may be. They put their trust in a Saviour whom they believe is alive and with them now, and they also believe that through Him they too will move through the junction of death to the journey that lies beyond - a journey he talked about to His followers.

The annual paradox lies in the inescapable fact of death, indelibly represented by those graves and headstones, and in the equally inescapable fact that - in apparent defiance of all logic - human beings down the ages have clung to the belief that death is not the end.

Every culture has its story of the life beyond - the Elysian fields, Valhalla, Nirvana, Abraham's bosom. But only with the coming of Jesus, and the witnessed events of that first Easter morning, has our instinctive belief been given wings. The paradox is the heart of everything. Death is a fact, but life is greater than death. 'Because I live', said Jesus, 'you will also live'.

Canon David Winter considering graveyards – and the Resurrection



From the Registers

Funerals 2025:

7 th February	Thomas David Radcliffe	11am	Service followed by Burial	RBG
12 th February	Rev William H Martin	12noon	Service followed by Cremation	
21 st February	Jean Heather Dawes	10.30 am	Burial of Ashes	RBG

RBG Rushen Burial Ground

Somebody or other

A preacher, who was somewhat "humour impaired," attended a conference to help better equip pastors for their ministry. One conference leader strode boldly up to the pulpit and grabbed the entire crowd's attention by declaring: 'The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman who wasn't my wife!' The crowd was shocked. But when he followed it up with: 'and that woman was my mother!' the crowd burst into laughter and gave him their attention for the rest of the talk. The next week, the pastor decided he'd give this humour thing a try and use that joke in his sermon. As he climbed into his pulpit that Sunday morning, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. It suddenly seemed a bit foggy to him. However, getting to the microphone he let rip with gusto: 'I want to tell you all something personal this morning. The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman who was not my wife!' The congregation inhaled half the air in the room. Stunned silence fell. After standing there for almost 10 seconds, trying to recall the second half of the joke, the pastor finally blurted out, '...but I can't remember who she was!'

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



"I'm really not sure about this trend for clergy dressing down, dear."

Rushen Mothers' Union



At our last meeting we had an excellent talk by Ann and Jim Cottier from The Royal British Legion. Jim had raised money by doing a sponsored cycle ride from the Isle of Man to the British Legion Conference in Falmouth – except for the ferry and bridges that he was not allowed to cycle over. Ann had followed in relative comfort in their campervan! It was a story full of amusing anecdotes and a very successful ending when he was given permission to ride, in his Lycra, into the conference. The meeting was brilliantly chaired by David Bowman who had us singing hymns without music, as our musician, Iris, was not very well and unable to attend. We all wished her a speedy recovery.

Our attention is now on our major Mothers' Union fundraiser which is being held in St Catherine's Hall on 21st April, Easter Monday. It will be a coffee morning, 10 – 12 noon, with a sale of pre-loved costume jewellery. There is a lot of jewellery that has been collected from members and friends all over the island. A great opportunity to find just the right piece for bargain prices. Please bring family and friends to support us. Entry is only £1 which will include a drink and biscuits.

All the proceeds will stay on the Island and will go to support the Mothers' Union families charity AFIA (Away From It All). This helps any family that needs a break away from stressful situations at home. They are able to spend quality time together engaging in activities and having fun. This is often the healing experience that is needed.

Please support and help us to advertise this venture, tickets and posters will be available at our next meeting, or from me or David Bowman.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 14th April at 2.00 in St Mary's Church (please note venue) when Gerry will chair the meeting and welcome Rev Hinton Bird as speaker.

Dates for Diary:

21st April MU:	Jewellery Sale and coffee morning, St Catherine's Hall 10am
6th July:	Archbishop of York, Lord's Prayer Tour at the Cathedral, more information later
6th August	7pm Founders Day Service TBA
8th and 9th August	Agricultural Show Tent, volunteers needed.

Lesley Scott

God in Music



Basilica of St Mark in Venice

In 828 the relics of St Mark the evangelist were seized from their resting place in Alexandria and brought by two adventurers to Venice. The Basilica of St Mark was built to house these relics, and it was this link between the saint and Venice that determined so much of the city's history through the Middle Ages.

Venetians would go to war under the banner of the winged lion, the symbol of St Mark, and through the centuries Venice established its independence, its own system of aristocratic government and commercial supremacy in the Mediterranean. The Basilica of St Mark is a vivid testimony to the grandeur of Venice and this amazing history. James Morris has described the church as descended from Byzantium: "a barbaric building, like a great Mongolian pleasure pavilion or a fortress in Turkestan."

We celebrate St Mark this year on 29th April, (usually 25th) but apart from his Gospel, we know little about the saint's life. He is mentioned by St Peter and St Paul as 'son' and missionary companion. There are many traditions about St Mark: he might be the young man in Gethsemane in chapter 14 of the Gospel, and it is thought that he was martyred in the reign of Trajan. What we do have of St Mark is his Gospel, generally accepted as the earliest of the four to be written. Mark has no infancy narratives and no preparation for the life and ministry of Jesus. Instead, his Gospel begins with the strange, exotic character of St John the Baptist emerging from the wilderness to proclaim the Good News of the Son of God.

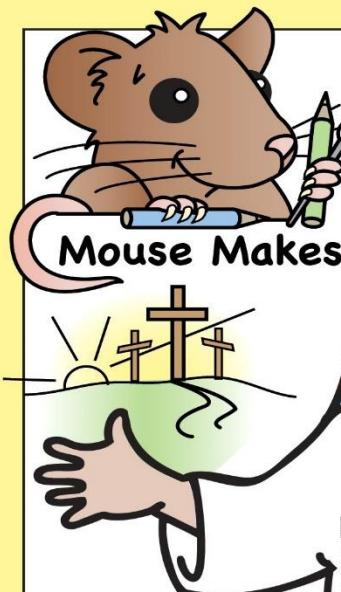
In the same way the Basilica of St Mark emerges from the lagoon as strange and as exotic as the Baptist in the Gospel. E V Lucas in 'A Wanderer in Venice' invites the visitor to this church to "let the walls and the floor and the pillars and the ceiling do their own magical work." And the visitor might be lucky enough to hear some of the music of Venetian composers sounding through the basilica. In the 16th century Adrian Willaert wrote music that enhanced the domes and mosaics and ceilings with works for two organs and two choirs sounding out from different parts of the building.

Giovanni Gabrieli, who died in 1612, built upon that tradition. His set of motets, 'Sacrae Symphoniae', were written for the special acoustics of this marbled basilica. He developed the antiphonal sounds of Willaert with glorious, harmonic colours, a boldness of modulation, and a variety of dynamics and timbres. We hear all of that in the motet 'In Ecclesiis,' which is regarded as his masterpiece. The choirs, brass and organ are divided into five groups that would have sounded out around the basilica: 'In churches bless the Lord, in every place bless the Lord, for God is my salvation and my glory. Alleluia.'

As we celebrate St Mark on his feast day, we can think of these threefold proclamations of his Good News: his Gospel, which, in its earthy realism, calls the disciple to follow Jesus wherever He goes; this Basilica that calls us to explore its mystery and marvels; and the music of Gabrieli that calls us to echo God's praises in our own lives.

Revd Michael Burgess

Children's Page



Jesus is here

Jesus said:

"Where two or three come together in my name I am there with them."

Matthew 18:20



READ the story of the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and **21:1-14**

JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



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



On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to
come by His raising to new life!



Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
"Jesus ...is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:

"I will come back
and take you to
myself so that you
will be where I am."

John 14:3



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE
GOOD NEWS • GO TELL • EASTER



The Story Behind the Hymn



Now the green blade Riseth

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth, many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has lain;
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love by hatred slain,
Thinking that never he would wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

John MacLeod Campbell Crum (1872-1958) wrote this text for this well-known Easter hymn. He was born at Mere Old Hall, Cheshire, England, and died at Farnham, Surrey, England. During his life, Crum was highly active in the Church of England. After his education at Eton and New College in Oxford, he took Holy Orders. The various positions Crum held included chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford, assistant curate at Windsor, vicar of Mentmore, and finally canon at Canterbury from 1928 -1943.

Crum's hymn output ranged from translation of Latin hymns by the fourth-century poet Aurelius Clemens Prudentius to children's hymns. He published *Songs of Praise for Boys and Girls*, and other children's works include a play, *The Play of St. George*, and the *Children's Missionary Pageant* with musical score.

This hymn text first appeared in the 1928 edition of the *Oxford Book of Carols*. It was first printed in the United States in the 1966 edition of *The Methodist Hymnal*. Interestingly, though, the current text has been changed to incorporate more inclusive language. The text exhibits Crum's ability to capture one's imagination, perhaps an extension of his children's writings. For those in the northern hemisphere who live in areas where springtime usually coincides with Easter, the image of growing plants and vegetation speaks clearly.

The nature imagery of one of his children's hymns provides insight into his writing style, and the images of the natural world found in "Now the green blade rises." The vivid imagery of the hymn is biblically based on John 12:23-24. The connection of the Easter event, and the rising of Jesus is unmistakable. The simple phrase "Now the green blade riseth" reminds us that Jesus is risen today just as he rose on that first Easter morning.

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

A stylized logo with the word "pray" in a large serif font. The letter "p" has a green pine branch graphic above it. Below "pray" is the word "EVERY DAY" in a smaller, sans-serif font.A stylized logo with the word "pray" in a large serif font. The letter "p" has a green pine branch graphic above it. Below "pray" is the word "EVERY DAY" in a smaller, sans-serif font.

Dear Lord, we thank you for the seasons and the changing weather we experience in each one of them. We look forward to the warmer weather now that April is here, for the spring flowers and the changing countryside that you have created for us to enjoy. Help us to realise that without you none of these things would occur. Amen

April 2025

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st The beauty of springtime and the new life that it brings to us all
- 2nd The countryside of the Isle of Man given to us by God when He created the world
- 3rd Gerry Callister for all his work as churchwarden, and his devotion to the parish
- 4th Engaged couples preparing to be married this year
- 5th The work of the Royal Lifeboat Institution in its aim to save lives of people in distress
- 6th The gift of love, given to us by God
- 7th Our sidespeople who work tirelessly for the parish
- 8th All the work carried out by those involved in the parish with the Mothers' Union
- 9th Our Lord's resurrection and the hope of our own eternal lives
- 10th Those who have served the parish for many years and now reside in care homes
- 11th The responsibility given to people who care for those who are terminally ill
- 12th The use of talents, given by God to us, as we pursue our daily lives
- 13th All people who are persecuted for their beliefs
- 14th Help for all those around the world who are hungry
- 15th Peace throughout the world
- 16th Those who intercede at all services within the parish
- 17th Children who have been orphaned and their hope for the future
- 18th The work of teachers and their assistants in our primary and secondary schools
- 19th Those who decorate our churches with floral displays
- 20th Those people in need of financial help in times of trouble
- 21st All those who attend the home groups that are arranged within the parish
- 22nd Those elected to positions of responsibility on the Parochial Church Council
- 23rd St George, the Patron Saint of England, who is remembered today
- 24th Farmers and farm workers, preparing the land for profitable harvests
- 25th The Children's Society and the wonderful work that it does
- 26th Stephen Curtis for all the work he's doing as Treasurer to the PCC
- 27th Young sportsmen and women preparing to partake in sporting activities
- 28th Parishioners and others who give of their time to keep our churches clean
- 29th People who are moving to a new house either here on the island or across the water
- 30th The tourist industry and the preparations being made for the summer months

Services April/May 2025

30th March (Mothering Sunday)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's All-Age Service (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
6th April (Lent 5)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
13th April (Palm Sunday)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
20th April (Easter Sunday)	5.45am 9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Dawn Service Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
27th April (Easter 2)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
4th May (Easter 3)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
11th May (Easter 4)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's All-Age Service (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
18th May (Easter 5)	9.30am 11am 11am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
25th May (Easter 6)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)

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

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

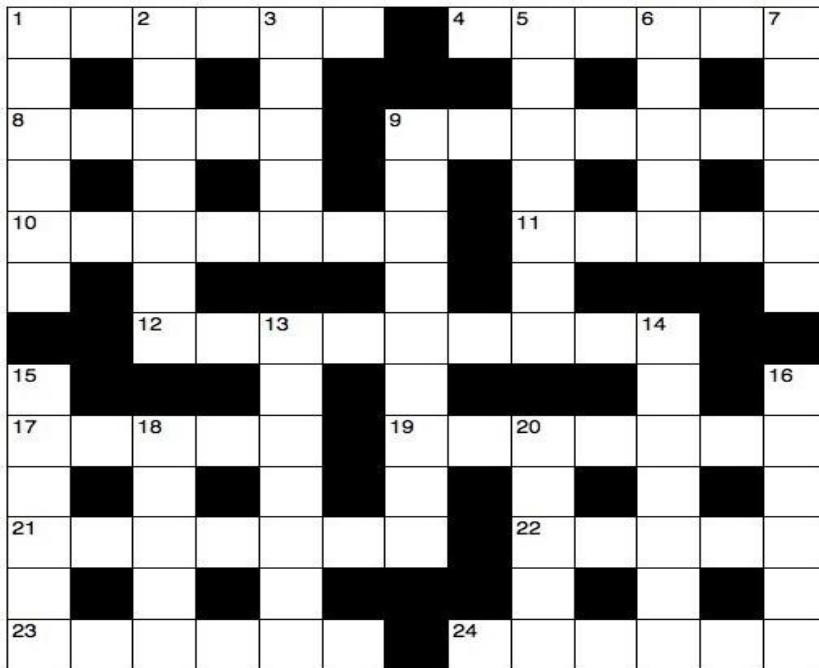
Parish Director of Music:

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 April 2025



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)

24

'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
7 He reps (anag.) (6)
9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
15 The human mind or soul (6)
16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
20 Bared (anag.) (5)