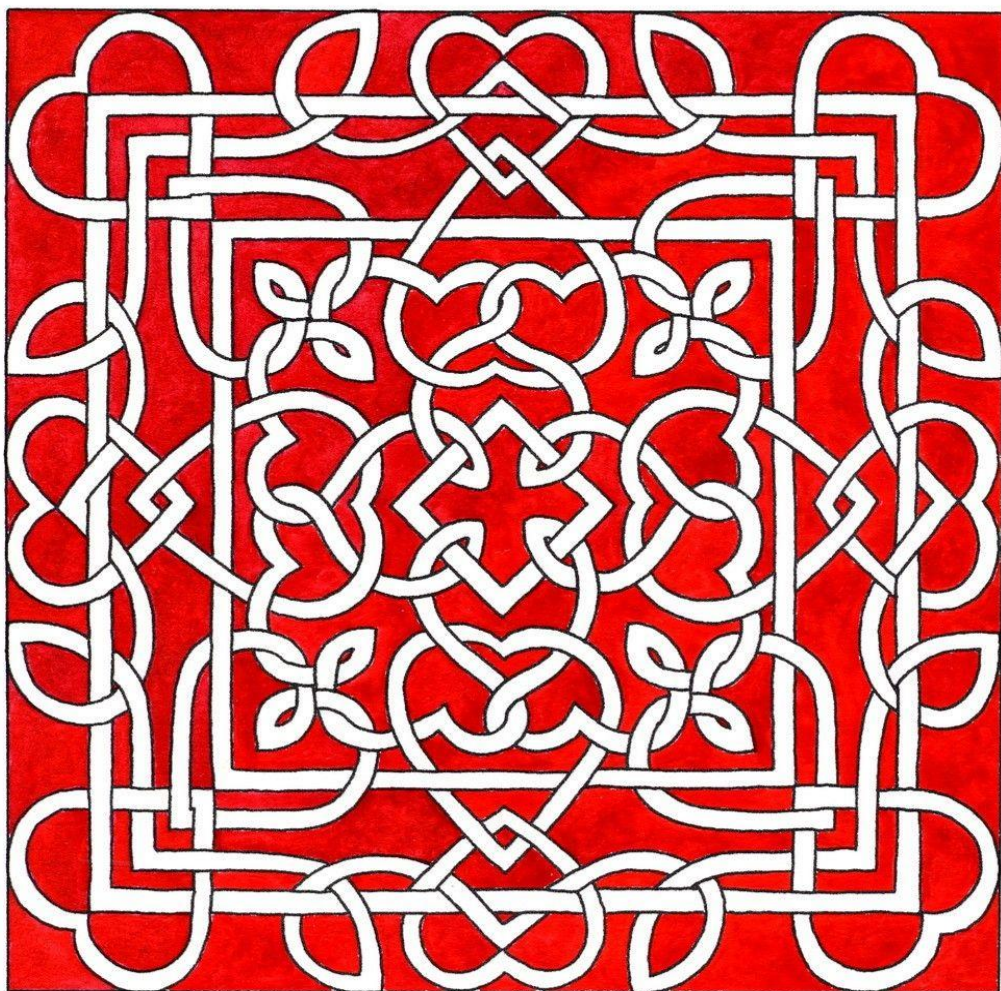




**February
2026**



Rushen Parish Magazine



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From the Editor

Just after I had eaten my meal on Christmas Eve I had a quick look at the Radio Times to see what delights were in store on the television. I certainly wasn't enthralled at watching what was on offer, although the Princess of Wales Carol Service was a must. I had remembered the same service on Christmas Eve 2024 which I had thoroughly enjoyed. I presumed that this service would be similar, as it represented the gradual build up for the day ahead, and a reminder of the significance of the birth of Jesus all those years ago. I wasn't disappointed because I thought that the service was better this time around.

The service began with the Princess of Wales and Princess Charlotte playing a piano duet to open the 'Together at Christmas' carol service. Their Royal Highnesses played 'Holm Sound' by Erland Cooper, a Scottish composer, producer and multi-instrumentalist, originally from the Orkney Islands, whose work is inspired by nature and connection, themes which are of deep importance to the Princess of Wales. I hadn't heard it before but it was beautiful. In fact Charlotte didn't make one mistake. For such a young girl she is definitely an accomplished pianist. What struck me most of all was the occasional glance at her mother, and the smile that she received back from her. The love between them was palpable. A love which the majority of people have when they see their sons and daughters performing on the stage, or winning a race, or just achieving something they hadn't been able to do before.

On 14th February in 2025, about 25 million Valentine cards were sent to each other. It is a way of showing our love for one another. Occasionally the name of the sender does not appear which means that the recipient has to guess. God Himself must have approved of romance by putting Adam and Eve alone together in the Garden of Eden, and when we reach the New Testament, we find real love between Joseph and Mary, and despite Joseph thinking that Mary had been faithless, he did not want to harm her. St Paul spent a lot of time urging Christians to love and be kind and faithful and considerate to their spouses. He even wrote 1 Corinthians 13, the great love chapter that has been read at millions of weddings worldwide 2000 years later.

Why then do we see so much hate in the world? To see children starving and living in squalid surroundings, to watch the brutality of men and women fighting each other to get something to eat, and the helplessness in which people find themselves when they fall on bad times, is not what we should be seeing in 2026. The love between Pauline and I was obvious. Not once did we fall out in our 52 years of marriage, even though we suffered much heartache when our youngest son had to succumb to the brain tumour that he had fought against throughout his life. Our love for each other was such that I still get upset at the least of things which remind me of the sixty years we spent together. On her gravestone it reads *'Your peace in our hearts Lord at the end of the day.'* A reminder of our wedding when one of the hymns that we had chosen was 'Lord of all Hopefulness' The penultimate line in each of its four verses asks God to be with us, at our waking, at our labours, at our homing, and at our sleeping, an indication that He is with us throughout the day. Right now Pauline is sleeping and at peace knowing that God was with her throughout her life and is still with her in eternity. I cling on to those words knowing that the love we endured together in life will remain with us forever, long after I join her in the paradise we are promised.

David

The Boffins and the Technocrats

Editor: Have you ever noticed that when you want peace and quiet, the opposite happens? Nigel Beeton wants times of 'quiet' in Lent, but he isn't likely to get many.... He writes: 'You rise from your knees, full of peace. Then the fridge bleats at you, because you've left it open. The microwave bleats for your attention. Never mind, you can check the e-mail. No chance – computer orders you to download upgrades (or upload downgrades, I forget which.) So you get into the car to drive to work. That's the worst of all. It moans at you if you don't do your seatbelt up straight away. The sat nav protests that you're going the wrong way. And there are those annoying little arrows that tell you when to change gear. I don't know about you, but I've been driving for nearly 40 years now, I DO know when a car needs to have the gear changed! Aaargh!'

The boffins and the technocrats
Help folk like me and you
Inventing lots of clever things
That tell us what to do!

My car now has a clever light
Dispelling doubt or fear,
Without it I'd have not a clue
When to shift up a gear!

Of course there is the Sat Nav
To help me find my way
The time I learned to read a map
Was just a wasted day!

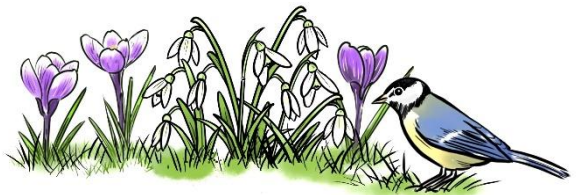
My PC's a law unto itself
So busy telling me
To upgrade this or restart that –
The net I never see!

And sometimes, when my work is done
I turn on my TV
All chance to watch my programme gone –
"Retune" it says to me.

The oven, fridge, and microwave
They make a beeping sound
Or else they have bright lights which flash
To order me around.

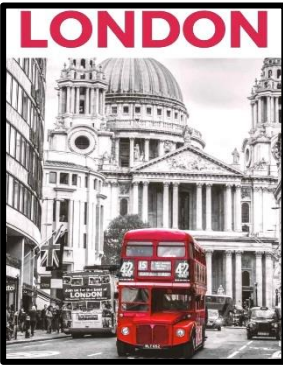
And so I am a harassed man,
I live a hassled life;
The one who shouts at me the least
Is my sweet and lovely wife!

Nigel Beeton



After Eden

Adam was out walking with his sons Cain and Abel. As they passed by the ruins of the Garden of Eden, one of the boys asked, "Father, what's that place?" Adam replied, "Boys, that's where your mother ate us out of house and home."



Mothers' Union Trip to London 97 years ago

Editor: The following report of a Mothers' Union trip to London landed on my lap in early December last year. It tells the story of 120 members from the island travelling to London in 1929. As you can imagine the original reports are in a poor state and I have had to decipher some of the words and sentences into what I think it says. It's quite long so it will appear in this, and the next two magazines.....

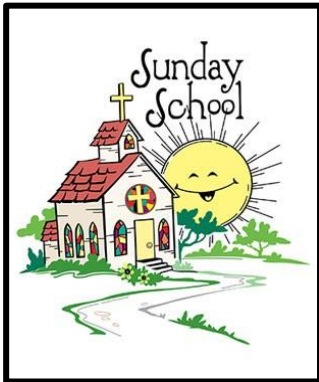
'About 120 members of the mothers' Union left Douglas on the King Orry on Tuesday morning 17th September. The most beautiful morning and the sea very calm, which we were all very thankful for. Had a glorious passage, and Liverpool was reached about a quarter past one. Walked along to Birkenhead ferry boat, crossed over to the station, where the train for Paddington was waiting for us. We left Birkenhead about ten minutes past 2 o'clock. Just talking, singing and laughing until dinner was served at three thirty, a lovely dinner which we all enjoyed. Another period was had looking at the scenery and having a doze until half past five when we had tea, sat down again and began to feel anxious to get to our journey's end.

About ten minutes to seven Mr Chapman told us to get ready as we would be in London at about seven. The buses were waiting at Paddington Station to take us to our different hotels. There were 44 taken to the Corel, and the others were at the Abbotsford and Alexandra Hotels. We were given the keys to our bedroom, ours was number 245. There was another two flights above us, so you may guess it was a very large hotel, and everything in the way of comfort. No climbing stairs needed as there was a lift. After having a wash, a few of us decided to go for a stroll and asked what time we had to be in. The answer was at any time madam as the hotel was open all night.

We went a little way, but was afraid of getting lost, which would have been a very easy matter, so we decided to get back to the hotel as we were rather tired, and knew we has a busy day before us. Got back at about half past ten thinking that we would have a good night's rest. There was three of us in one bedroom, so you can guess it was quite a long time before we settled down after so much laughing and talking. Anyway we even found out that it was no use trying to sleep as the traffic was just as bad as the daytime, so we just sat on one of the beds near the window and watched the night doings of London until 3.30am. Then we tried to doze off, and with broken intervals we managed to get an hour or two. One of the ladies realised the true saying that London never sleeps.

On Wednesday morning we had breakfast at 8 o'clock. Gentlemen waiters, waiting on tables, but we were seeing life, and no mistake! The bus came and we left our hotel at about half past nine, we met the others of the party and started on our travels....

.....to be continued in the March magazine



St Mary's Sunday School Report

In early January, we braved the cold weather for our first session of the new year and we were delighted to welcome Nathaniel and Eloise to St Mary's Sunday School. As it was the feast of the Epiphany, we reminded ourselves of the Christmas story and the arrival of the Wise Men from the East. We discussed how amazing it was that these stargazers had seen the bright new star and were determined to follow it all the way to Bethlehem (not by plane or by car, but on the back of camels!) to find the newborn king and Messiah! The children enjoyed acting out the story to bring the three special gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. We thought about the significance of these gifts but also wondered what we

could give to Jesus today. We agreed that all Jesus really wants is that we give him our hearts, so we each put a small, laminated heart in a treasure chest next to Jesus in the manger. The children also had fun decorating paper crowns with sparkling jewels and stickers. We finished the session by looking ahead to the Baptism of Jesus, learning that while today in the Church of England we mainly baptise infants by pouring a small amount of water over their heads, in Jesus' day people were baptised by full immersion in rivers and lakes. We discussed that the baptism with water is an outward symbol of the cleansing of our hearts on the inside.

Our January all-age service was well attended by our Sunday School families despite gale force winds outside. We also had Thomas join us all the way from Glen Vine to read the first lesson from Isaiah, which he did very well! Under Natalie's direction, the Sunday School acted out the Baptism of Jesus in the form of an exciting news report, which worked very well and grabbed everyone's attention! The children also led the congregation in the joyful singing of 'Follow me, says Jesus, follow me' and in the prayers of intercession with the help of some adult readers. Everyone did very well indeed!

Joe's talk started with a question about unfamiliar territory, such as starting a new job or setting foot in a new place for the first time, eg the Isle of Man or even the church! He told us about a recent visit to Durham University, which should have felt familiar, but due to some changes felt rather unfamiliar to him. Similarly, John the Baptist probably thought he knew Jesus, as he was his cousin, but Jesus turned out to be quite different to what John thought, a different kind of Messiah to what everybody had expected: a gentle and humble King, who would quietly turn their known world upside down and make everything new! Joe encouraged us all to get to know Jesus better this year, eg by reading Matthew's gospel and by spending time in prayer; to be aware of God's Spirit breathing on us, in us and through us, and to listen to God's voice telling each one of us: 'You are my beloved child, with whom I am well pleased.' The service continued with the renewal of Baptism vows around the font at the back of church, a very special moment, and a great way of re-dedicating our lives to Christ at the start of the new year!

Our next Sunday School session focused on Jesus calling the twelve disciples, who were all ready and willing to give up everything in order to follow Jesus and to get to know him. We completed a jigsaw with all 12 disciples and learnt a little bit about each of them in a video. We also enjoyed playing 'Follow the leader' and a balloon team game to illustrate that as followers of Jesus we need to work as a team, but also that Jesus wants each one of us to be on His team! While making a small booklet about the 12 disciples, we had a think about how we can each follow Jesus in our daily lives, eg by being kind and caring, helpful and encouraging, or by telling others about Jesus and inviting them to church or to Wild Sparks. We're hoping to see many at our next Wild Sparks at the end of January.

With love and blessings, Claudia

Photograph on Page 22



God in the Sciences *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*

*This series is written by **Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz**, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

Every person who ever lived was once a sperm and an egg. Those two cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being.

Each of us emerged from this same embryonic development process, which is highly complex and organised, but variable enough to turn out a unique individual every time.

If you like order – such as neat piles of stationery, or tidy colour-coded files – you will enjoy this story. One of the most important stages of an embryo's development is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity. Each part is told what shape to take, and which limbs or internal organs to grow: legs or arms, lungs or kidneys, and so on.

The most beautiful part of this body-patterning process is that it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a neat way. The DNA instructions for the procedure, known as genes, are organised in the order in which they are needed during development *which is also* the order in which they appear on the body. No other sets of genes are known to be arranged in such a tidy pattern.

So, as the embryo develops, the tissues near the head end activate the first sets of genes. Those active genes then make all the proteins needed for that part of the body to grow and develop in the right way. The tissues just below the head then switch on the second set of genes, and so on. A wave of activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. The Psalmist did not understand how this process happened, but he knew that it was a marvellous thing. *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.”*

The story of the tidy genes brings out the hidden beauty in the very early stages of embryonic development. The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, *“I am fearfully and wonderfully made”!*

Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz



News from St Catherine's, Kirk Christ, St Peter's and St Mary's Churches



As we get back to our normal pattern of life after celebrating our Lord's birthday we reflect on our Christmas services. They all commenced at St Catherine's at the beginning of December with our annual Christingle service. The weather was not favourable but those who attended had a magical experience of the Light of Jesus coming into our world. A number of carol services were held. Unfortunately the Port St Mary's Commissioner's Carol Service had to be cancelled because of adverse weather conditions. However, the Port Erin Commissioner's Carol Service did go ahead as planned, and St Catherine's Church was heaving with so many adults and children, and of course, Rushen Silver Band. Finally the Annual Parish Carol Service was held at Kirk Christ on the Sunday evening before Christmas itself

On Christmas Eve the annual Crib Service was held at St Mary's Church. This is where children and adults dress up as characters from the Nativity scene. Again we had an exceptional attendance. This was followed by Christmas Holy Communion at St Peter's Church. The attendance was once again superb. On Christmas Day we held a joint Holy Communion Service for the parish. This gives parishioners, and children, an opportunity of revealing their Christmas presents to everyone, an annual ritual which is always enjoyed. All in all we had a wonderful Christmas programme of activities for everyone in the parish.

Now, of course, we have to get back to our normal routines, but not forgetting the Birth of Jesus, our friend and Saviour.

Gerry Callister

Prayer – of thanks for Candlemas and the Presentation at the Temple

Dear Lord

The shortest month, the snowdrop month! February brings those beautiful, hopeful little flowers, also called Candlemas Bells. Thank You, Lord, for the beauty and the hope. Thank You for the reminder of when Jesus was presented at the Temple as a baby. Thank You, for Simeon recognising in that vulnerable baby the promised Saviour of all the world. Oh Lord, how this world needs to hear afresh that message of salvation.

Open eyes to see You and to know You. Open ears to hear Your message of hope and reconciliation. Open hearts to receive Your love and to share it, for the sake of all the suffering people of the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sudoku February 2026

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

God made us

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek.
 "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"

Sudoku Solution Jan 2026

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

Crossword Solution Jan 2026

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



Winnie the Pooh and Lent 2026

*Editor: By the **Revd Roy Shaw**, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.*

Remember the Winnie the Pooh stories? And Kanga's insistence on Baby Roo's taking his Strengthening Medicine? It's 'really quite a nice taste when you get used to it', she explained, although I'm not convinced Baby Roo always agreed.

It can be helpful to think of Lent as a sort of medicine; an opportunity to strengthen us in the things that are good, rein in other facets of our personality, and reset the compass to the true North of following Jesus. A Spring-clean of the soul, if you like.

Baby Roo (and Piglet on the one occasion he was subject to it) found Strengthening Medicine not to their liking, and we may groan inwardly at the thought of 'giving up something for Lent'. Think of what lies behind this 'giving up'. It's so that we may be strengthened, our character refined, our prejudices examined, our junk thrown overboard, and we may come to Passiontide and Easter more fit to walk the way of the Cross, and rise in new life with Jesus at His Resurrection.

Nor is Lent just a case of giving up chocolate. One year I gave up Facebook for Lent, having spent far too much time scrolling through it each day. It freed me to do other, more constructive things. And instead of giving up, why not take up something you've been meaning to do but never got round to; something life-affirming, something good for God.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 18th February. Many Christians go public with their intention to keep a good Lent by being 'ashed' - the sign of the Cross made on the forehead in a mixture of ash and holy oil at a special service that day. The ash is usually the burnt remains of the palm crosses from last year. Having been ashed, the intention of the 40 days of Lent is to maintain a steady course closer to God, symbolised by the giving up of something - like chocolate - which has a hold on us. We walk with Jesus on the way to the Cross, mindful of the 'riches of God's kindness, forbearance and patience' as St Paul has it, and mindful too of Jesus' choice of the Cross as a way for us to enter those riches more fully.

And to face the immensity of that sacrifice, and the immensity of God's riches made available to us in Jesus, we need all the Strengthening Medicine we can get!

Revd Roy Shaw



Reflecting Faith: ‘Breaking’ the Word

*Editor: **The Revd Dr Jo White** considers reading the gospel in church.*

For the last few months, we’ve been looking at the way that church services are put together. Last time we looked at the reading of the gospel, and how we honour that in our own body language (by standing up).

This month we will move on to ‘The Sermon’ which is often known as ‘Breaking the Word’. This parallels if you like, the ‘Breaking of the Bread’ which follows later in the service.

The Sermon is intended to be an expansion and perhaps an explanation of the Bible readings that have been used in the service. Often it sets the scene and context for the verses which are set at what often seems quite random and disconnected.

This is particularly true of the Old Testament reading, where not only the verses may be unconnected to readings from previous services, but often they are taken from totally different books; Isaiah one week and Jeremiah another.

So what is the preacher’s task here? It was once described to me as: to comfort the disturbed and to disturb the comfortable! That sounds a bit harsh, but when you think about it, isn’t that what we really need from our God? When we are in difficulties, whatever the cause, we need to know He’s there, and that He has our back, so to speak.

When things are going well for us, then that’s a good time to be working on recognising another weakness in ourselves and working towards lessening it.

There’s no sitting back on our laurels when we work for the Lord.

This month

As we start Lent this month, have a good listen to a few sermons. You can catch them in a church service or even on your computer. Most cathedrals have a website where they record their Sunday service in whole or in part, which you can listen to and take part wherever you are.

How were you before the sermon started and how did you feel at the end – was there something in it that you will think about over the coming week, or was it lovely comfort food? Whichever it was, may it bless you as you prepare for Lent.

Revd Dr Jo White



Introducing Dame Sarah Mullally The 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th January 2026, when she was legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral.

Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to ever become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her?

1. She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.
2. She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London
3. She worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has described as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God". She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.
4. In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.
5. She had become a Christian at the age of 16. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education.
6. She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as "the biggest decision I have ever made".
7. In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.

8. On 12th May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.
9. Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24th May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."
10. She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.
11. As Bishop of London, she led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.
12. She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.
13. As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.
14. This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.
15. Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide.
16. The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.
17. Archbishop Sarah has continued her interest in the health service having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital.
18. She is Chair of Christian Aid.
19. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.
20. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.



All in the month of February

200 years ago, on 4th Feb 1826, James Fenimore Cooper's historical romance novel *The Last of the Mohicans* was published.

175 years ago, on 1st Feb 1851 novelist Mary Shelley died, aged 53. Best known for her Gothic novel *Frankenstein*.

125 years ago, on 2nd Feb 1901 the funeral of Queen Victoria took place.

80 years ago, on 11th Feb 1946, the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version was published in 1611. **Also on 14th Feb 1946**, the Bank of England was nationalised. **Also on 19th Feb 1946** mathematician and cryptanalyst Alan Turing presented a detailed paper for the national Physical Laboratory that gave the first reasonably complete design of a stored-programme computer.

70 years ago, on 11th Feb 1956 two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

65 years ago, on 9th Feb 1961 the Beatles played at the Cavern Club in Liverpool for the first time.

50 years ago, on 11th Feb 1976 John Curry won Britain's first-ever Olympic gold medal in figure skating. **Also, on 23rd Feb 1976** artist L S Lowry died. Known for his bleak industrial landscapes of north-west England, populated with matchstick men.

40 years ago, on 12th Feb 1986 the Treaty of Canterbury was signed by Britain and France. It was the agreement to construct the Channel Tunnel linking the two countries. The tunnel opened in 1994.

30 years ago, on 1st Feb 1996 US President Bill Clinton met Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams at the White House, to discuss the Northern Ireland Peace Process. **Also on 15th Feb 1996** the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven in Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

25 years ago, on 19th Feb 2001 the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex.

20 years ago, on 18th Feb 2006 the Rolling Stones played the world's largest free rock concert on Copacabana beach, Rio de Janeiro. An estimated 2 million people attended.



The Funeral of Queen Victoria

Exactly 125 years ago, on 2nd February 1901, the funeral of Queen Victoria took place.

She had died at the age of 81 on 22 January, having ruled for nearly 64 years, and her death took her family, courtiers and subjects by surprise in difficult times. The Boer war was still in progress, and the previous year the Prince of Wales had been shot at in Belgium, by a boy who was protesting against the war.

Her third adult child – Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh – had just died, another was near death, and she herself had been confined to a wheelchair, almost blind and often confused. She died at the remote Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, and when it happened there was no-one alive who could remember how to bury a monarch.

Victoria had asked for a full military state funeral, and there were secret instructions concerning mementoes of her personal servant, John Brown. The official service in St George's Chapel was chaotic because of timing errors, but it was followed by an emotional ceremony for the family on 4th February, in the mausoleum the queen had built for her husband at Frogmore, adjoining Windsor Castle, where the Queen was laid to rest beside her much-loved Prince Albert.

The total cost was £35,500 (£4.5 million). Victoria had outlived all the members of her Privy Council alive in 1837; all the members who had sat in the House of Commons at that time; and all nine of her bridesmaids.

What has been described as the godly domesticity of the Victorian era appealed to a mainly Protestant public, centring more on morals than on radical evangelicalism and effective prayer. One historian noted the transformation in the general British attitude from “aggressive, brutal, rowdy, outspoken, riotous, cruel and bloodthirsty” to “inhibited, polite, orderly, tender-minded, prudish and hypocritical”.

Tim Lenton

Portrait

A teacher told her young class of children to try and draw the portrait of someone they knew. While they worked, she walked about, keeping an eye on their progress.

One little girl was working diligently, and the teacher asked who she was drawing. The child replied: "I'm drawing God."

The teacher protested that no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."



Mothers' Union Rushen Branch

Our first meeting of 2026 was well attended with 23 members and guests including our two speakers, Rev Ginny Viner and Mrs Daxa Patel. St Catherine's Hall was lovely and warm, in contrast to our slide and video presentation on Antarctica!

As Mrs Lesley Scott was unable to attend, Mrs Pat Thomson was in the chair, warmly welcoming everyone and wishing all a very happy New Year. Our branch was thrilled with the news that member Mr Gerry Callister had been awarded the British Empire Medal for continued outstanding service to the community, to the parish and to the island, and presented him with a congratulations card signed by us all, everyone agreeing that this award was richly deserved.

Our short service included prayers for those unable to be with us, including our home members one of whom, Mrs Valerie Vaughan, was in hospital. Our appreciation for the contact maintained by Mrs Jane Gunn with our home members was illustrated by the lovely letter of thanks received, and read out, from Mrs Margaret Couper. Our hymns were chosen and played by Mrs Iris Mitchell, and the reading was chosen and read by Mrs Sue Bould.

Ginny and Daxa had prepared a fascinating afternoon for us, consisting of an introductory quiz to test our knowledge, or lack of, on the subject of Antarctica, an intriguing game of fixing penguins on an iceberg, and a very interesting presentation of slides and a video. They had had an amazing trip and highly recommended that we should try to go ourselves, soon, before climate change had melted even more of the ice fields. They were thanked by Mrs Sally Lewis, and presented with a small gift. Refreshments were provided and served by Sue and Jane and enjoyed by us all, along with the opportunity to catch up after the Christmas break.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 9th February, at 2pm, in St Catherine's Hall, when Ginny will be in the chair, and Jane will lead us in "Chair Yoga". (Please bring a small ball if you can). As always, guests will be made very welcome.

With love and very best wishes,

Pat Thomson

Post-Valentine

A man confided to his friend that he and his wife had had a serious argument the night before. "It finally ended," he said, "when she came crawling to me on her hands and knees." The friend asked what did she say? The husband replied, "She said, 'Come out from under that bed, you coward!'"

We welcome all ages



*Editor: **David Pickup**, a solicitor, considers ‘Come and see what God has done, His awesome deeds for everyone!’ Psalm 66: 5*

Someone quite unexpected came to one of our church’s services recently. It was so exciting to see a newcomer. What I mean is he was not only someone *new*, but he was also *quite young*. By young, he was a lot younger than me (though that is not difficult). He came to the

service which is ‘meant’ for older people, and even so, he seemed to enjoy it. I was able to tweak the sermon and explain each part of the service. He has been back to church a few times since then. It is good to see new faces.

We are fortunate to have a good range of different types of service. Some are traditional prayerbook ones and others are more modern. I am not sure why they are often tied into various age groups. Sometimes we get children at evensong and mature folk at family services. I do not really like the phrase ‘All Age Services’, as these often turn out to be for one age group only. All people are very welcome to all our services, and we encourage them to try out different styles of worship and see what works for them. Each service should be ‘all age’.



**CANDLEMAS
DAY**
FEBRUARY 2

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



Children's Page

The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY



HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

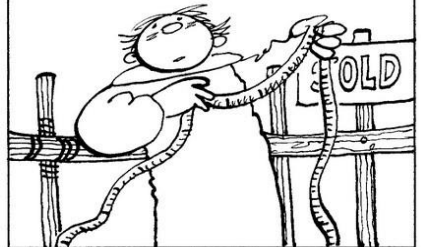


OH!
NO!!

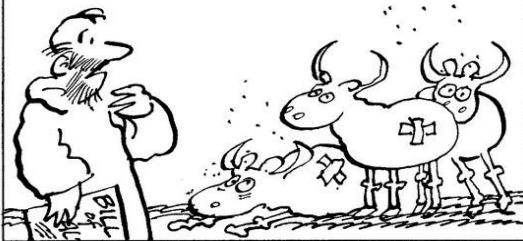


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN
COME TO YOUR
PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

The Rules of Marriage

Editor: With Valentine's Day and romance in mind Here are the real-life answers from a group of children:

Question: How do you decide who to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. - **Alan, age 10**

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - **Kirsten, age 10**

Question: What is the right age to get married?

23 is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - **Camille, age 10**

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. **Freddie, age 6**

Question: How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

Derrick, age 8

Question: What do you think your Mum and Dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. **Lori, age 8**

Question: What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other.

Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. **Lynnette, age 8**

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. **Martin, age 10**

Question: What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. **Craig, age 9**

Question: When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. **Pam, age 7**

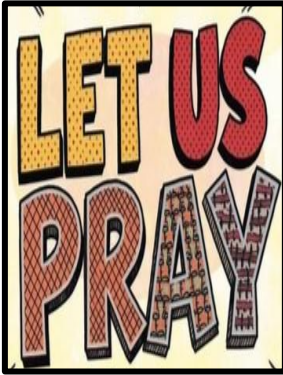
The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. **Curt, age 7**

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. **Howard, age 8**

Question: Is it better to be single or married?

I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out. **Theodore, age 8**

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. **Anita, age 9**



Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

Thank you, that you accept us as we are; that you love us as we are. So, may we love those around us. By your Spirit may we hold hands. May we rejoice with the rejoicing, weep with the weeping. And may we offer our all to you, together. Then we may be ourselves. Then we may be one. Amen



February 2026

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Everyone who gives of their time, money and energy to charitable organisations
- 2nd The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas
- 3rd Pets which bring such comfort to the elderly and the lonely
- 4th The Social Committee of the PCC which organises enjoyable fundraising activities
- 5th The bereaved and the sense of loss that they feel when loved one's die
- 6th All those who read the lessons at the services in the parish
- 7th Stephen Curtis and the work he does maintaining the finances of the parish
- 8th Families attending morning services today and the fellowship they encounter
- 9th Grandparents who help their children through challenging times
- 10th The maintenance of our church grounds and those involved
- 11th Those who give of their time to visit sick and lonely people in the parish
- 12th Those preparing for marriage later this year and for the people around them
- 13th All those who intercede during the services in the parish
- 14th St. Valentine, the patron saint of romantic love, remembered today
- 15th Those people in hospital awaiting treatment for life threatening diseases
- 16th The head teachers of our local schools and the successes they bring to all children
- 17th Homegroups in the parish and the fellowship received from them
- 18th Natalie Heaton and the work she does with children and the youth of the parish
- 19th Sidespersons who carry out their duties in our parish week by week
- 20th Farmers as they prepare for springtime and the year ahead
- 21st The Bishop of Sodor and Man as she pursues her ministry on the Isle of Man
- 22nd Today's Joint Service at Kirk Christ with every church in the parish represented
- 23rd The Rev'd Joe Heaton, Vicar of the Parish of Rushen, and his ministry.
- 24th Children who attend youth organisations such as brownies, cubs, scouts and guides
- 25th Children who have been baptised in the parish during the past year
- 26th Children who attend nursery, primary and secondary schools across the island
- 27th PCC committees and the work they do in keeping the parish active
- 28th Those who administer communion to the housebound.

Worship Songs and their Stories



Mary Did You Know?

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know
That your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered
Will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know
That your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God
Mary, did you know?

*The blind will see
The deaf will hear
And the dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb*

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect
Lamb? This sleeping child you're holding
Is the Great I Am
Oh, Mary, did you know?

“Mary, Did You Know?” a Christmas song, has quickly become a modern Christian classic. The lyrics, written in 1984 by American singer-songwriter and comedian Mark Lowry, tenderly ask Mother Mary if she knew how magnificent a role her newborn son Jesus would play in history and in the salvation of humanity. Lowry wrote the lyrics to this song after being asked to write a script for his church’s Christmas play. In writing the lyrics, Lowry focused on questions he himself would like to ask Jesus’s mother about what she knew of her son’s future ministry. The questions to Mary were presented in between the scenes of the church’s Christmas play.

Lowry later teamed up with musician Buddy Greene, who wrote the music that now accompany the lyrics. Building in intensity, the song commences by asking Mary to what extent she knew that her baby boy would grow up to walk on water, heal the blind and deaf, and give life to the dead. Importantly, the questions to Mary go unanswered in the song. This invites the listener to consider for himself how much the young mother might have known of her divine son’s power and purpose. “Mary, Did You Know?” has been recorded by various artists from diverse musical genres.

Services February and Early March

1st February (Candlemas)	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 February (2 before Lent)	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)
15th February (1 Before Lent)	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 February (Lent 1)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
1 st March (Lent 2)	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 March (Lent 3)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
15th March (Mothering Sunday)	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 Evening Prayer (BCP)

(Services correct at time of Publication)

St Mary's

**Sunday
School**



Celebrating

Epiphany

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

St Mary's Sunday School Leader:

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St Mary's Ladies Working Party

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St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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

Web Site/E-mail:

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

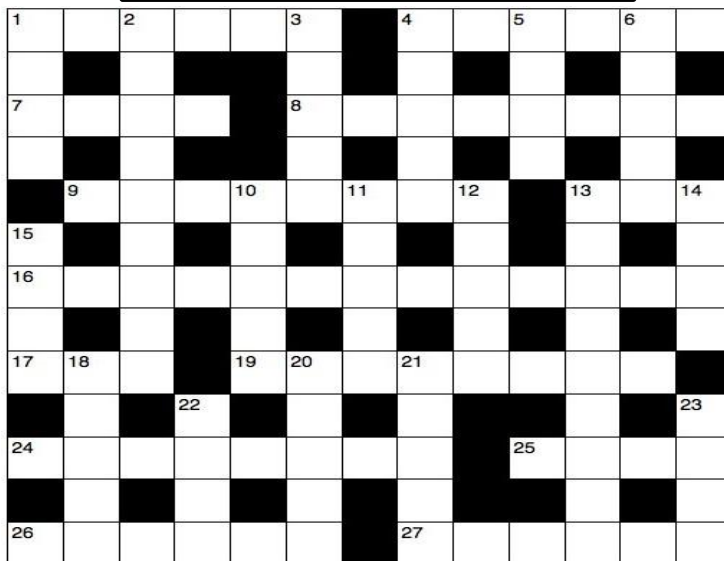
Parish Director of Music:

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

Churchyard Enquiries:

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

Crossword February 2026



Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers-by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)

- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)