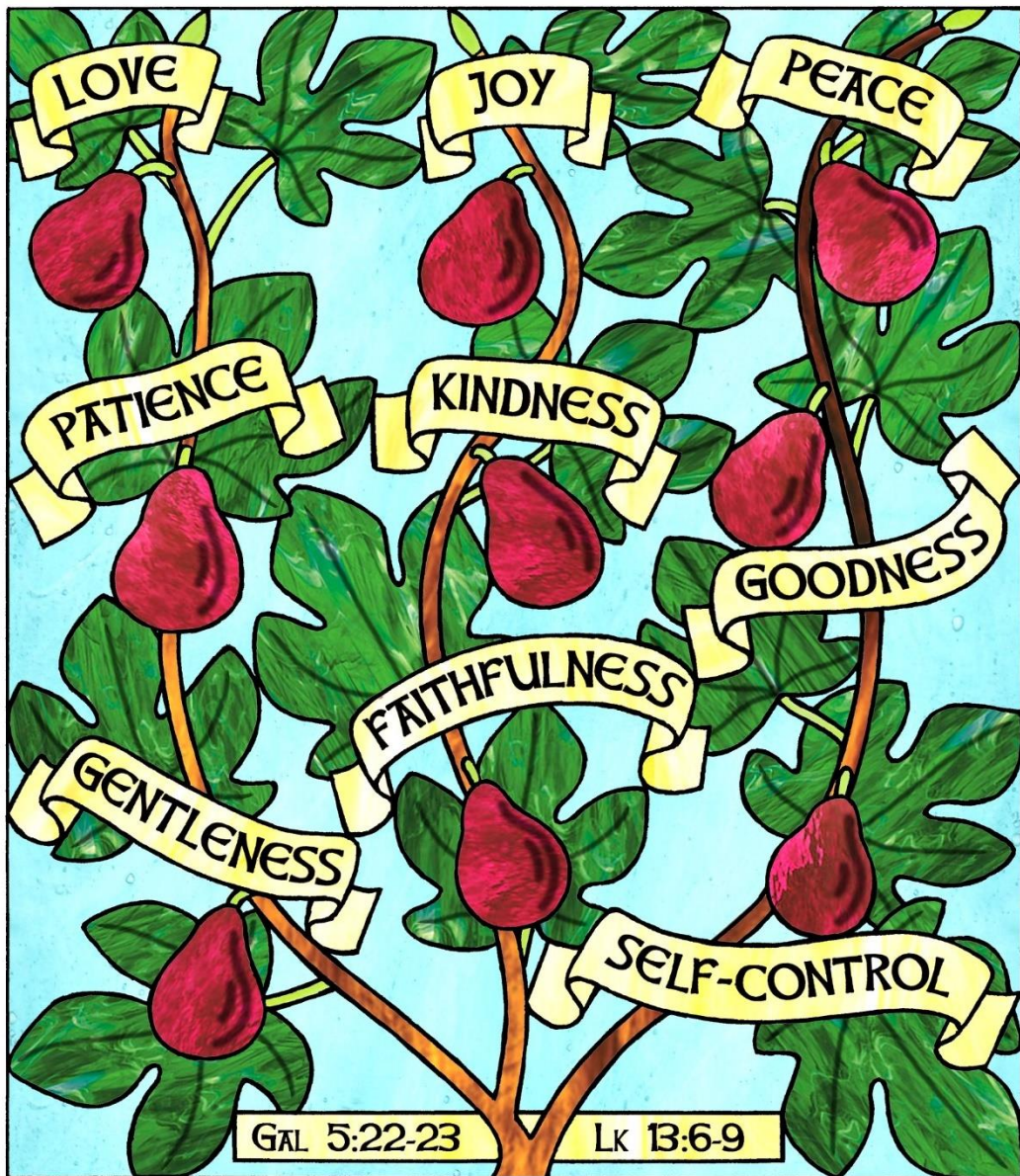




June
2025

Rushen Parish Magazine



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From the Editor

There are some television programmes that I like to see, and even if I can't see them on the day they are broadcast, I can pre-record them and watch them when I want to. It's a far cry from the days when there were very few channels, and I had to watch them at the time they were transmitted or I missed them altogether. Nowadays I don't even have to record them, because modern technology has allowed me to catch up on programmes I have missed, or series that I didn't watch years ago that I fancy watching now.

One of these programmes is 'Britain's got Talent' or 'BGT' for short. I am not particularly keen on its presentation, but seeing people on stage performing their particular talent in the hope of winning, and then performing in front of the King and Queen at the 'Annual Royal Variety Performance', is incentive enough. When you read this editorial, the Act which has won the contest this year will already be known. I have my own favourite who is magician Harry Moulding who, in the last semi-final, wowed the judges and the audience with his mind-boggling trick, correctly guessing the names of randomly selected audience members. As a grand finale, he facilitated a surprise wedding proposal for an unsuspecting audience member, Jess, whose boyfriend had been planning the perfect moment with Harry's help.

There is something magical about getting a surprise, in whatever form it might come. On my recent visit to the UK I stayed with my son and daughter-in-law. Before I arrived I knew that on the first day of my visit both of them would be at work and that I would have to fend for myself. I got myself ready and went downstairs. I put the kettle on, found the breakfast cereal and a bowl, and then proceeded to the fridge to get some milk. I opened the fridge door only to be confronted by their cat Tilly staring at me from what appeared to be the top shelf. I don't think I have ever been so surprised. My first reaction was to save the cat from freezing to death, but when I looked at her, she seemed so comfortable and contented. She was actually purring. I looked around to see how the cat had managed to find itself inside the fridge, but nothing was obvious. I left the door open so that she could be saved from her icy habitat, but she wouldn't move. I had planned to go out but decided to stay until she moved. I'm glad to say that my exit from the kitchen, some thirty minutes later, prompted the cat to move. Tilly had gone. I shut the fridge door and hastily left the house.

All was revealed when my family returned. Suffice to say that the cat was sitting on top of the fridge and had been lying on a blanket which overhung the top. I would have found that out if I'd looked properly. Isaiah 14 verse 27 reads, 'Nothing can stop God's plan for your life'. It has certainly proved that whilst He's been looking after me He's not averse to surprising me!

David

Acts 29 Youth Group Report



Hello Rushen Parish

What a joyful and sun-filled start to the summer term it has been! There's so much going on in the life of our parish, especially with our children, families, and young people. This month, I'd love to share two exciting updates with you.

A Fond Farewell and a Bright New Beginning

We recently gathered in a spirit of gratitude to say goodbye to *Messy Church*—a wonderful ministry that has blessed many over the years. While we are sad to see it end, we are also thrilled to welcome a brand new initiative: *Wild Sparks*!

Wild Sparks is the fruit of listening to you, the parish community. During a vision evening, three strong desires emerged: to be **outdoors**, to be **creative**, and to be **together**. *Wild Sparks* has been shaped with these in mind.

Wild sessions will take us outside the church walls—to the beach, plantations, parks, glens, and other beautiful spaces God has given us. These gatherings will explore faith through play, activity, and discussion in the great outdoors.

Sparks sessions will focus on creativity—through painting, music, baking, building, knitting, and more. Here, we will discover God through tactile, reflective, and imaginative experiences.

These sessions will thrive with your **prayers, volunteers**, and most of all, a strong sense of **community**. I'm so excited for what's ahead!

Youth on the Move

Our youth group continues to grow—both in numbers and in spirit! What started with just four faithful young people has now become a vibrant group of ten regulars (and a few drop-ins). As we approach the group's second anniversary, we're delighted to announce a special opportunity: we're heading to **3Generate**, a Christian youth conference in the UK.

In October, we'll be setting sail for Birmingham, where our young people will join hundreds of others from across the country. It's a chance for them to connect with peers, deepen their faith, and experience the wider church in a powerful new way. Please keep this trip in your prayers—we believe it could be life-changing.

There's so much more happening that I don't have space to share here! If you'd like to hear more, volunteer, or find out what you can be praying for, please catch me after a service or email me at rushenparishyouth@gmail.com.

God Bless You Natalie Heaton Family and Youth Worker

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



Thank you to everyone who provided flowers and helped to decorate the church for Easter. We are very grateful to Sally Lewis whose arrangements in the porch and in the church were beautiful, and we wish her well as she travels across. We are also thinking of our LWP display for the Flower Festival in Kirk Christ, 2-9th July, and thank Norma Sherwood for leading us in our preparations for this.

Rev Joe joined us recently and extended his and Natalie's thanks for our cakes at a Messy Church evening, and also for our planned celebration of Pentecost which will take place after the morning service on 8th June. This will be a combined service with St Catherine's and we warmly welcome all who can join us for a Faith Lunch, (contributions appreciated), in St Mary's Hall, with a BBQ, if the weather allows. As always, we are grateful to Gerry for ordering the beefburgers, sausages and rolls, to Mike Kewley for manning the BBQ grill outside, and to all who contribute food and help.

We have received a lovely letter of thanks from The Leprosy Mission and a certificate showing the £600 raised for them. Sam Stockill's next visit to the island is from 13th- 21st September during which we plan to hold an open afternoon for the mission in St Catherine's Hall, at 2pm. (more details to follow).

Beach Mission, celebrating its 125th anniversary, takes place from 28th July – 8th August, during which time Coffee and Chat will be temporarily suspended. Lesley Scott is preparing a new rota for the months of July, August and September, and will put up new posters.

Our summer break will begin on Tuesday 15th July, when we meet in the Port St Mary golf pavilion, at 2pm, for light refreshments. We will recommence on Tuesday 2nd September, at 2pm, as usual, in St Mary's Church.

With our love and very best wishes to all, particularly those for whom health issues have recently been demanding.

Pat Thomson

Crooked politicians

The editor of a small country newspaper, furious over several government bills that had recently been passed, printed a scathing editorial with an enormous headline: 'HALF THE LEGISLATORS ARE CROOKS.'

Many local politicians were outraged and exerted tremendous pressure on him to print a retraction. He finally gave in to the pressure and ran his apology with the headline: 'HALF OF OUR LEGISLATORS ARE NOT CROOKS.'

News from St Mary's Sunday School



Our Easter Sunday service at St Mary's was a very joyful celebration of our Lord's resurrection! The church was beautifully decorated with an abundance of colourful flowers (thanks to the ladies!), as well as the Sunday School's Easter garden, and we had our Easter banner (painted by Peter) and bunting outside by the front gate. Before the service, the children very much enjoyed their Easter egg hunt at the back of the hall, and it was wonderful that so many families were able to join us for the service.

In early May, we met again to prepare for our all-age service about the Good Shepherd. Having looked for and found several toy sheep hidden around the hall, we discussed the role of a shepherd (especially in Jesus' time): he takes good care of his sheep, makes sure they have enough food and water, leads them to new green pastures, knows them by name (and they know his voice), stays with the sheep day and night and protects them from wild animals or thieves, and if one of the sheep gets lost, he goes after it and brings it back to the flock. We learnt that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, who is always with us, leads us, guides us and protects us, provides for us, knows each one of us by name and wants us to recognise His voice, and goes after us when we lose our way. The children had great fun making their own edible sheep out of marshmallows and chocolate fingers!

Our May all-age service was led by Rev. Joe, as sadly Margaret Galloway was feeling unwell following a Covid jab. Joe's talk focused on Jesus the Good Shepherd, who will always look for the lost sheep and celebrate when it is found and safely brought back to the flock. He loves us (His sheep) so much that He even laid down His life for us! The Sunday School children enjoyed a team game looking for sheep pictures, and they led the congregation in singing 'The Lord is my shepherd.' They also held up pictures during the reading of Psalm 23 to illustrate the comforting words expressed in the psalm. Thomas read the first lesson from Acts 9, and Laura read the gospel passage from John 10. The Sunday School also led the prayers of intercession based on Psalm 23. As always, a huge Thankyou to all our children, young people and parents who contributed to the service and did so well, to Natalie and Lukas for stepping in for me (I was away due to a family bereavement), and to John Binns for playing the organ.

The following Sunday, we carried on the story of David, the shepherd boy, who had been anointed by the prophet Samuel to become the next king of Israel. We learnt that the time David spent in the fields looking after the sheep and protecting them from wild animals with his slingshot was great preparation for a big task God had planned for him - to defeat Goliath, the giant Philistine, in battle! David trusted God, who had helped him fight off lions and bears and had made him brave, and so God helped him defeat even the big giant! We had great fun trying out a variety of slingshots (not as easy as it looked

in the video!), and Lukas volunteered to dress up as Goliath and become our target! We also spent some time reflecting on areas in our lives where we need God's help, eg patience, kindness, forgiveness, unselfishness, humility, letting go of control etc., and we made 'floating prayers,' which revealed that 'God helps us grow' in these areas if we ask Him. Lots of food for thought and prayer...

We are now looking forward to June, when we will be celebrating Pentecost with a joint all-age service with St Catherine's and our annual Barbecue & Faith lunch.

Love and blessings Claudia



Parish of Rushen – Thursday Summer Concerts 2025

St Catherine's Church – Port Erin

June	19 th	IOM Wind Orchestra	<i>Three more Concerts in September</i>
	26 th	Castle Rushen High School Music Groups	
July	3 rd	Meadowside Choral Society	
	10 th	QE11 School Wind Band	
	17 th	Musicale	
	24 th	Lon Dhoo Male Voice Choir	<i>Concerts commence at 7.30pm</i>
August	31 st	Lon Vane Ladies Choir	
	7 th	Glenfaba Chorale	<i>Admission Free Retiring Collection</i>
	14 th	Rob & Paul – and evening of folk	
	21 st	John & Karen Elliott and Friends	
	28 th	Caarjyn Cooidjajh	



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



Over the past month we have had really good weather and the old graveyards north and south round Kirk Christ have been visited by many people, mostly from off island looking for information about their ancestors. Some are writing their family histories and are looking for the information they need. It's always a joy to meet and chat with the relatives of these families. Most of them then take a look inside the church. The comments from them both verbally and written in the visitor's book state what a beautiful church it is. When you are next in Kirk Christ have a look at the visitors book and read what they have to say.

The next major event at Kirk Christ is the annual Flower Festival which commences on 2nd July and continues until the 9th. We are so pleased that many organisations have come forward to decorate the windows with beautiful flowers. I would like to thank everyone involved in taking part. Your support means a lot to us all.

The visitor's book at St Catherine's, particularly since it was reordered refers to the church being open, to be able to sit and listen to the music playing, reading the information on the big screen, and being able to offer a prayer in such beautiful surroundings. We now look forward to welcoming many visitors to the church and reading such lovely comments.

On the 20th June at 7pm we are holding another quiz in St Catherine's Church Hall. This usually attracts lots of people wanting to show how good they are at answering questions about many different categories. Do consider joining us. You can come on your own and join quizzers on one of the tables, or come as a group of six. It's always a popular event.

Gerry Callister

Life in the Circus

A couple who worked at the circus wanted to adopt a child. Social workers had doubts about their suitability, but the couple produced photos of their large motorhome, which was equipped with a beautiful nursery. As for education, not only was there a nanny, but also a full-time tutor to teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills. Finally, the social workers were satisfied and had only one last question. "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

"Oh, we don't mind at all," the couple assured them. "As long as he or she fits in the cannon."

Sudoku June 2025

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

Parish of Rushen

Summer Quiz

Friday 20th June 2025 – St Catherine’s Church Hall

See Posters for more Information

Tables of 6 or less Commences at 7pm

May Sudoku Solution

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

May Crossword Solution

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

Surge in visits to church search website [AChurchNearYou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com)



The number of page visits to the Church of England's church-finder website soared by 55 per cent last year to almost 200 million, as growing numbers of people searched for their local congregation.

Public page views on [AChurchNearYou.Com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com) hit 198.6 million in 2024 – up from 128.1 million in 2023 and up more than three quarters on the previous year.

The figure does not include the 9.7-million-page impressions from the site's army of local editors, who maintain and update parish pages, adding and tagging worship services, events and community action projects such as food banks.

Users shared a total of 11,733 church services and events from [AChurchNearYou.Com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com) on social media last year – a 268 per cent increase in a year.

And 18,445 services and events were added to calendars on people's mobile phones and other devices, a 200 per cent increase on the previous year.

The surging use of [AChurchNearYou.Com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com) comes after polls suggested growing interest in faith.

The Bible Society's recent report *The Quiet Revival* pointed to evidence of a turnaround in the numbers of young people identifying as Christian, and who say they regularly attend church.

The Church of England's Head of Digital, Amaris Cole, said: "We're delighted that more people than ever are looking for a local church via our church-finder tool, [AChurchNearYou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com).

"The staggering increase shows the public are more interested than ever in connecting with one of our communities, whether for a service, an event, a family activity or one of the amazing projects our churches run.

"Our churches regularly report newcomers who have found them through the site, so the rise in page hits is giving our editors confidence in inviting the public in to one of our 16,000 spaces.

"Because everyone is welcome, we've prioritised accessibility by adding tags to help visitors find the service for them – whether there is wheelchair access, gluten-free refreshments, British Sign Language translation or dementia friendly. These can be found by using the tags when searching for churches in your area."



Praying with the Prayers of the Bible

Praying with Penitential Tears

Psalm 51:2; 'Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.' Psalm 51 is the most personal, the most passionate and the most profound prayer for forgiveness found anywhere in the Bible.

Without any introduction, explanation or excuse, the Psalmist cries out, 'Have mercy on me, O God.' Jewish and Christian scholars have almost been unanimous in seeing this Psalm as David's personal prayer for pardon, following his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and then scheming to have her husband Uriah killed (2 Samuel 11).

As we go through the Psalm, its various stages take us from deep contrition to joyful testimony. First, the confession; vv.1-4. As David bares his soul to God, there is no blaming other people, no excuses made, no pleading special circumstances.

'Have mercy on me, O God.' Notice the personal pronouns. 'My transgressions,' twice (vv.1 and 3); 'my iniquity;' 'my sin,' twice (vv.2 and 3). And David knows that while he has sinned against his own family and against the murdered Uriah, all sin is ultimately against God. 'Against Thee, thee only, have I sinned' (v.4).

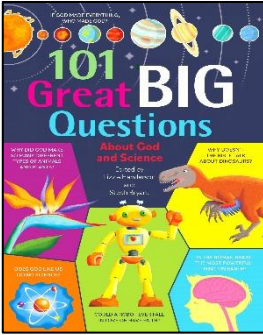
Second, the condition; vv.5-6. While David alone is responsible for the sins he has committed, he recognises that he is part of fallen, sinful humanity. Both Judaism and Christianity have a doctrine of original sin. So deep and all pervasive is the condition of fallen humanity that he speaks of being 'conceived' in sin and 'brought forth' in iniquity (v.5).

Although some commentators have tried to dismiss this teaching here by saying that David was conceived out of wedlock, its implications are far more profound. In v.6 he speaks about 'the inward being' and 'my secret heart.' David knows only too well that behind the sins he has committed lies a human heart prone to sin, attracted by sin and enticed to sin.

Third, the cleansing; vv. 7-12. With this deep, penitential confession of his transgressions, his iniquity and his sin, David now cries out for the only remedy – God's power to conquer human sin. The prayer began with a plea for mercy (v.1) and then followed the repeated petitions for the 'blotting out,' the 'washing' and the 'cleansing' from sin. Now the plea is for something deeper still; 'Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.' (v.7). But David wants still more, and so we have the prayer in v.10; 'Create in me a clean heart.' And still David prays, 'Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.'

Resulting from this sincere confession and heart-felt prayer for forgiveness and cleansing, comes the assurance of God's gracious answer. When David is spiritually restored, he will teach others the way of God's salvation (v.13) and praise God for his own deliverance (v.14). So Psalm 51 promises forgiveness, cleansing, restoration and a place to serve God *when* we, in true penitence, make the same unqualified confessions of our sins.

Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle



Help, my kids just asked me a science question!

Why aren't dinosaurs in the Bible?

The Bible wasn't written to list all the animals on earth or tell us about science. It was written a long time before people started to use science to learn about the world.

When the Bible was written, people didn't even have a word for dinosaurs yet! But it's not just dinosaurs that aren't mentioned in the Bible, it doesn't talk about armadillos, kangaroos, sabre-toothed cats or penguins either!

That doesn't mean that the Bible is out of date or wrong, or that these animals aren't important. Rather than teaching us science, many Christians believe that the Bible was written to tell people about God, how much He loves them, and all the amazing things He has done.

The Bible says that God made everything, and loves everything He made, so that includes dinosaurs. It also encourages people to explore and find out all about the wonderful things it says God has made. Science is a part of this exploration.

Did God make the dinosaurs?

The Bible (the holy book that Christians read) says that God made everything. All the stars, the Earth and all the amazing plants and animals that have ever lived here. So yes, most Christians believe that God made the dinosaurs!

The Bible also teaches that God loves it when people explore His creation, and science is a great way of doing that. So, for many Christians, science is one of the fun things we can use to learn all about **how** God made everything, including all of the dinosaurs!

Were humans and dinosaurs ever living on earth at the same time?

Yes! But probably not the kind of dinosaur you're thinking of! Most of the dinosaurs died out a very, very long time ago, way before humans first lived. But some of the smaller, feathery dinosaurs survived and over a long time they have evolved into the animals we call birds.

So, from chickens and robins to penguins and ostriches, there are dinosaurs living all over our world today!

These questions and answers are taken from The Faraday Kids website (www.faradaykids.com).

For even more science-faith Q&A's, check out 101 Great Big Questions About God and Science, Edited by L Henderson & S Bryant (Lion, 2022)



Kitchener and that poster from the First World War

Some 175 years ago, on 24th June 1850, Herbert Kitchener, the 1st Earl Kitchener, was born. This Irish-born British Army officer and politician became Secretary of War during the First World War, when he appeared on an iconic poster asking people to join the army.

Kitchener already had a fearsome reputation, having been responsible for big colonial victories in Sudan and South Africa. He was very widely admired by the British people, though his cool personality and eagerness to push his men to the limit made him disliked by fellow officers. But he was also described as a godly man “who did noble deeds and obtained noble results”.

He had been on leave in England in June 1914 when he reluctantly accepted an appointment to the Cabinet as Secretary of State for War and was promoted to Field Marshal. Most people expected a short war, but Kitchener did not; he went about enlisting a great number of volunteers – a campaign symbolised for most people by Alfred Leete’s poster using Kitchener’s own face with the slogan ‘Your country needs you’.

He organised British armies on a scale never seen before, but he was not to see victory. His life ended suddenly when he was drowned after the cruiser HMS Hampshire, taking him on a mission to Russia, was sunk in 1916 by a German mine. His body was never recovered, and the wreck is now a war grave. His death has been likened to the deaths of President Kennedy and Princess Diana – everyone remembered where they were when they heard the news.

A memorial fund launched by the Lord Mayor of London raised £500,000 to help war casualties and continues today. A Kitchener memorial was built by the people of Orkney on the cliff edge at Marwick Head.

Tim Lenton

Nays and Ayes

The new pastor at a country church had some exciting ideas for the future. At the elders meeting he presented his vision with great energy and passion. The senior elder then called for a vote. All 12 elders voted "NAY"; only the pastor voted "AYE."

The pastor was crestfallen, but just at that moment the clouds darkened, thunder rolled, and a streak of lightning burst through the window and struck the table at which they were sitting, throwing the pastor and all the elders to the ground. As they all got up and dusted themselves off the senior elder said, "Well, that's 12 votes to two then."



All in the month of June

250 years ago, on 23rd June 1775, the first Thames Regatta was held in London.

175 years ago, on 24th June 1850, Herbert Kitchener, the 1st Earl Kitchener, was born. This Irish-born British Army officer and politician became Secretary of War during WW1, when he appeared on an iconic poster asking people to join the army. He was killed in 1916 when his ship was hit by a German mine.

150 years ago, on 3rd June 1875, George Bizet, French Romantic composer, died of a heart attack at 36. Best known for his opera *Carmen*.

125 years ago, on 25th June 1900, Louis Mountbatten, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, was born. He became Governor-General of India (1947-48), First Sea Lord (1955-59), and Chief of the Defence Staff (1959-65). Assassinated in 1979 by an IRA bomb planted on his fishing boat.

90 years ago, on 1st June 1935, driving tests became compulsory for all new drivers in Britain.

80 years ago, on 22nd June 1945, the Battle of Okinawa in Japan ended (after 82 days). This battle saw the highest number of casualties in the Pacific Theatre of the war, with more than 12,000 forces, 110,000 Japanese forces, and 140,000 civilians killed.

75 years ago, on 3rd June 1950, the first successful ascent of Annapurna in the Himalayas was made. It was a French expedition and the first successful ascent of a mountain over 8,000 metres. Annapurna is the tenth highest mountain in the world.

70 years ago, on 11th June 1955 the Le Mans disaster took place. A car spun off the track during the Le Mans 24 Hour race in France, and the driver, Pierre Levegh, and 83 spectators were killed, with 100 more injured. It was the greatest loss of life in the history of motorsport, but bizarrely, the race was not stopped. The survivors carried on for the full 24 hours, while the dead and the injured were removed from the site.

65 years ago, on 28th June 1960, the Six Bells Colliery disaster took place in Monmouthshire Wales. 45 coal miners were killed by a gas explosion.

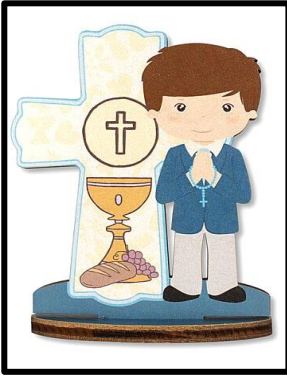
50 years ago, on 18th June 1975, the first North Sea oil was pumped ashore to Britain.

40 years ago, on 2nd June 1985 UEFA banned all English football clubs from playing in European competitions following the Heysel Stadium disaster of 28th May. The ban was lifted after five years.

30 years ago, on 25th June 1995 Ernest Walton, Irish physicist died. He was the first person to split an atom.

25 years ago, on 10th June 2000, the Millenium Bridge opened in London. It closed for a while two days later, when it was found to sway uncomfortably when people walked in step.

15 years ago, on 28th June 2010, the US Supreme Court ruled that American citizens have the right to own a gun, regardless of which state they live in. The right is protected by the Second and the Fourteenth Amendments. There are an estimated 393 million privately owned guns in the USA, and about 340 million people.



Reflecting Faith: An Offer You Do Not Want to Refuse

For the last couple of months, we've been thinking about baptism, and last time we finished by saying that, even as late as the tenth century, only baptised people could stay in the church to watch, never mind actually consume, the celebration of the Eucharist.

This tells me how highly regarded the consecration of the bread and wine actually were, and still are, within the Church. Even today this is still the 'highlight' of the main Sunday service.

Everything we do within the service leads up to this special moment, when the priest offers the bread and wine to the people.

Prior to this, we've said prayers of penitence and have been absolved. We have heard stories from the Bible and had them expanded upon in a sermon.

We have stated our faith in response to this, and recognised God's awesome power by saying prayers of intercession for ourselves and others.

We have acknowledged God's amazing gifts of love and peace by sharing this with those around us, and we responded by offering to Him our gifts as token of our whole lives.

And then – finally we get to the Eucharistic Prayer.

As soon as this is concluded and the priest invites the congregation to come forward to receive the consecrated bread and wine, we are 'so overwhelmed' by the enormity of what is being offered to each of us that we 'fall on our knees' with the Prodigal Son and say, "Lord I am not worthy'.

This month: When you next go to a Communion Service, take note of the pattern of it as a whole and then 'think' about how you feel as you are invited to take the bread and wine.

The Revd Dr Jo White

Sweets

I gave my four-year-old grand-daughter money for sweets and the church collection plate. Later, seeing her enormous pile of sweets, I got suspicious and asked if she hadn't also given some money to God in church that morning. "No," she replied sweetly, "He wasn't there."

From the Registers

Funerals May 2025:

8 th May	Kenneth S Skinner	10am	Cremation	
		11am	Burial of Ashes	Kirk Christ
10 th May	Norah H Hodgson	11am	Burial of Ashes	Kirk Christ
16 th May	Herbert R Moore	2.30pm	Service	
			Burial	Kirk Christ
30 th May	Olive Kerr	1pm	Burial	Kirk Christ

Get a grip

It was said that Archbishop Tench of Dublin, in his later years, had a fear of sudden crippling paralysis. One night at a formal dinner he sat looking more and more forlorn. Finally, he confided to the guests around him: "Well, it's come at last – total lack of feeling in my right leg." Whereupon the lady sitting next to him said soothingly: "Not at all, your Grace. It will comfort you to know that during the whole of this meal it has been my leg that you have been pinching!"

Safeguarding

The Parish of Rushen is committed to the safeguarding, nurture and care of **everyone** within our church community. If you, or someone you know, are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk or has been harmed, or are concerned about the behaviour of someone towards children or vulnerable adults, please contact:

Rushen Parish Safeguarding Officer,
Rhiannon Manning (Tel. 832275)

The **Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser** has now been appointed. For more details contact the diocese.

A copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy is available on the Diocesan website:
http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion





Rushen Mothers' Union

Thank you to all who helped and supported our Pre loved Jewellery Sale on 21st April, which raised over £1200, allowing us to send £1250 to the Diocesan Treasurer, to help families in need. We wish our members in the North of the island equal success with their forthcoming sale.

The last meeting of our current year took place in St Mary's Church on Monday 12th May when after a short service with prayers and a reading, we made plans for our forthcoming year, with many members contributing ideas for speakers. It looks as though it will be a very interesting and varied year, and as 2026 sees Mothers' Union celebrating 150 years, there will be extra special events taking place. (More to follow). As always, we are grateful to Jane Gunn who visits our Home Members and keeps them up to date, to our pianist Iris Mitchell, to our treasurer Judith Sille, and to our Branch Leader Lesley Scott for all their hard work throughout the year. No meeting is complete without refreshments so thank you too to Elsie Faragher for always ensuring tea and biscuits are provided. We could not meet in comfort without the ongoing help of our two church wardens so grateful thanks go to Gerry and to Peter, and to David Bowman who so readily helps with all our printing.

Some dates for diaries:

Mothers' Union Quiet Evening Tuesday 24th June, Maughold church. 6pm for teas, 6.30pm-8.30pm, ending with a service in the old Keeill, if possible.

Lord's Prayer Event Sunday 6th July, from 6pm, Cathedral, Archbishop of York.

Founders Day Service Wednesday 6th August, St George's (To be confirmed).

Royal Manx Show 8th, 9th August. Mothers' Union stall.

Our Opening Communion Monday 8th September, Kirk Christ, 2pm Rev Ginny Viner.
Enrolment of new members

Mothers' Union Advent Service 2nd Dec, 7pm, Abbey Church, Ballasalla

**With very best wishes to all
Pat Thomson**

Encore!

The new curate had visited the local prison and taken along his electric guitar. He was so pleased with the applause that he responded: 'Thank you very much for your appreciation. I so hope that I will see you all back here again next year.'

God in the Arts



El Greco's 'The Tears of St Peter'

In the 19th century John Bowes, the 10th Earl of Strathmore, built a museum in the French style, with landscaped gardens, at Barnard Castle in Teesdale. He bequeathed it 800 paintings, including a previously unknown Van Dyck. But visitors to the Bowes Museum often make a beeline for its amazing 18th century silver swan automaton. As the music plays, there is the illusion of flowing water: the swan preens itself, bends down and catches a fish in the water. It is a thrill and a joy to watch. At the other extreme and striking a different mood and emotion is El Greco's painting of 1580: 'The Tears of St Peter.' It was reluctantly purchased in 1869

for a price less than that paid for the monkey puzzle tree in the grounds outside.

The gospels tell us that St Peter wept bitterly when he heard the cock crow, as he had denied knowing Jesus three times. El Greco shows the saint, his eyes welling with those tears of betrayal, kneeling and turning to heaven for forgiveness. The sky is overcast, reflecting the sad scene below, and we can see ivy growing as a sign of the constancy so lacking in Peter's life.

At the Last Supper he had been the opposite: ready to follow, brave and generous with his words. But Peter leaves Jesus to drink the cup of sorrow alone in Gethsemane. In the courtyard of the high priest, warming himself by the fire, he utters that threefold denial. This was the lowest moment in his life, when instead of being solid rock, he showed that he was merely shifting sand.

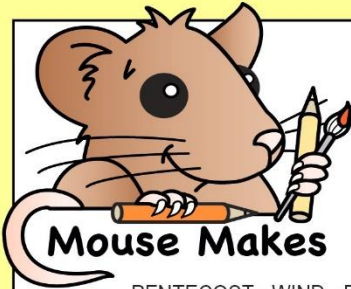
And then the wonder and glory of Easter. We glimpse it in the background of the painting with the angel and Mary Magdalene at the tomb. And we know that everything changes for Peter by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Like the silver swan in the Bowes Museum looking for fish, the disciples have returned to their old way of life.

But it is the risen Lord who directs them to a marvellous catch, and the charcoal fire of betrayal in the courtyard is now the charcoal fire of breakfast, a new day, and a new way of life for Peter. No denial now – he answers the three questions of our Lord positively and realises that he is loved by Jesus in his failure and weakness. It might have seemed the end for Peter in the courtyard, but the risen Lord comes to tell him 'I make all things new' and that includes you.

Peter is often known as the stumbling saint. Here, in El Greco's painting, he has stumbled and fallen to his knees in prayer. We celebrate St Peter at the end of this month. As we look at him, we know ourselves to be as weak and fearful. But the Lord comes to us as He comes to Peter. He lifts us up and puts us back on our feet again. With Peter, we know Him as our crucified and risen Lord.

Michael Burgess

Children's Page



Mouse Makes

PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
 HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
 JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
 HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
 HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
 ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
 JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
 ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
 EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
 ROME • CRETANS
 ARABIANS • GOD



READ
 Acts
 2:1- 41

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It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them.

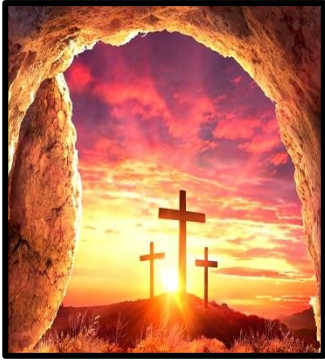
The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language.

How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

The Story Behind the Hymn



Were you there?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when he rose up from the dead?
Were you there when he rose up from the dead?
Sometimes I feel like shouting 'Glory, glory, glory!'
Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

The beloved hymn "Were You There?" belongs to the tradition of African American spiritual songs. It prompts us to reverently imagine witnessing the Saviour's death and Resurrection and to consider how we would have felt if we had been there.

This song originated in the 19th century among enslaved people in the United States who passed it down orally with many variations. In 1940 it became the first African American spiritual to be included in a major American hymnal.

The six verses refer to the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the darkness following His death, His body being laid in the tomb, and His glorious Resurrection. While the first three verses end with an expression of grief, the fourth verse culminates in a joyful declaration: "I feel like shouting Glory!" The simple words and expressive music evoke the suffering of the Saviour and the sorrow felt by His followers. The final verse conveys joy, awe, and hope at the thought of His Resurrection.

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



*Lord Jesus, open our ears and hearts
today to Your message so that
through the power of Your death and
resurrection we may walk in newness
of life in accord with the teachings of
Your Gospel
Amen*



June 2025

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

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

Services June/July 2025

1st June <i>(Easter 7)</i>	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)
8th June <i>(Pentecost)</i>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's & St Catherine's Joint Service <i>(Followed by a Faith Lunch)</i>
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
15th June <i>(Trinity Sunday)</i>	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)
22nd June <i>(Proper 7)</i>	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
29th June <i>(Proper 8)</i>	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)
6th July <i>(Proper 9)</i>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer & Baptism (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Morning Prayer & Baptism (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
13th July <i>(Proper 10)</i>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
20th July <i>(Proper 11)</i>	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)
27th July <i>(Proper 12)</i>	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)

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

St Mary's Sunday School Leader:

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

St Mary's Ladies Working Party

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St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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

Web Site/E-mail:

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

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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 20th of each month. This arrangement is subject to change.

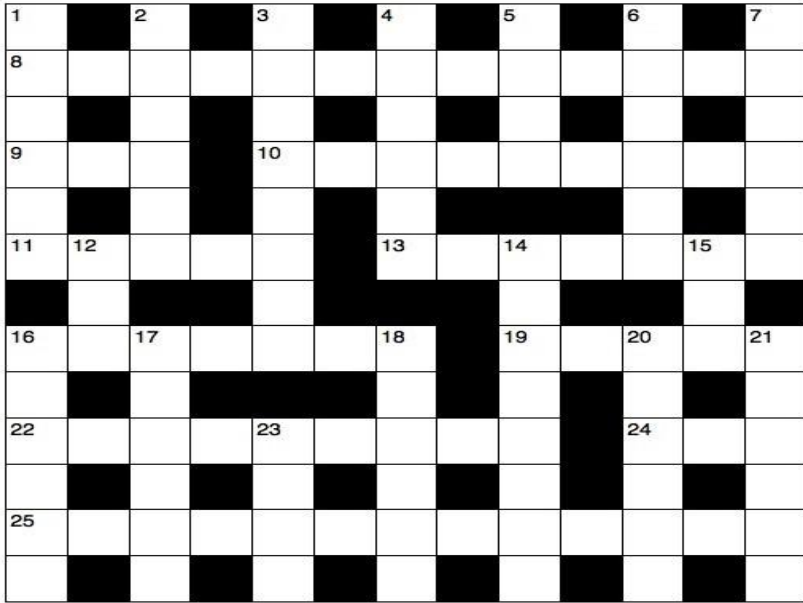
Parish Director of Music:

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

Churchyard Enquiries:

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

Crossword June 2025



Across

- 8** Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
- 9** In favour of (3)
- 10** 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
- 11** Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
- 13** 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
- 16** Bay bits (anag.) (7)
- 19** Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
- 22** Holy Communion (9)
- 24** 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
- 25** Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Down

- 1** 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
- 2** 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)

- 3** The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
- 4** The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
- 5** Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6-12) (4)
- 6** One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
- 7** 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — —' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
- 12** Ate (anag.) (3)
- 14** 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)
- 15** Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
- 16** Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
- 17** 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
- 18** 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
- 20** Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
- 21** 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)
- 23** Diva (anag.) (4)