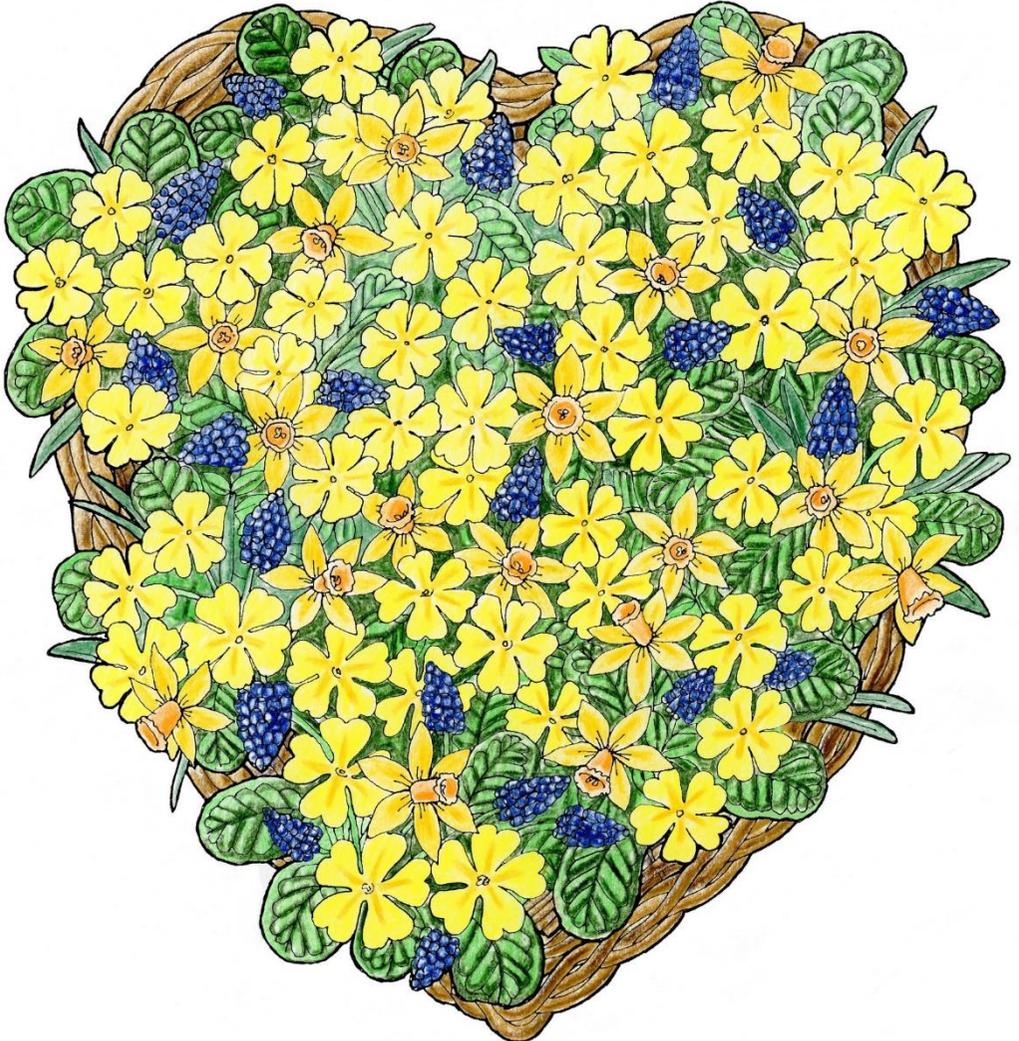


March 2026

Rushen Parish Magazine

THANK YOU



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From the Editor

When we moved to Kent in 1981 we had nowhere to live. Previously I had been informed by the governors of the school that the School House was available should we wish to use it as our home. The rent was favourable so we accepted the offer. The house itself was in a dreadful state. There were twenty full grown conifers surrounding the property. This meant that the light from the sun peeking through the windows was at a premium. The interior of the house was so bad that the first time I walked into the kitchen, at the rear of the property, the rotten floor gave way and I ended up getting tangled up with the foundations!

The Trustees of the school house, who were members of the governing body, were extremely pro-active, and within a few weeks the structural problems, the installation of central heating, and a new kitchen, complete with a solid floor, had been fitted! I was given funds to decorate the interior so that within a year the house was in a good state of repair and really lovely to live in. However, the main problem had yet to be confronted: the conifers, and the lack of light coming into the building. My son and I decided that we would tackle the problem. Armed with a new chain saw, spade and other such implements, we attempted to cut down tree number one. What we hadn't considered was the disposal of the fallen tree! It wasn't long before we realised that the cutting down of nineteen more trees, and disposing of the residue, was going to take us weeks. Nevertheless we stuck at it and managed to fell eighteen more of the trees. The light coming through the windows was amazing, in fact so good that something told us to stop, and to leave the twentieth tree as a reminder of what we had already accomplished. As it happened this particular tree didn't affect the light coming into the house as it was positioned at the gable end of the property and there were no windows!.

The weather in Kent is considerably warmer than it is on the island, so we often had barbecues in the evenings. Now and again we'd look at the garden and imagine what it would have looked like had we kept the trees. On one of these occasions, when it was muggy and rather unpleasant to sit inside, we looked up at the one remaining tree. There seemed to be a lot of commotion. In fact it was bats roosting in the tree and flying in and out of a vent on the gable end of the house. It seemed as though there were at least a hundred or so. They put on a great show flying above our heads and into the tree, or the vent. You could liken it to being similar to a firework display without the bright lights and bangs, and weather permitting it occurred every night.

We often wondered what would have happened had we cut down the twentieth tree. Of course we would never have known. However I'm certain of one thing. God, in His infinite wisdom, told us not to remove it, and because of this the bats, and our family, were able to co-exist and enjoy each other's company year after year. It is something that I will never forget. Thank you God for your wonderful creation.

David

Mothering Sunday



Thank You

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

Mothering Sunday - the fourth Sunday of Lent- offers families an opportunity to honour the women who have nurtured them. Lots of different streams and traditions have come together to make today's Mothering Sunday the special day that it is.

In the Middle Ages it was an occasion for everyone to visit their 'mother' church - the place where they had been baptised. Later, an opportunity for those who worked away from home to visit their mothers became added to the mix of reasons to make it a special day.

Today we honour all women who have in one way or another been special to us, and in church this is usually signalled by small bunches of flowers for every woman present.

Treating mums and grans to Sunday lunch, chocolates and flowers is also part of the present mix. And will there be a simnel cake to be seen - a tradition from ages past - with its rich layers of marzipan, and eleven balls of marzipan on top, reminders of the 11 disciples who remained faithful to Jesus?

Not everyone has enjoyed a wonderful or enduring relationship with their mum, so lest we get carried away on a wave of love and sentimentality, there is usually space in the Mothering Sunday church service to reflect on and pray for those whose relationships with their mother were not all they might have been.

Also, there are the families blighted by the lack of, or death of a child; families remembering a mum who died tragically young; women who never had a child but would have dearly loved the opportunity; all these and more are a recognition of the imperfections of human love, human life.

These imperfections can be brought in prayer to the God who mothers us. In the Old Testament, Isaiah speaks of God comforting His people like a mother hen. In the New Testament, both Matthew and Luke bear witness to Jesus expressing His desire to gather His people as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Yes, God has strong maternal qualities which He invites us to discover and enjoy!

Have you discovered the mothering, nurturing, maternal qualities which God offers to all people? It's lovelier than flowers, more long-lasting than simnel cake, better than a visit from family, and it's free to everyone who wants it - it could be yours!



Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

What a lovely day today has been, in contrast to the terrible weather we have had recently, with storms, gale force winds and interminable rain resulting in our having to cancel two meetings in January. We have to make the most of the sun when we see it as I believe more gales are forecast!

At each meeting we continue to pray for family, friends and neighbours, and enjoy meaningful readings brought by members. Thanks to Lesley, we have rotas for decorating the church with flowers, and for providing refreshments at Coffee and Chat on Monday mornings. The serving of tea and coffee after services on a Sunday is also happily undertaken.

March is going to be a busy month with lots of good events taking place in which we shall be involved: the Mariners' Service teas on 1st, at 6.30pm in Kirk Christ, The Leprosy Mission Fundraising Afternoon Tea on 3rd from 2-4pm in St Catherine's Hall, preparing small bunches of flowers to distribute in St Mary's on Mothering Sunday, the 15th, and helping to organise a Faith Lunch for the Confirmation Service in St Mary's on 22nd, to which we shall be warmly welcoming our Bishop. In all these activities we appreciate very much the donations of cakes and raffle prizes which our parish members are so generous in providing.

Ginny will be absent from our meetings until May as she is travelling firstly to Dubai and then to South Africa to visit her family, and although we shall miss her, we wish her safe travels and a very happy time away. We are grateful that Lesley has taken over the role of leader.

With our love and very best wishes to all, and in particular to all those whose health is causing concern.

Pat Thomson

How many church members does it take to change the light bulb?

What do you mean CHANGE??? That light bulb was given in memory of my grandmother! My father installed it with his bare hands! He donated his time AND the use of his ladder to do it, too! My family's been members of this church for four generations! And if you think you're going to come in here and make a bunch of changes all of a sudden, vicar, you've got another think coming!

St Mary's Sunday School Report



We started into February with a session to prepare for our monthly all-age service. With the help of a colourful pop-up book, we looked at the amazing story of Creation, marvelling at how God created such a wonderful world for us to live in: sun, moon and stars, night and day, land and sea, mountains and valleys, fields and forests, lakes and rivers, a huge variety of plants and animals, birds and fish, and then human beings, all perfectly balanced in God's well-designed ecosystem! We learnt that a day in God's Kingdom may not mean 24 hours, but could span thousands or even millions / billions of years. We also

thought about the day of rest given to us by God, who knows that we need rest from the busyness of life, and who wants us to spend that day with Him as well as with our families. We continued our session by thinking about what we need to live, eg food, water, air, clothes, shelter, love, and I was surprised that the children didn't mention toys! We learnt that in Matthew's gospel (chapter 6: 24-35) Jesus tells the people not to worry about food or clothes, because God knows what we all need and will give it to us if we 'seek first the Kingdom of God' and put Him first in our lives. We may not always get everything we want, but we can trust God to give us what is best for us. God's wonderful Creation provides enough food for all people, but we are also called to share what we have with those who don't have as much. We finished the session by making beautiful sparkly flowers to give out to the congregation the following Sunday, with the words 'Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you' printed on the leaves.

It was lovely to have most of our families with us for our all-age service, which was led by our vicar Joe. It had been his idea to split the Genesis reading into 7 parts (one for each day of Creation), to be read from various locations around the church, which worked very well indeed. During the gospel reading from Matthew, the children held up pictures of birds and colourful flowers, as well as a 'Don't worry!' sign. The Sunday School also led the congregation in singing 'Our God is a great big God' and read the prayers of intercession. As always, everybody did very well indeed!

Joe's talk focused on the character of Jesus and that He came to give us life in all its fullness. He wants us to have joy and not to get bogged down with worry. To illustrate his point, Joe invited two volunteers to squeeze a lemon to see how much juice they could get out of it. Margot and Violet did a brilliant job, and with great determination they managed to squeeze every last drop of juice out of that lemon! As Lukas commented, Jesus wants us to have a real zest for life! Joe also reminded us that God wants us to put Him first in our lives and to store up treasure in Heaven instead of earthly riches. Having life in all its fullness is not about amassing material wealth and only looking after ourselves, but about following Jesus' example in being kind and caring, showing love to others and sharing what we have been blessed with. As a reminder, the children gave one of our hand-made sparkly flowers to each member of the congregation!

Following this joyful service, we had a break from Sunday School for Half Term, as several families were either away or sick (we wish them a speedy recovery), but we hope that some can join us for our Easter Story Godly Play Room (with pancakes!) and for our Wild Sparks session at Rushen Silver Band headquarters at the end of February. We look forward to our Sunday School meetings in March, when we will be thinking about Lent as well as preparing for our Mothering Sunday all-age service on the 15th. All are welcome! Wishing you all a blessed Lent and great joy in the first signs of spring.

Claudia



Mothers' Union Trip to London 97 years ago (Part 2)

.....We went through some of the principal places such as 10 Downing Street, the Bank of England, Mansion House, Bow Church, Nurse Cavell's Memorial, Duke of York's Column, St James Park, the Home Office, Horse Guards, St Martin's Church and many other well-known places of interest. Then we came to where six girls were trapped in a cellar. with the Thames overflowing. and they were all drowned about twelve months later. Our next stop was at Mary Sumner's Home, three ladies were waiting to welcome us and we all met in the large hall. One lady said how pleased they were to welcome so many of us from the Isle of Man. Mrs Thornton-Jones replied to the speech on behalf of the mothers.

Then we were taken into the Chapel where our Bishop conducted a short service, after which we were taken and shown all over the place. The Reception Room was very nice and interesting, but one thing that stood out was the Mothers' Union Flag, all hand-worked in silk by Mrs Barclay. Down the sides she had put a piece of her wedding dress, a most wonderful piece of work. The Reading Room was filled with rows and rows of books, and the Princess Mary room had many wonderful things on display, one of which was a gold and cut glass ink-stand on the table, given to the home by our own Queen.

Just at this time we heard a bell ringing, and we were told that it was 12 o'clock, and that every day at that time, as the bell rang, we had to stand for silent prayer for two minutes. The kitchens were very nice too. Finally we came to the shop where one could buy many interesting stories. There was a guide to explain things to us. One room was full of armour and had a long history attached. Really it was getting very difficult to remember things, we had seen so much.

Our next visit was to see the Crown Jewels in the Tower of London. They were a most wonderful sight. We were given part of the day looking at these. The crowns of past and present Kings of England, all set with lovely diamonds, pearls and jewels. There were sceptres, Mace's and countless beautiful artefacts, all labelled telling what they were, their age, and when used. Then we saw the Queen's Doll's House. Words could not describe this wonderful house. A perfect model of a mansion, even eight motors in a garage, and all the garden tools in a little shed at the back. Then we came to the Tower where the two princes were smothered, and the mark of the scaffold where Ann Boleyn, Catherine Howard, and Lady Jane Grey, and many others were beheaded, all were pointed out and explained to us. We left the Tower of London at about five o'clock and got back to our hotels about an hour later. Waiting for us was Mrs Harrison who was holding her hand up to stop the traffic while the gallant 44 crossed over to the other side of the crossing.

To be continued in the April edition of Rushen Parish Magazine



News from St Catherine's and Kirk Christ



February has now left us. It was rather cold, wet and miserable, much the same weather as it has been since the beginning of the year. Now we can only look forward to lengthening days, a warmer climate and the joys of spring, some of which we can already see in the snowdrops beginning to show themselves in Kirk Christ's churchyard.

I had a short time in hospital during February and I hope I am now on the mend with the blessings of our Lord. I would like to thank all of you who said prayers for me, and those who have helped me through the last month, especially those who undertook the opening and closing of Kirk Christ and St Catherine's churches during this time. To David and Mathew who provided transport to and from the hospital, and my fellow church warden, Peter Hayhurst, who has taken over so much of my work.

I hope to give you a fuller report on both churches next month.

Gerry Callister

A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Loving God, thank you for mums and children and for all the joy of family life. Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother; be close to those who are struggling because they have no children; be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love. Let your love be present in every home, and help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Sudoku March 2026

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

How God works

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left-handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, He must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at church last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

Sudoku Solution Feb. 2026

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

Crossword Solution Feb.2026

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

Reflected Faith Series: Togetherness



*Editor: The **Revd Dr Jo White** continues her series on aspects of Christianity.*

Last month we began our Lenten journey with ashes on Ash Wednesday, reminding us of our beginning and our ending; soon we will conclude that time with Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Such a relatively short time for so great a distance. I'm reminded of this by the opening words used in Church of England services at the Palm Sunday services:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters His own city to complete His work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with Him in faith and love, so that, united with Him in His sufferings, we may share His risen life.

It's all about togetherness. Together as a small group of people in that one church where we worship. Together with 'the' Church across all denominations and throughout the world. Together with Christ Himself.

It's one of the reasons that we process on Palm Sunday. Ideally it will be a joyful and noisy procession with banners and rejoicing – reminding us of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as much as into our own lives.

This month

It's in this joy wherein lies the contrast with our solemn and silent procession on Good Friday. We need them both. One on its own doesn't tell the full story. Just like a play on Good Friday without its follow-up on Easter Sunday leaves you hanging.

We all know that social media tends to only show happy occasions but that underneath all those meals and holidays and smiling faces there can be great heartaches and sorrows.

It's the togetherness of both of those emotions where the true depth of joy is to be found and not on the surfaces.

How do we greet Christ anew on Resurrection Sunday without the devastating loss of Good Friday, or that long week travelling in and out of the city walls? May you find real joy in togetherness this Eastertide!

Revd Dr Jo White

God in the Sciences



*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.*

A Bucket of Tadpoles: Springtime, Curiosity, and the Theology of Science

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are then swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, that we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a theology of science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.

The Old Violin



I was given an old violin. It was worn and damaged, but I had a feeling that it might produce a beautiful sound if lovingly restored. It had been neglected, but not forgotten, for the lady who gave it to me remembers its better days and wanted it to be loved again. I felt emotional about this because it had once been beautiful and useful, and that encouraged me. It is never too late to be restored and made beautiful for purpose again even if we might feel we are a bit dusty and past it! (*Ephesians 2:10*)

This raises the question though - What is MY purpose? What good things did God plan for me to do long ago? These are the kind of questions I like to pose. The lady who gave it to me said it was her father's and she remembers the last time she saw it in his hands. He loved it and tried to play it but got frustrated and placed it back in the case with a certain amount of sadness. I don't know why. Maybe it didn't respond to his touch. But this resonated with me. Has God needed me for some purpose and found me unresponsive? I know that he loves me for sure but I want to be available and fit for purpose; I want my life to be lived beautifully for him and my heart to bring forth a song that pleases his heart. But he knows that and that in itself pleases him.

(*2 Corinthians 2:15*) suggests a very personal link between the creator God and the created. And that our lives, lived in harmony with the Holy Spirit, become a beautiful fragrance recognised by the Father.

But why am I talking about fragrance when discussing a violin? Should I rather be considering sound? As a multi-faceted creative, I understand that all we 'see' with our senses could be sound, aroma, colour, taste or texture - all be used to raise worship to the King. As these verses suggest, we taste God's goodness! (*Psalms 34:8*) and (*Exodus 15:2*)

I sent some images of the violin to a Luthier to get an idea of its value, and his response was that the violin had very little commercial value, because of some significant damage on the back. I then wanted to know if the damage would be detrimental to the sound quality. His response to that was, 'Not necessarily!'

Well, I'm a woman of faith, so I lovingly got to work, replacing the bridge and strings. This was scary because I wasn't sure how strong the thing was, and as I was gradually tightening the strings there was an almighty BANG.... the strings flew off as the tail loop snapped! Undaunted, I replaced that as well and continued. And I played that violin. And I loved that sound. Yes, it needs playing in, but I shall do that with love.

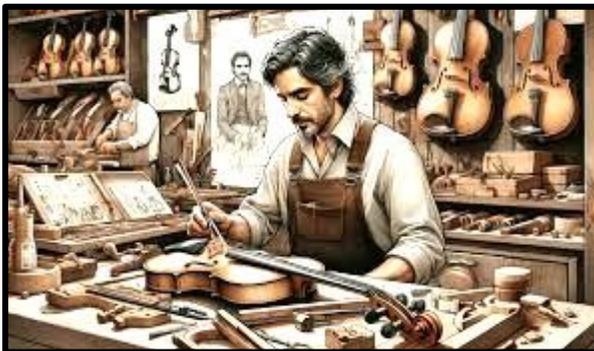
Playing a violin 'in' requires time and dedication. It means working together, learning how the instrument handles; it's a partnership where one can become one with the instrument. I think this is how we should be with God - so in tune with him that we flow together. I again contacted the Luthier to inquire about removing the old Rosen stains and fitting a decent bridge. I found the cost of cleaning and a new bridge was prohibitive. So my next consideration was, how much should one invest in a violin with no commercial value? And, what does that actually mean? What gives a violin value? Is it just providence, or shouldn't quality of sound mean something? I ponder on these things before the Lord because I believe he is speaking to me as I work my way through this adventure.

So what I heard as I pushed into God was that he loves us regardless of anyone else's valuation; just like I do this old violin. He really loves us; he created us for purpose and wants to enjoy us. He also knows our worth. We need to get that understanding deep in our hearts. But, life happens and sometimes we get broken, degraded and deemed worthless. That valuation might simply be in our own eyes. If so, we need to start seeing ourselves from God's perspective as valued and much loved individuals; designed to be loved and enjoyed. That's what he was saying to me. But I need to listen!

God went to great lengths to restore us back to Him. He did this by sending Jesus. It was through Jesus we have been made acceptable to God. And able to stand boldly and acceptable before him. (*Ephesians 1...*) Because of Jesus! When we were far away from him, he reached down and rescued us. I'm talking about those who He created but do not yet know Him **and** those who once enjoyed fellowship with the Father but have lost their way or got broken and discouraged. We are all valuable to him and can be restored and reinstated. And in turn HE sings a song of delight over us! He is the ultimate healer and restorer!

'For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty saviour. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.' (Zephaniah 3:17)

Petrina Kent



All in the month of March



250 years ago, on 24th March 1776, John Harrison, carpenter and clockmaker died. Known for inventing the marine chronometer, which enabled sailors to calculate longitude at sea.

175 years ago, on 11th March 1851, the premiere of Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi's opera *Rigoletto*, was held in Venice.

150 years ago, on 10th March 1876, the world's first telephone call was made. Alexander Graham Bell used his telephone to call his assistant, Thomas Watson, after spilling acid in his laboratory. The first words ever spoken on a telephone were: "Mr Watson, come here. I want you."

90 years ago, on 4th March 1936, the German airship *Hindenburg* made its first flight. It was the largest airship ever constructed, and was destroyed in a fire in May 1937, ending the era of airship travel.

80 years ago, on 25th March 1946, London's Heathrow Airport first opened as London Airport. It was renamed Heathrow Airport in 1966.

75 years ago, on 15th March 1951, Dennis the Menace first appeared in the British children's comic, *The Beano*.

65 years ago, on 6th March 1961, George Formby, the 'Ukulele King,' comedian, singer and actor died. Known for his comic songs.

40 years ago, on 3rd March 1986, Queen Elizabeth II signed the Australia Act, severing Australia's remaining legal ties with Britain and granting it full independence.

30 years ago, on 13th March 1996, the Dunblane Massacre took place in Scotland. Thomas Hamilton, a former Scout leader, entered Dunblane Primary School, shot dead 16 children and a teacher, wounded 15 more, and then committed suicide. As a result, the private ownership of handguns was banned in the UK.

25 years ago, on 26th March 2001, the UK Post Office was rebranded as Consignia, at a cost of around £2million. The name was so unpopular that the following year it was renamed The Royal Mail Group.

20 years ago, on 1st March 2006, the Senedd – the National Assembly for Wales's debating chamber – was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II in Cardiff. **Also 20 years ago, on 21st March 2006**, Twitter, the online social networking/micro-blogging service, was founded. Its website went live on 15th July that year.

10 years ago, on 31st March 2016, Ronnie Corbett, Scottish films and tv comedian, actor, screenwriter and broadcaster (*The Two Ronnies*) died.

Contraills

Editor: ‘On the poet’s tablet is an ‘app’ that can tell you which planes are flying over, where they took off from, where they are flying to and what kind of ‘plane it is. He finds it great fun, it slightly takes the magic out of gazing up into the sky and wondering....’

I see against the clear blue sky
The trails left by aircraft, high
White mists, trailing, as they fly
So high up in the air.
I wonder of their hopes and dreams
Who fly before those cirrus streams,
Or what, indeed, their long-planned schemes?
A dream, or a nightmare?

A man, besuited, he may feel
That he’s about to clinch a deal
To set him up with finance, real
So he can make his name!
That couple – are they on their way
To a romantic holiday?
Upon a golden beach they’ll lay
Beneath the solar flame!

But even as they sit and smile,
See! Sitting there, beside the aisle
A lady who for quite a while
Has simply sat and wept.
What troubles crowd upon her mind?
At journey’s end, what will she find?
Or is it what she’s left behind
That means she hasn’t slept.
But all life’s stories can be found

A tiny dot, so small that I
Can barely see it with my eye
Tis but the vapors that belie
The aircraft high up there;
Up there, so high above the ground
So high that you can scarcely hear its sound
But all life’s stories can be found
Five miles in the air.

Nigel Beeton



PARISH OF RUSHEN
CONCERT

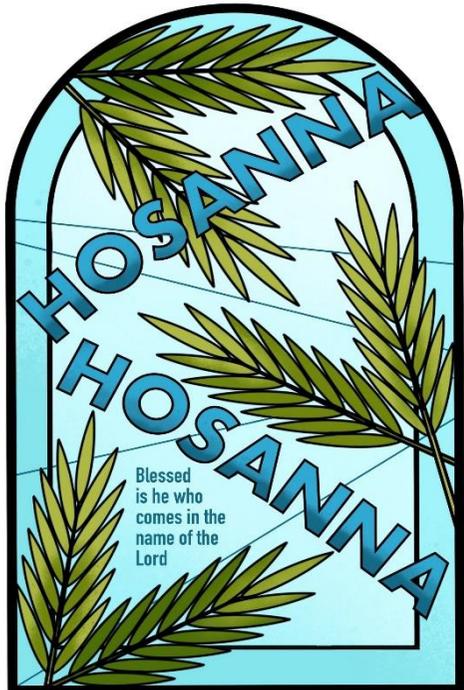
At
St. Catherine’s Church, Port Erin

By
**RUSHEN SILVER
BAND**

On
THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2026

AT 7.30PM

ADMISSION FREE - RETIRING COLLECTION



Rushen Branch - Mothers' Union Report



We had a turnout of 16 people to hear about and take part in Mrs Jane Gunn's Chair Yoga class on 9th February. Rev Ginny Viner began the meeting by welcoming us all and Mrs Iris Mitchell played for our singing of "All Things Bright and Beautiful", chosen to highlight Ginny's explanation of a conservation initiative from our Bishop, which would be a collaborative project involving parishes and wild life agencies, to preserve and improve the area around the various island churches. (More information to follow.) Ginny's reading, from the MU prayer book, p59, Prayer for Stewardship of God's Creation entitled "If the earth were only a few feet in diameter", perfectly continued this theme.

Jane had already set out the chairs in a circle so we could best follow her instructions and moves, and after explaining that we all need to take care of our bodies and minds as we age, she began with simple, easy, basic exercises involving breathing, hand and feet exercises, and how to use a small ball under the feet to improve circulation. After this, a cup of tea, and tasty biscuits sent from Mrs Sue Bould, were much appreciated.

We are very grateful to Jane for all her careful planning for the meeting and for giving us such an interesting, instructive, and enjoyable talk and demonstration.

Our next branch meeting will be on 9th March, at 2pm in St Mary's Church, when our speaker will be Miss Judith Ley and her theme will be "Travel Broadens the Mind", a light hearted look at the wider world. As always, guests will be made very welcome.

Further Diocesan events are being planned to celebrate the 150 years of Mothers' Union, including the arrival in the IOM of the York Baton on Sunday 19th April, and on Tuesday 21st April, at 2pm, the Festival Service, when a prayer from the Diocese of Sodor and Man will be added to the baton. Hopefully, in the summer, there will also be a special Anniversary Afternoon Tea, details to be confirmed.

With love and very best wishes to all, especially to our indoor members, and anyone for whom health issues have recently been demanding.

Pat Thomson

On the road

A teenager was always asking his parents if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit one day, the father demanded of his son why he thought 'The Almighty' had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied: "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."

World Day of Prayer Service 2026



This year's World Day of Prayer Service will be held on Friday 6th March 2026 at St. Columba's R.C. Church, Port Erin.

The service has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria, and the theme is based on "I will give you rest, come" (Matthew 11: 28-30). As we trust in God, (our Burden Bearer) we become one body in Christ, receiving and bringing rest to the world.

Everyone is most welcome to attend this special annual service which starts at 11am. Refreshments will be served in the church hall from 10am prior to the service.

Sheila Preston

Bump

A man was trying to pull out of a parking slot but bashed the bumper of the parked car in front of him. Witnessed by a handful of pedestrians waiting for a bus, the driver got out, inspected the damage, and proceeded to write a note to leave on the windshield of the car he had hit. The note read: "Hello. I have just hit your car, and there are some people here watching me who think that I am writing this note to leave you my name, phone number, and driver's licence number, but I am not."

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



*My sermon today comes from
Apps Chapter 1 beginning at verse 2...*

Children's Page March

The Tale of the TWO BUILDERS



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES

THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.

SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.

THE OTHER BUILDER DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.

BUT ONE DAY THE STORM CAME...

...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND THE RAIN FELL....

...AND THE HOUSE ON THE SAND COLLAPSED!

BUT THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK STOOD FIRM.

JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION.

God in the Arts



Editor: Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? We continue our procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the railings and kneelers. The photograph was taken by Colin Smith from St Nicholas, Compton.

He gave us eyes to see them – Railings and Kneelers

This month we visit St Nicholas' Church, Compton in Surrey. It is a very fine building with an unusual double sanctuary on two floors at the east end. Our eyes look up to see a gallery and an altar, and then at ground level is another altar surrounded by a glorious Norman arch with Jacobean railings and kneelers. As we enter this church, we realise with T S Eliot in *Little Gidding* that we are here 'to kneel where prayer has been valid.'

With the liturgical reform of the last century, it is customary in many churches to stand to receive Holy Communion. Sitting and standing seem the norms now for worship, in spite of all the beautifully embroidered kneelers that many churches boast. But open the *Book of Common Prayer*, and there is a multitude of rubrics on kneeling, whenever people gather for services. It is a posture that takes us back to those vivid images of Jesus praying on His knees in St Luke's Gospel, Peter kneeling to pray in Lydda, and the people kneeling on the beach with Paul in Acts 21.

The Psalmist invites us to kneel before the Lord our Maker, and Paul wrote to the Philippians, 'At the name of Jesus every knee should bend.' As we kneel at the Jacobean railings of St Nicholas, Compton or in our own churches, we are heirs to that tradition.

Cranmer in the Prayer Book said that kneeling was a sign of gratitude for benefits received. But it is more than that. Buildings like Compton church bring us to our knees quite naturally as we gaze and wonder at the beauty and majesty of the building. Kneeling is a sign of reverence and adoration of the God who inspired such architecture of old and who feeds us now in the sacraments.

Michael Burgess

Present

For the elderly minister's 75th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. He was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, saying: 'Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit.'

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



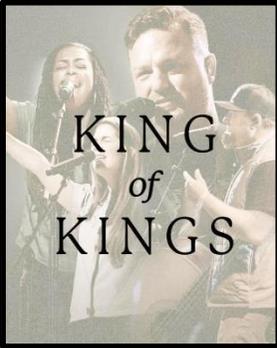
*My dearest Lord,
be thou a bright flame before me,
be thou a guiding star above me,
be thou a smooth path beneath me,
be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
today and for evermore. Amen*

March 2026

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

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

Worship Songs and their Stories



King Of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting
 Without hope, without light
 'Til from Heaven You came running
 There was mercy in Your eyes
 To fulfil the law and prophets
 To a virgin came the word
 From a throne of endless glory
 To a cradle in the dirt

***Praise the Father, praise the Son
 Praise the Spirit, three in one
 God of glory, Majesty
 Praise forever to the King of Kings***

To reveal the kingdom coming
 And to reconcile the lost
 To redeem the whole creation
 You did not despise the cross
 For even in your suffering
 You saw to the other side
 Knowing this was our salvation
 Jesus for our sake you died

(Chorus)

And the morning that You rose
 All of Heaven held its breath
 'Til that stone was moved for good
 For the Lamb had conquered death
 And the dead rose from their tombs
 And the angels stood in awe
 For the souls of all who'd come
 To the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born
 Then the Spirit lit the flame
 Now this gospel truth of old
 Shall not kneel, shall not faint
 By His blood and in His name
 In His freedom I am free
 For the love of Jesus Christ
 Who has resurrected me

(Chorus)

Praise forever to the King of Kings

There are some songs you hear and instantly love. It might be the catchy tune or perhaps the lyrics resonate with you. Often it is a combination of both. This recently happened to me when I heard the song, 'King of Kings'. I loved it as soon as I heard it. I love it both for its beautiful melody and its rich, Christ-centred lyrics. We have been singing it at church for the last month or so and the feedback is unanimous; the song is well loved.

The writers of the song were excited that the melody lent itself to pack a lot of words into each verse. With this in view one of the writers said they aimed to "...teach something, let's impart theology, let's remember what we believe and why we believe it. Let's sing scripture." And what a lyrically and scripturally rich song it is!

'King of Kings' draws inspiration from Luke and Acts; the writers of the song intend to tell a story of "God's intervention in history through the coming of Jesus. It's a song that tells the story of our salvation, that tells the story of the church and our future hope of our soon coming king."

The final verse in the song is probably my favourite part. I love this verse because the song moves from history through to Pentecost and the start of the church and then, at the end of verse four, to the present day. This is the point of the song where we locate ourselves. The gospel is an announcement of what happened 2,000 years in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, but it is also an announcement with ongoing power in our lives and in our world, and we are in the thick of it!

(Written by Emma)

Services March/April 2026

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)
8 th 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)
15 th 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)
22nd March (Lent 5)	11am	St Mary's Joint Confirmation Service with Holy Communion (CW) & Faith Lunch
29 th March (Palm Sunday)	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)
5 th April (Easter Day)	6.30am	Kirk Christ Dawn Service
	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
12 th April (Easter 2)	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 Evening Prayer (BCP)
19 th April (Easter 3)	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 Holy Communion (BCP)
26th April (Easter 4)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)

(Services correct at time of Publication)

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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.

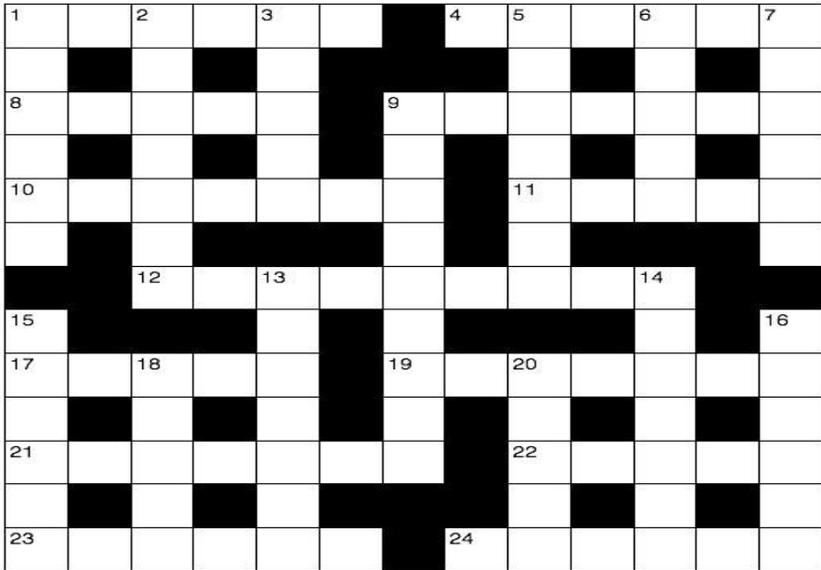
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Please contact Mr Harry Dawson: 478050/835770
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Crossword March 2026



Across

- 1** Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4** Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8** ““They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!”” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9** Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10** Jewish (7)
- 11** Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12** ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17** Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19** ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21** ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22** Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23** ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24** Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

- 1** Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2** ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3** Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5** ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6** ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7** Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9** ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13** One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14** Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15** Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16** One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18** Donkeys (5)
- 20** Raked (anag.) (5)