



September
2025

Rushen Parish Magazine

new strength - they will soar up



Those who trust in the Lord will have

on wings like eagles... Is 40:31

Contact Details for Rushen Parish
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Vicar:

Rev'd Joe Heaton (rev.joeheaton@gmail.com)	832275
Rushen Vicarage, Barracks Road, Port St Mary	

Readers:

Mrs Wendy Heaton
Mr Harry Dawson

Active Clergy

Rev Roger Harper
Rev John Gulland
Rev Ginny Viner

Family/Youth Worker

Natalie Heaton	rushenparishyouth@gmail.com
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Church Wardens:

Mr Gerry Callister, 60 Ballamaddrell, Port Erin	474924/834627
Mr Harry Dawson, Thalloo Reagh, Cregneash	478050/835770
Mr Peter Hayhurst, Fois Fraon, Fistard	832974/464949

PCC Secretary:

Mr David Bowman, The Old Bakery, Qualtroughs Lane, Port Erin	837117/260539
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PCC Treasurer:

Mr Stephen Curtis, Clybane Cottage, Phildraw Road, Ballasalla	823475
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Parish Safeguarding Officer for Children and Vulnerable People:

Rhiannon Manning	rushenparishorg@gmail.com	832275
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From the Editor

Some of you will know that I am a perfectionist. The end product of anything I try to achieve has to be faultless, even though I know it is almost impossible to reach such high standards. It was a lesson I had to learn very quickly when having to lead a staff of well-educated teachers who had a wealth of abilities in a vast array of subjects.

At first I wanted to be part and parcel of everything that went on. I thought that this was my role and that I had to attend every meeting in order to keep abreast of the vast number of changes taking place in the 1980's. The National Curriculum was being introduced and schools given an annual budget to cover every conceivable item needed from pencils to the salaries of those on the pay-roll. An annual prospectus had to be published, available to parents, and others, and had to include the subjects taught, achievements, policy's, school development, and practically every aspect of school life you could think of. There was no way that I could have achieved all this on my own, especially as my health was beginning to suffer.

Recently we all had a scare within our own church community. Gerry Callister's health began to cause him concern. This is someone who rarely sought help from a doctor and seemed quite proud of himself for not having to. When the news of him having to call an ambulance, being taken to A&E, and then admitted to hospital, alarm bells started to ring. The news of this was passed on quickly, and many wondered how we, as a church community, were going to cope without him, albeit a few days as it transpired. It certainly made me think of my first years as a headteacher, and how I was consumed by the work I thought was required of me.

Gerry works tirelessly throughout every day of the week. If it needs doing he gets on with it, without complaint. I rarely go into St Catherine's Church vestry without him being there. He remembers everything and forgets nothing. He is a member of Port Erin Commissioners, and is also on committees centred around diocesan matters. He visits housebound parishioners and takes home communion to them. For the parish he is a PCC member and is a representative on the standing committee, social committee, the diocesan synod, building committee and lots more.

In Gerry's case his dedication to the church has no bounds. In mine, I dedicated my talents to the education of children. It didn't take me too long to realise that it was impossible for me to do everything and that delegation was the answer to my worries. Not only did it protect my health, but it gave my talented staff an opportunity to make its mark on the development of the school, and in so doing feel wanted. In Gerry's case I am extremely worried that he will burn himself out and that his health will suffer. We as parishioners have got to help him so that he is not burdened with work for the parish he loves. I doubt that he will come to us, but I'm sure that if we offer our services in some way or another, and give him room to breathe, his health will improve, and he could spend his retirement without the weight on his shoulders that he is carrying at present.

David

Hello Rushen Parish

Beach Mission

I'm writing this after the wonderful buzz of our annual Beach Mission, and my heart is full of gratitude for all God did through it. It was a joy to spend two weeks on the beach, connecting with so many of our community's children and young people. We had so much fun together, and it was incredible to see how many parish families came out to support us and get involved.

Acts 29

After a relaxing summer break, our youth group is ready to kick off again! As we get back into the swing of things, we're also preparing for an exciting trip. At the beginning of October, we'll be taking about eight of our young people to a Christian conference. It's an amazing opportunity for them to grow in their faith and connect with other young Christians.

Our youth group continues to grow steadily, and it's a real privilege to walk alongside this passionate and thoughtful bunch. Before summer, we were digging into the classic question: *What Would Jesus Do?* From school friendships to online challenges, our conversations have helped us think about how Jesus might respond and how we can follow in His footsteps in our daily lives

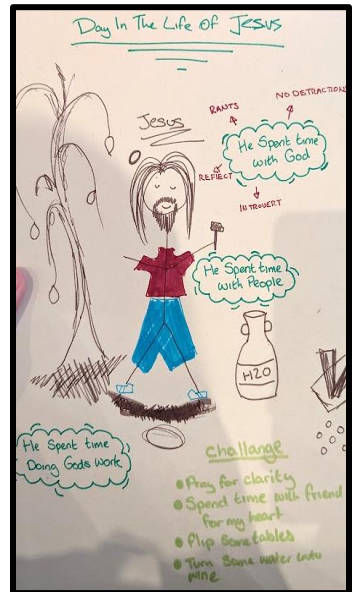
A special highlight for me was seeing some of our youth group members, who don't have a church background, attend and fully immerse themselves in the mission. It's been amazing to watch them spend two weeks exploring their faith and getting to know God in a deeper way.

Introducing Wild Sparks!



If you feel called to lend a hand, we would be so grateful for your help! Please get in touch with me directly if you'd like to find out more. As always, thank you for your continued prayers and support. It makes such a difference in the lives of our young people.

Natalie



I'm thrilled to announce a brand-new family event starting 27th September: **Wild Sparks!** This will be a great opportunity for families to come together and connect. As we prepare to launch this new event, please keep us in your prayers.

150 years of the Keswick Convention



An iconic Christian convention is celebrating 150 years this year. From the humble beginnings of a vicar holding a meeting on his vicarage lawn back in 1875, the Keswick Convention now runs a year-round Christian teaching ministry and attracts 15,000 to its annual three-week summer convention.

The Keswick Convention was the brainchild of Canon Thomas Harford-Battersby, Vicar of St John's Keswick. He had attended a Christian conference in Oxford, and found it life changing.

"Christ was revealed to me so powerfully and sweetly as the present Saviour in His all sufficiency." And later he added: "I found He was all I wanted: I shall never forget it... How it humbled me and what peace it brought."

Harford-Battersby wanted to share this joy in Christ with others. So, with the help of a friend, he erected a tent on his vicarage lawn that summer and simply invited local people to come along.

Even that first year, it was a success. Over the week, nearly 400 people attended. And in the following years, more people came. Hundreds, thousands of them, from many denominations, eager to learn more about the Bible. Within a few years of its starting, Christians all over the world were making an annual pilgrimage to the little Lake District town, to hear the best Bible teachers that were available.

Some highlights along the way:

1875 - first convention, in St John's vicarage garden in Keswick.

1901 - the first marquee was erected on the Skiddaw Street site.

1969 - the second week of convention was started, aimed more at families

1997 - the Rawnsley Hall in Keswick was bought, to extend youth ministry

2001 - the third week of the convention was launched

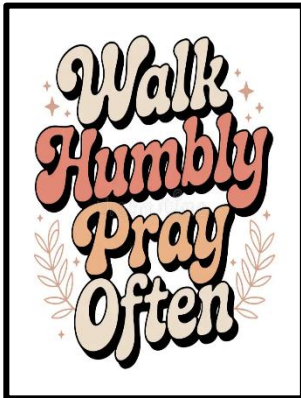
2015 - the Pencil Mill in Keswick was acquired, and it is now an integrated home for the Convention.

Many missionary societies and theological colleges owe their roots to the Keswick Convention: Hudson Taylor of China and Amy Carmichael of India had close ties with Keswick.

In recent times, speakers have included some of the best-known preachers in the evangelical world: John Stott, Donald English, George Duncan, David Coffey, and Anne Graham Lotz.

Today many Keswick teaching events are held around the world: in Africa, Australia, New Zealand, North America, India, Jamaica and Japan. The Convention's motto remains – 'All One in Christ Jesus'.

More at: <https://keswickministries.org>



Reflecting Faith: First Impressions

This series has recently been looking at the opening and closing words of most church services.

They usually go something like this:

(In) The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

(Out) Go in the light and peace of Christ. *Thanks be to God.*

This month let's consider what's pretty much the very next thing we generally do / say at the start of the service.

We acknowledge how great God is: the recognition of His power and might, His goodness and mercy as well as His ability to give us never-ending love. This makes us realise how 'little' we are and how we have not been as loving and forgiving to others – and indeed to ourselves – as we could have been.

This is sometimes called the 'Prayer of Humble Access'.

In a way it mirrors the prodigal son when he returns to his father. The son had demanded his inheritance NOW and then rushes off to have a good time in all the 'usual' ways, followed by poverty and having to work in the lowliest of jobs just to keep alive. Eventually he realised that even the pigs in his father's house lived better than he did – so he decides he will humble himself and return home. He doesn't expect to go back to his previous standing, but rather to beg forgiveness and ask to be a servant.

It's the ending of this story that is so exciting. The prodigal's father is told of his wayward son's approach, and everyone is expecting him to turn away. Instead he rushes out to meet and greet him. Not waiting for an apology or a begging word, the father covers him in rich clothes, holding him (no doubt) smelly body close and just loving him.

And spiritually that is what God does to each of us, as we come deliberately and consciously into His presence and turn to Him. He holds us close and forgives us.

This month

Next time you go to a church service, take note of the words you are asked to say close to the beginning and the wording of 'forgiveness' said over you. Then having been forgiven, try not to stir whatever it was up again – God won't.

The Revd Dr Jo White

Children's Society gives an urgent warning



Editor: For those of you who have teenagers, or grandchildren, this article may be of use. We live in uncertain times when unscrupulous people, who have no morals, exploit the youth and the vulnerable so that they can steal their cash.

Thousands of children across the UK are being exploited to move money for criminals. Some are only 15 years old. So warns the Children's Society. In a recent report, it has

highlighted what is going on behind closed doors.

Young people “are being tricked, pressured and groomed into handing over their bank details, receiving transfer or even opening new accounts. This is financial exploitation.” And it is ruining young lives.

Children's Society explains: “It can start innocuously enough online: a friend request, an advert for ‘quick cash’ or a message that seems harmless. But the consequences are anything but harmless. Some families end up in financial trouble, some have their bank accounts frozen. Other children carry criminal records into adulthood, and some victims have faced serious violence.

“Many don't realise what's happening until it's too late. Too often, the adults around them don't realise either. And sadly, any child, or an older person can be vulnerable.”

What can adults do? If you have a young person in your life, or an older relative who you might feel is vulnerable, check out our tips below:

1. Talk about money and online offers – how to treat ‘quick cash’ adverts as a red flag.
2. Create a no-blame space – children need to know they can speak up without automatic punishment.
3. Watch for changes – sudden new clothes, unexplained deposits, or anxious behaviour around phones can signal grooming.
4. Report and seek help early – banks, schools and safeguarding teams can act faster when informed quickly.

Meanwhile, Children's Society is urgently calling on the UK Government, our own government, the police, financial regulators, and banks “to work together to tackle this hidden crisis, setting an ambitious target of significantly reducing child, and vulnerable adults, financial exploitation as soon as possible, and in the UK by the close of this parliament



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ from Gerry Callister



Kirk Christ

In July we had many visitors to the church once again. They came from Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. It was great to have people visiting family graves in the burial ground, and the stories they could tell of the lives of their ancestors. The joint service was held as usual on the fourth Sunday of July, and we were joined by two couples who had visited the church earlier in the week.

St Catherine's Church

The summer concerts have been well attended this year. Most of those who have joined us on a Thursday evening have been from the island but alongside them their visitors have also come to hear and enjoy the various entertainments on offer. Many have said that they didn't recognise the church since they last visited and how it had been transformed since it was re-ordered.

The Good Samaritan

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: The story of the Good Samaritan is one we're familiar with from Sunday School Days - but the animosity between Jews and Samaritans is one that might be lost on us these days - how bitter the story was to swallow for a practicing Jew. "The one who helped, I suppose." He couldn't even bear to say the word 'Samaritan!'. Jesus calls us to be good neighbours to those our geographical neighbours we may not like!

1. To Jesus came a man one day
Who knew full well what the Law did say;
But thought he might catch Jesus out
With silly questions, shades of doubt
"Love my neighbour, who might that be?"
So, Jesus told the Pharisee:

2. A man lay bleeding beside a way
Where robbers often seek their prey.
A priest came by – a man of prayer
But for that victim he'd no care.
A Levite then that poor man spied
He crossed straight to the other side.

3. From Samaria a stranger came
Heard his sorrow, felt his pain
Bound his wounds then carried him
To the nearest wayside inn,
And once he'd got him safely there
He paid the landlord for his care."

4. The Pharisee did not like this
Replying in an angry hiss
"You are kidding, Jesus, right?"
"Samaritans are those we fight!"
But Jesus pressed him, "Of the three
"Which one was most neighbourly?"

5. "The last," he said, with downcast eyes;
"So go," said Jesus, "do likewise!"
And we in turn must be quite sure
Our neighbour may not live next door
But may be one we do not know
To whom a neighbour's love we show."



Sudoku September 2025

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

Get something out of it

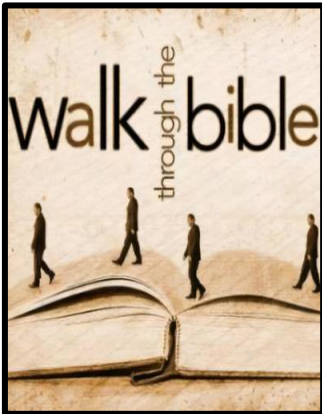
Coming out of church, the wife asked her husband, "Do you think that Johnson girl is tinting her hair?" Her husband looked vague. "And that dress Mrs Hansen was wearing," she continued, "Really, don't tell me you think that's the proper costume for a mother of two." Her husband looked blank. "Oh, for heaven's sake," snapped his wife. "A lot of good it does you to go to church!"

Sudoku Solution August 2025

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

Crossword Solution August 2025

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



What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: 2 Corinthians

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

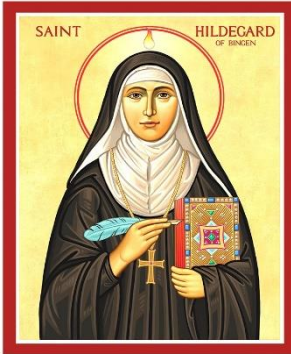
‘For anyone operating under the naïve presumption that joining a Christian church is a good way to meet all the best people and cultivate smooth social relations, a reading of Paul’s Corinthian correspondence is the prescribed cure’

Paul sent four letters to the Corinthian church: one mentioned in 1 Cor.5:9; 1 Corinthians; a ‘severe’ letter mentioned in 2 Cor. 2:3–4; and 2 Corinthians sent around AD 55 around a year after 1 Corinthians.

Paul had a number of reasons for writing this letter:

- To express the joy he felt at their response to his painful letter (1:3-4; 7:8-9,12-13).
- To share his troubles in Asia (1:8-11) and why he changed his travel plans (1:12-2:4).
- To ask them to forgive those who had offended him (2:5-11).
- To warn them not to be “yoked together with unbelievers” (6:14-7:1).
- To explain the true nature of Christian ministry (2:14-7:4).
- To encourage them in giving and completing the collection for the Jerusalem Christians (chapters. 8-9).
- To deal with the opposition (chapters. 10-13) and prepare for his coming visit (12:14; 13:1-3,10).

In this very personal letter Paul defends his leadership against accusations of inconsistencies in motives and credentials. A major theme concerns the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit. His opponents argued that Paul *suffered too much* to be a Spirit-filled apostle. Paul responds by saying that his sufferings embody Christ’s death and his endurance reveals God’s glory: ‘He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.’ (2 Cor 12:9).



Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen

If you want to make the most of every minute of your life, and to use your various talents to the utmost, then Hildegard is the saint for you. Her Saint's Day is 17th November.

Born as the tenth child into a nobleman's family in the Nahe valley of the Rhineland during the High Middle Ages, Hildegard stood out from others by the time she was eight. That was when she began to receive supernatural visions from God.

Understandably, her family felt that this sort of thing was beyond them, and so they entrusted her to a woman called Jutta, a female recluse with close ties to the benedictine monastery at Diessenberg. Seven years later, Hildegard became a nun of the community around Jutta, and when Jutta died in 1136, Hildegard became the abbess.

But Hildegard was never going to be one of your quiet nuns tucked away somewhere. Instead, she was always 'out there', and bursting with vitality and energy. She wrote on a wide variety of subjects from theology to medicine, to nature. She composed hymns, chants and songs. And she corresponded with many people, including royalty.

Hildegard was a strong, outspoken woman who saw herself as standing in the biblical prophetic tradition, and as such she was fearless in castigating and reprimanding people whom she saw as needing to repent.

Her supernatural visions of God continued from 1141 to 1151, and with the approval of the Archbishop of Mainz, she recorded many of them. This collection was called *Scivias*, and it dealt with the nature of man of the Last Judgement. When the Pope also approved her visions and writings, Hildegard's fame spread.

In time, Hildegard's community grew so large that it moved to Rupertsburg near Bingen, from where she travelled throughout the Rhineland, speaking and teaching. Above all, Hildegard had a firm focus to her life: Jesus Christ and His redemptive death on the Cross. She was devoted to Him.

Parish Pump

Your choice

One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts 15 minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. "Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."



Danny Kruger's extraordinary speech in the House of Commons

What does the MP for Devizes in Wiltshire have in common with the Anglo-Saxon king Athelstan? It became clear this summer, during an extraordinary speech Danny Kruger MP gave to an all but empty House of Commons on the eve of the summer recess.

First, some background: this month (4th Sept) marks the 1100th anniversary of the coronation of Anglo-Saxon King Athelstan, in 925AD. As grandson of King Alfred the Great, Athelstan became the first King of all England. And his coronation revealed his decision that England should be a Christian kingdom, living under a version of the Law of Moses. So, like Alfred before him, Athelstan took oaths reminiscent of the 'blessings and curses' of Exodus 21 and 22, and promised to bring his young kingdom into the blessing of the Christian God, by means of obedience to His commands.

Danny Kruger reminded Parliament of this sacred oath made by the first king of all England this summer. The MP's call for the restoration of our national Christian heritage has since been viewed more than three million times, and has been called a 'roadmap' for a Christian counter-revolution. For Kruger called for the country to remember **Athelstan's** ancient Covenant.

He said: "Uniquely among the nations of the world, this nation - England, from which the United Kingdom grew - was founded and created consciously on the basis of the Bible and the story of the Hebrew people. In that sense, England is the oldest Christian country and the prototype of nations across the West."

He went on to say that the impact of "one thousand years" of the Christian common law tradition – is the demand "that power should arrange itself for the benefit of all the people under it, and specifically for the poorest and weakest.

"In the absence of the Christian God", he said, "we do not have pluralism and tolerance, with everyone being nice to each other in a godless world". Instead, we have "catastrophes of social breakdown, social injustice, loneliness and emptiness on a chronic scale." Kruger stresses that "in abandoning one religion we simply create a space for others to move into." He identifies Britain today as being "a combination of ancient paganism, Christian heresies and the cult of modernism".

Kruger has written on the idea of spiritual warfare as reflected in the dynamics of law-making in Westminster in his book, *Covenant: The New Politics of Home, Neighbourhood and Nation*. He writes, "The culture war...is a religious conflict about the right gods to worship. As such, it is more than a series of skirmishes for the tokens of identity, for flags

and statues and the history curriculum. It is a battle for the strongholds of society itself.”

In his speech in the House of Commons that day, he developed this theme of ‘strongholds’. He attacked the votes of MPs to decriminalise abortion and legalise assisted suicide. He said they had authorised “the killing of unborn children, of nine-month-old babies” and to “allow the killing of the elderly and disabled,” describing these votes as “a great sin.”

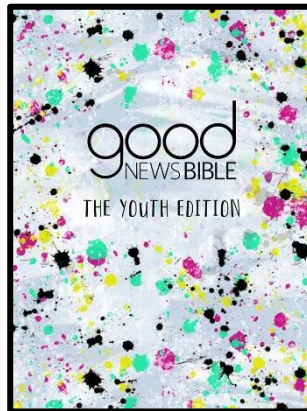
He went on: “The fact is that the strong gods are back, and we have to choose which god to worship. I suggest we worship the God who came in the weakest form, Jesus Christ. This God is a jealous god—it is Him or nothing—and we have to own our Christian story, or repudiate it.”

Kruger believes strongly that secularist religion “must be banished from public life - from schools and universities, and from businesses and public services.”

Instead, he has called for a “restoration” and “a revival of the faith.” He warned: “a wind is blowing, a storm is coming and when it hits, we are going to learn if our house is built on rock or on sand.”

Parish Pump

**Published by the
Bible Society
£24.99**



Winner of the Christian Resources Together Bible of the Year award 2019, this award-winning Bible produced by Bible Society and Youth for Christ is still helping young people to explore the Bible, in spite of where they are on their faith journey.

Key features include:

- links to a dedicated YouTube playlist with 30 videos unpacking key themes
- hundreds of interactive elements to encourage a deeper engagement with the text
- space for writing, doodling and drawing
- a full-page introduction to each book of the Bible
- 32 colour pages of key things to know about the Bible, and help with tough topics

All in the month of September



1,100 years ago, on 4th Sept 925, England gained her first ever king. He was Aethelstan, King of the Anglo-Saxons (924-927) and then King of England (927-939). Aethelstan was grandson of Alfred the Great, and 30th great-grand uncle to Queen Elizabeth II.

300 years ago, on 29th Sept 1725, Robert Clive, 1st Baron Clive (Clive of India) was born. This British general helped to found the British Empire in India.

200 years ago, on 27th Sept 1825 the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England.

200 years ago, on 27th Sept 1825 the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England.

150 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1875 Ferdinand Porsche, Austrian-born German automotive engineer was born. He designed the Volkswagen Beetle and Tiger tank, and founded the Porsche sports car company.

100 years ago, on 8th Sept Peter Sellers, actor and comedian was born. Best known for the Goon Show, and as Inspector Clouseau in the Pink Panther film series. (Died 1980.)

90 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1935 British driver Malcolm Campbell set a new world land speed record of 301.13 mph in *Bluebird* at Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah. First person to break the 300mph barrier.

80 years ago, on 19th Sept 1945 the Nazi propaganda broadcaster William Joyce (Lord Haw-Haw) was sentenced to death by a British court after being convicted of treason. He was executed on 3rd January 1946.

75 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1950 Italian racing driver Giuseppe (Nino) Farina became the first-ever Formula One World Champion after winning the 1950 Italian Grand Prix.

70 years ago, on 4th Sept 1955 Kenneth Kendall became the first newsreader to appear on screen in the UK, reading the *BBC Television News*. **Also 70 years ago, on 22nd Sept 1955** Britain's first independent TV channel was launched. ITV ended the BBC's monopoly. **Also 70 years ago, 26th Sept 1955** Bird's Eye frozen fish fingers went on sale in the UK.

60 years ago, on 4th Sept 1965 Albert Schweitzer, German-born French theologian, philosopher, organist, physician and missionary doctor to Africa, died. Winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize.

40 years ago, on 9th to 11th Sept 1985 the Handsworth Riots took place in Birmingham. Unemployment and racial tensions fuelled a mass riot following the arrest of a man in a café and a police raid on a public house. 45 shops were looted and burned, and at least two people killed. Several more riots occurred across England that autumn.

30 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1995 the online auction site eBay was founded. The first item sold was a broken laser pointer.

20 years ago, on 12th Sept 2005 the evacuation of all Israeli security forces and Israeli civilian settlements from the Gaza Strip was completed. Israel had occupied the Gaza Strip for 38 years.

15 years ago, on 19th Sept 2010 the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was finally sealed after gushing oil for almost five months. It was the biggest marine oil spill in history. In 2016 BP agreed to pay fines of \$20.8 billion – the largest corporate settlement in US history. BP also paid more than \$65 billion in clean-up costs.



Praying with the Prayers of the Bible Learning to Pray by Example

Editor: We continue our series on prayer by the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle.

Luke 11:1: 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

Luke tells us that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray after He had just prayed. This is very important. In His preaching Jesus had spoken about prayer; (e.g. Matt. 6:5-8)

He had also included prayer in His teaching; e.g. Luke 18:1. But it was neither His preaching nor teaching on prayer that inspired this request from His disciples; it was His *example* in prayer. Also, Jesus had sent His disciples out to preach, yet their request was not, 'Lord, teach us to preach.' They had witnessed the mighty miracles that He performed and saw the astonishment of the crowds (Luke 9:43), but they did not ask Him, 'Lord, teach us to perform miracles.' No, they asked instead, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

The disciples were beginning to learn that there was a direct link between the prayer life of Jesus and His Spirit-anointed ministry. We need go no further than what we find here in Luke's Gospel to see the consistent prayer life of Jesus. As news of His mighty ministry spread far and wide, 'great multitudes gathered to hear and be healed' (Lk. 5:15). This was 'high noon' in the ministry of our Lord and as the crowds gathered to hear Him, 'He withdrew to the wilderness and prayed' (v.16).

The next chapter tells us that Jesus made a habit of having whole nights of prayer. 'In those days He went out into the hills to pray, and He continued all night' (6:12). A little later the evangelist records that immediately following the feeding of the five thousand, the disciples were with Jesus – and He was praying (9:18). When Luke recounts the Transfiguration of Jesus, he says the Lord took Peter, John and James up the mountain 'to pray' (9:28).

Luke wants his readers to know about the prayer life of Jesus. At every step of His ministry we see Jesus praying. He prayed early in the morning before the day began; He prayed late in the evening after hours of demanding ministry; He prayed in secret; He prayed with His disciples, and He often prayed all night. He prayed in homes; He prayed by the roadside; He prayed on mountains; He prayed in boats; He prayed in the wilderness; He prayed in the synagogue; He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane; He prayed on the Cross.

No wonder that Jesus' example in praying prompted His disciples to ask, 'Lord, teach us to pray.' As we read and study the life and ministry of our Lord, we will be likewise moved to ask Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle

From the Registers

Funerals August 2025:

22 nd August	Barbara Clucas	Ashes	11am	RBG
20 th August	Stephen Hands	Ashes	10am	RBG
13 th August	Elsie Bowden	Ashes	11am	RBG
14 th August	Freda Skillicorn	Ashes	11am	RBG
1 st August	Marion Dale	Crematorium	10am	
10 th August	Malcolm Hale	Crematorium	10am	
21 st August	Malcolm Hale	Memorial Service	11.30am	KC
21 st August	Malcolm Hale	Ashes	12.15pm	RBG

KC-Kirk Christ

RBG-Rushen Burial Ground

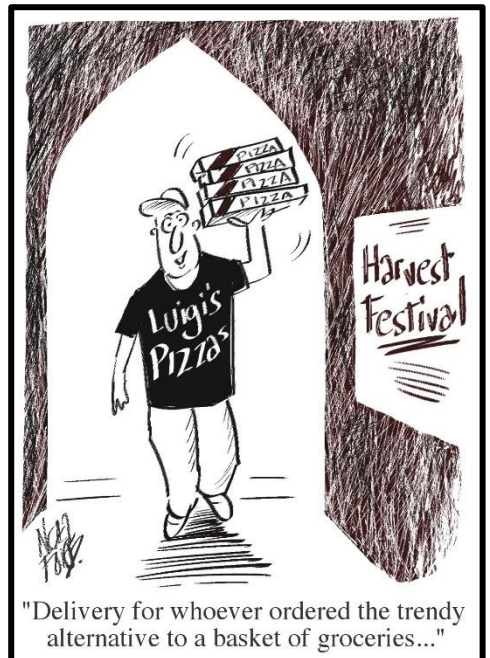
From America, where lots of people hunt....

Three friends decided to go deer hunting together. One was a lawyer, one a doctor, and the other a preacher. Suddenly a big buck appeared. The three of them shot simultaneously. Immediately the buck dropped to the ground. It was dead but had only one bullet hole in it. So a debate broke out as to whose buck it was. A few minutes later a gamekeeper came by and was told the reason for the debate. He examined the buck and said immediately: "It was the pastor." When the other two objected, he explained: "Easy. The bullet went in one ear and out the other."

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



The Commuter's Hymn

Editor: A light-hearted poem about going back to work in the UK. It can be sung to the tune of 'Onward Christian Soldiers'

Written by Nigel Beeton

Onward, weary travellers
Trudging through the rain,
Onward to the station,
To await your train.
There, the platform's crowded,
No trains to be seen,
And the message 'cancelled'
On the station screens....

*Onward weary travellers
Off to catch your train
Why do you keep saying,
"Here we go again"?*

Then, the speakers tell you,
News that won't inspire,
Seems some thieving vandals
Stole the signal wire.
Trains are going nowhere,
It's a day to dread,
It's not just the drivers
That are seeing red!

Onward weary travellers – etc.

At long last they fix it,
Signals turn to green.
Trains leave with commuters
Packed in like sardines,
'Onward, weary travellers',
We can hear them sing,
Wonder what calamities
Their next trip will bring?

*Onward weary travellers
Off to catch your train,
We know why you're saying,
"Here we go again!"*

WILD SPARKS

27 SEPTEMBER 2025

ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH PORT ERIN

STARTS AT 3PM

Get ready for a vibrant, family-friendly church party! We're thrilled to introduce our first-ever Wild Sparks – a brand new adventure designed for families with primary-aged children (and open to everyone!). Come explore faith in a wonderfully creative and adventurous way!

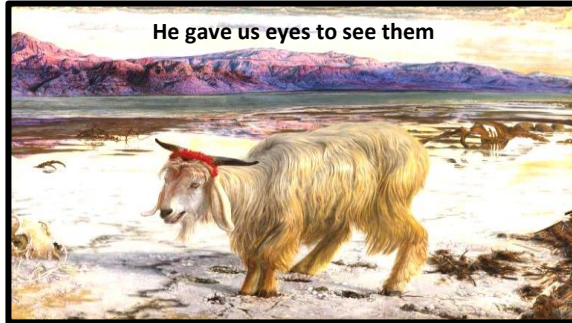
To get in contact or for more information send Natalie an email rushenparishyouth@gmail.com Or Join our WhatsApp group

WILD SPARKS

Which old bore?

A tired minister was at home resting, and through the window he saw a woman from his church approaching his door. She was one of those too-talkative people, and he was not anxious to talk with her. He said to his wife, "I'll just duck upstairs and wait until she goes away." An hour passed, then he tiptoed to the stair landing and listened ... not a sound. He was very pleased, so he started down calling loudly to his wife, "Well, my dear, did you get rid of that old bore at last?" The next moment he heard the voice of the same woman caller, and she couldn't possibly have missed hearing him. Two steps down, he saw them both staring up at him. It seemed truly a crisis moment. The quick-thinking minister's wife answered, "Yes, dear, she went away over an hour ago. But such good news - Mrs Jones has come to call in the meantime!"

'The Scapegoat' – William Holman Hunt



14th September in the Jewish calendar is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It is a time of fasting and prayer, and its observance is regulated by Leviticus 16.

The Old Testament ritual involved cleansing the priesthood and the people when a scapegoat bearing the sins of the faithful was sent into the wilderness. Much of that ritual has lapsed, but the heart of Yom Kippur is prayer that the relationship of love and service between God and His people would be renewed and restored. The goat that was sent by relays into the desert had a scarlet cord – a reminder that 'though our sins be scarlet, yet they shall be as white as snow.'

It is the subject of William Holman Hunt's famous painting that is in the Lady Lever Art Gallery at Port Sunlight. This village was founded by Lord Leverhulme in 1889 for the workers in his soap factory. It consists of gabled houses and Elizabethan style cottages which nestle side by side around the impressive domed art gallery containing a wealth of paintings and sculptures.

Work on 'The Scapegoat' began in 1854 and was completed two years later. Holman Hunt went to the Dead Sea to paint the goat in situ, following the Pre-Raphaelite principles of art embodying exact detail and accuracy in its subject matter. There is a photograph of the artist by his easel, a paintbrush in one hand and a rifle in the other. It was a time of political tension between Syria, Palestine and Turkey, which combined with the constant danger of hostile tribesmen in the area.

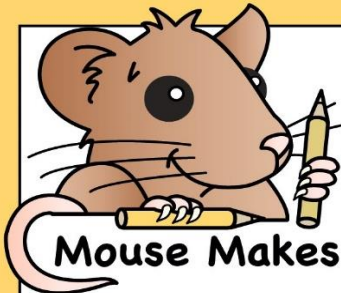
Undaunted, Holman Hunt sketched by the sea and then finished the details off in his rooms in Jerusalem. He described the scene as a 'beautifully arranged horrible wilderness.' In the distance are the hills of Edom against the sky, and in the foreground the solitary goat with the scarlet cord over its head. It is a bleak landscape, and on the frame surrounding the picture are the words from Leviticus: 'The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a barren region, and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.'

At the time critics were not sure what to make of the painting, as there was no recognisable story or moral so beloved of the Victorians. Elegant ladies inquired if the artist was going to put in the rest of the flock, and one critic said it was an excellent portrait of Lord Stratford.

We look at the painting with the eyes of faith and realise that the scapegoat was sent over the river Kidron into the wilderness, the very same river our Lord and His disciples crossed to the Garden of Gethsemane which heralded the passion of Jesus. We can see this sad creature, isolated and alone, bearing the sins of God's ancient people, and think of Isaiah's words: 'He was despised and rejected by others.' A scapegoat in the Old Testament bearing the sins of the people: the Lamb of God in the new covenant who takes away the sin of the world.

Michael Burgess

Children's Page



Mouse Makes

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."

- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from
heaven and good harvests
at the right times. He gives
you plenty of **food** and
fills your hearts with **joy**."

- from Acts 14:16-17

"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."

- from Psalm 67:5-6

"**Honour** the
Lord with your
wealth and the
first part of
your **harvest**."

- Proverbs 3:9

"So the one who **plants** is not
important, and the one who **waters**
is not important. Only **GOD** is
important because He is the one
who makes things **grow**."

- 1 Corinthians 3:7

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

Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the
wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN
REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING

The Story Behind the Hymn



Autumn Days

Autumn days when the grass is jewelled
And the silk inside a chestnut shell.
Jet planes meeting in the air to be refuelled.
All these things I love so well

*So I mustn't forget
No, I mustn't forget.
To say a great big
Thank You
I mustn't forget*

Clouds that look like familiar faces
And the winter's moon with frosted rings.
Smell of bacon as I fasten up my laces
And the song the milkman sings

Chorus

Whipped-up spray that is rainbow-scattered
And a swallow curving in the sky
Shoes so comfy though they're worn out and
they're battered
And the taste of apple pie.

Chorus

Scent of gardens when the rain's been falling
And a minnow darting down a stream
Picked-up engine that's been stuttering and stalling
And a win for my home team.

Chorus

Elizabeth Estelle White (1925-2011) wrote more than 160 hymns for adults and children, including *Gentle as Silence*, *Autumn Days*, *Deep Calls to Deep* and a setting of *Our Father*. Some of her compositions are still included in current hymn books including *McCrimmon Publications*, *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone*, *Kevin Mayhew's Hymns Old and New*. Born and brought up on Tyneside, Estelle played the piano, guitar, clarinet and tenor saxophone. Her musical influences included Duke Ellington and Count Basie. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service when she was 17 and played with the HQ band on many ceremonial occasions, including the 1946 Victory Parade, and travelled entertaining the troops in the Central Mediterranean Force in Palestine and Egypt. After the war, she trained as a physiotherapist, and moved to Canada where she joined the Roman Catholic Church. She returned to England in 1965 and took temporary vows with the Congregation of Corpus Christi Carmelite Sisters. She trained at Digby Stuart College, Roehampton and qualified as a teacher of theology and music. After leaving the convent she taught in schools in the North of England. A few brief glimpses can be seen of her directing music in a televised Christmas Day Mass in 1973. In retirement, she studied Hebrew and Greek, earning an MA with Distinction from Leeds University in 1989. She was Director of the church choir at St Josephs, Dewsbury, from 1984 until 1991.



Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

Heavenly Father look in love on our friends and neighbours. Keep them from harm; bless them in all good things; give them your gifts of kindness and gentleness. Enfold our whole community, friends and strangers, in the peace that only you can give. And give us the wisdom to see your image in the eyes of everyone we meet, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**



September 2025

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Children preparing for the new term at school
- 2nd Natalie Heaton and the work she has already achieved since August 2024
- 3rd Children in third world countries who need medical help in order to survive
- 4th The United Nations and peace-keeping forces
- 5th All who are confused in a world of multi-choice
- 6th That world leaders may set good examples
- 7th All who work in dangerous or hostile environments
- 8th Children taken into care and those left at risk
- 9th All whose sight and hearing are failing
- 10th God's presence in our homes
- 11th All missionaries both at home and abroad
- 12th The Pope and fellow Christians in the Roman Catholic Church
- 13th The fellowship experienced in our four churches
- 14th Integrity and fair dealing in world trade
- 15th The work of charitable organisations in helping those in need
- 16th Local singers and musicians
- 17th Our churchwardens and members of the PCC
- 18th The work of the Children's Society
- 19th People we know who are ill, or in pain, and are awaiting treatment
- 20th Peace throughout the world, especially in Ukraine and Gaza
- 21st Members of St Mary's Church Choir and Michael Porter, their choirmaster
- 22nd The wonderful work of those striving to beat what seem to be incurable diseases
- 23rd People who receive Holy Communion at home because they are housebound
- 24th The continued success of 'Coffee & Chat' and 'Roamers'
- 25th For the selfless adults and children who have raised funds for charities this year
- 26th Funeral directors and the work they do in helping the bereaved
- 27th Those responsible for opening and closing our four churches each day.
- 28th Those who are finding life difficult because of the cost of living crisis.
- 29th Children of the parish who want to know more about Jesus and His work
- 30th Good harvests so that the hungry, because of famine, can be fed

Services September/October

7 th Sept. (Proper 18)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
8 th Sept.	2pm	Mothers' Union Corporate Holy Communion
14 th Sept. (Proper 19)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service(CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
21 st Sept. (Proper 20)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
28 th Sept. (Proper 21)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
	3pm	Kirk Christ Baptism
5 th October (Proper 22)	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)
12 th October (Harvest)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service(CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
19 th October (Proper 24)	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)
26 th October (Proper 25)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)

CW – Common Worship

BCP – Book of Common Prayer

Rarely Services are subject to Alteration or Cancellation caused by unforeseen circumstances

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

Rev Ginney Viner, 3 Carrick Court, Port St Mary 341657

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

Magazine Editor

Mr David Bowman, The Old Bakery, Qualtroughs Lane, Ballafesson, Port Erin 837117/260539

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.

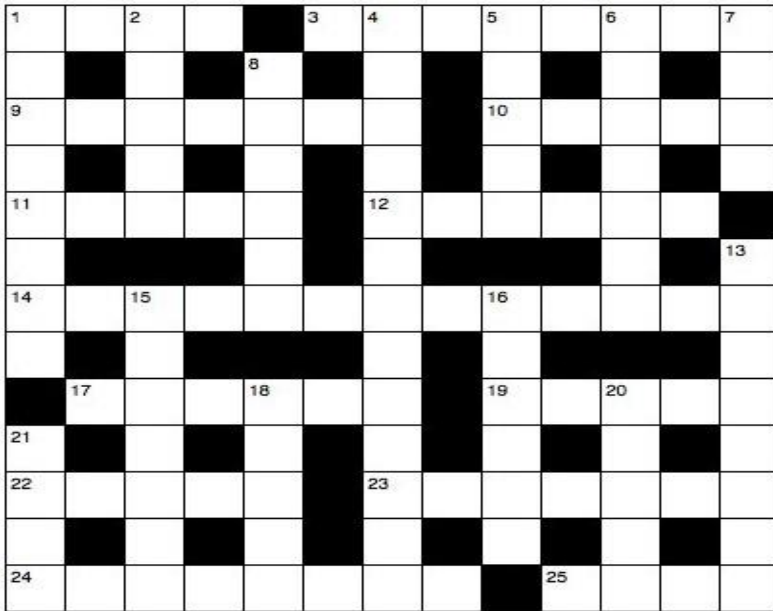
Parish Director of Music:

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 September 2025



Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)