



April
2026

Rushen Parish Magazine



Contact Details for Rushen Parish

Vicar:

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

Readers:

Mrs Wendy Heaton
Mr Harry Dawson

Active Clergy

Rev Roger Harper
Rev John Gulland
Rev Ginny Viner

Family/Youth Worker

Natalie Heaton rushenparishyouth@gmail.com

Church Wardens:

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

PCC Secretary:

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

PCC Treasurer:

Mr Stephen Curtis, Clybane Cottage, Phildraw Road, 823475
Ballasalla

Parish Safeguarding Officer for Children and Vulnerable People:

Rhiannon Manning rushenparishorg@gmail.com 832275



From the Editor

On page 8 you will see a photograph of a sunflower which is entitled 'Prayer Activity'. This was for an exercise in which, everyone who attended the Mothering Sunday Service at St Mary's Church, was invited to take part. On entering the church each person was given a yellow petal-shaped piece of paper and a pen which we were told were to be used at the time of prayer. At this point in the service we were asked to write on the petal the name of someone, or a prayer of thanksgiving, for someone who has affected our lives on our faith journey. When the petals were collected by the children they were mounted on to a board on which a disc floret in the centre had already been painted. The result is shown in the photograph that I referred to earlier.

My mind was drawn to the many people who have played a part in my life and without whom I might not be the person I am today, and could have written a prayer of thanks for each one of them. However I chose the name of someone who I think is still alive, and probably lives miles away from the Isle of Man. His name is Richard Bessant, and he is someone I would love to see again before I'm taken into God's loving arms.

Richard, a pupil at my school, was our foster child. His mother had died of cancer one Christmas Eve when he was nine years of age, and his father worked for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and had to be deployed away from home for six months, returning for three, and then having to be away again for another six months, and so on. His father had come to see me and had asked if I knew of anyone who would be willing to foster Richard for the times that he was away. He didn't want to ask for assistance from social services. I hadn't an answer for him but when I explained the dilemma to Pauline her response was that we should foster him.

Of course social services had to be involved if only to be sure that Pauline and I were not on a police data base, that our home was adequate enough for Richard to live in, and that our three sons were happy with the arrangement. The case worker was very happy to report that all three criteria had been met, and that Richard's father was happy for the private fostering agreement to go ahead.

The first few years were extremely happy. Richard's education blossomed and he was awarded a place in a Kent grammar school. Pauline and I treated him as one of our sons, and they were happy to accept him into the family. We even took him by car to the Costa del Sol for four weeks with our youngest son, and he had a fabulous time. He wanted for nothing, we bought his clothes, fed him, and loved him, all of which he, and his father, appreciated.

By the time he was 15 he began to misbehave. He had met up with a bad crowd of youths which was his downfall. He would stay out all night, truanted from school, started to smoke, treated us all abominably, was meeting up with girls and, we suspected was quite promiscuous, using drugs, and was involved in petty crime. Of course we were heart-broken because this lovely boy that we had taken into our family should behave so badly. Of course his father was told about all of this and as he was able to take early retirement came home and took Richard under his wing.

That was the last time we saw Richard. However, some years later he wrote to us. His letter was full of regret and apologies for his behaviour, how we were a wonderful family, and how he abused our kindness in welcoming him to it. It was a heart-warming letter. I still have it and one member of our church family has read it. So on my petal I wrote Richard's name because I want to put my arms around him and thank him for his wonderful letter. I loved him when he came into our family and I love him now. My story is similar to the resurrection of Jesus, where a person was put to death through the jealousy of others, and rose again. I want Richard to return so that I can love him as I always have.

A Very Happy Easter
David



Could stained glass have a role in modern-day mission?

Millions of people visit cathedrals and historic churches in the UK and around the world every year. St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey are among London's most popular tourist attractions.

In many English cities, it's the cathedral that tops the TripAdvisor list for ratings and reviews. Local churches that remain open through the week often find visitors drawn to them – to look around, pray, reflect, or simply pause amid busy lives.

When the Bible Society's Quiet Revival report was published last year, the headlines rightly focussed on the numbers of young people being drawn to church.

But, within the report's pages was another, perhaps surprising, finding. It was that one of the top three places for people with no religion, or non-practising Christians to encounter the Bible was while sightseeing in a cathedral or church.

This underlines the importance of churches making available good, printed material and displays explaining the Christian gospel.

Yet it also may show the importance of a form of Christian communication that many modern-day evangelists may have ignored. The enduring appeal of stained glass.

Historian Janet Gough has recently produced 'Divine Light,' a survey of some of the best stained glass in England's cathedrals. She explained, "The stained-glass windows of England's cathedrals illuminate interior spaces, communicate religious, historical and political messages, and perhaps offer us a glimpse of heaven."

Earlier examples of stained glass often depicted biblical scenes, illustrating scripture for those unable to read the accounts themselves.

In today's society, dominated as it is by the visual image – from Instagram to YouTube, TikTok and Facebook – these colourful windows could help introduce contemporary people to Bible narratives and gospel truths.

There is much biblical truth to be found in stained glass windows for those who look with an inquiring mind. In many cases, some knowledge of scripture may help decipher the stories being told. In others, the viewer is invited into an encounter with the divine: to look in awe and wonder at the artistry, and to feel an emotional – perhaps spiritual – response to what they see.

In our supremely visual age, these works of art – both ancient and modern – can capture the attention and imagination of the millions who are drawn to our cathedrals and historic churches.

Revd Peter Crumpler



Women's Fellowship

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

As anticipated, March is proving to be a busy month, full of enjoyable and worthwhile events in which we have been pleased to be involved. The fine Mariner's Service was followed two days later by our fundraising Afternoon Tea in aid of The Leprosy Mission, at which we were able to hear an excellent talk from the new manager for the North East, Kathryn Lamport. We are

delighted to have been able to donate £500 to further the wonderful work of this charity, and wish to thank everyone for their generous support.

We enjoyed making up 40 bunches of daffodils and greenery for the ladies of St Mary's congregation and it was lovely to have the Sunday School children distribute them the following day at the All-Age service for Mothering Sunday.

Bishop Tricia, together with Joe, will be taking the Joint Service at St Mary's church on 22nd March, at which 10 adults and young people will be confirmed. Thereafter, we shall all enjoy a faith lunch together in the hall, and as always, we shall warmly welcome everyone and be grateful for food brought to share.

Our little group of ladies prays at each meeting for those we know whose health is concerning, and we extend these prayers and good wishes to anyone for whom health issues have recently been demanding.

Pat Thomson

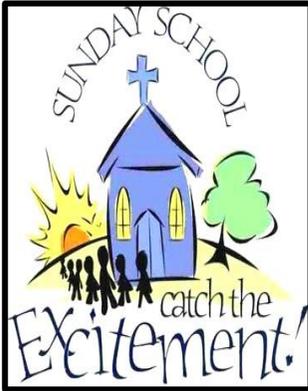
Peaceful mind in Eastertide

Easter is a time of rejoicing over what Christ has done for us. The following may be helpful.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. - 1 John 4:9

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. - Romans 5:6-8

But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you. - Romans 8:10,11



St Mary's Sunday School Report

Following our Half Term break, we met again at the beginning of March to think about Lent, a time of reflection, when we remember Jesus' time in the wilderness and we prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter. As well as perhaps giving up treats during Lent, we thought about what we could 'take up' during this time, eg reading/watching Bible stories, praying more, helping others, or saving a bit of money for a charity.

We watched a short video about Jesus being tempted in the wilderness and talked about how Jesus used 'God's Word' to overcome all three temptations. This led us to think about our own temptations, eg to tell a lie, to take something that isn't ours, to cheat in a game etc., and that remembering the Word of God (especially the 10 Commandments) can help us choose what is right in those situations. We had fun making our own 'shields of faith' and using them to fight off any (plastic ball) temptations that were coming our way! Each child received a tube of Smarties to enjoy the sweets and then decorate the tube and try to fill it with some money for a charity (probably Rebecca House) in the next few weeks.

The following Sunday we started to prepare for our Mothering Sunday all-age service. We learnt how God kept baby Moses safe from the Egyptian soldiers with the help of his mother, his sister and Pharaoh's daughter, because God had a very important plan for Moses to later lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. We enjoyed dressing up and acting out the story, including baby Brian in the lead role as baby Moses! We also practised our song and made colourful 3D paper flower cards for mums and grandmas.

Our joyful Mothering Sunday service was led by our vicar Joe. The Sunday School did a brilliant dramatisation of the 'Moses in the bulrushes' story (Exodus 2:1-10) and led the congregation in singing a 'Thankyou song' to God for all who care for us, who love us and guide us. Thomas read the epistle (2 Corinthians 1: 3-7) and the short gospel passage (Luke 2: 33-35). Joe started his talk by asking if anyone had done anything special for their mums today, with answers ranging from giving cards, flowers and presents to making breakfast in bed, and even sending mum on a 2-week holiday in the Mediterranean! Joe pointed out that while it was right to have a day of celebration and thanksgiving for our mums, grandmas, godmothers and others who care for us, motherhood/parenthood was not always plain sailing and came with many sleepless nights, worries and challenges.

Taking the example of Moses' mother, Joe asked us to imagine how hard it must have been for her to give up her 3-month-old baby boy, not knowing if she would ever see him again. Nevertheless, she trusted God to take care of him, and under the watchful eye of his sister Miriam, God made a way for Moses to be found by the princess and to be returned to his own mother to nurse him! Amazing! Referring to the epistle, Joe emphasised how God comforts us like a mother in all our troubles, so that we can in turn comfort others in their troubles. This is how the Christian church family should be caring for each other and for those in our communities who are in need of love and comfort. Our kind words and loving actions can echo the love of Jesus to those around us.

Natalie then led us in a prayer activity, encouraging everyone to write on a yellow flower petal a name or prayer of thanksgiving for someone who has helped them in their life or on their....



Mothers' Union Trip to London 97 years ago (Part 3)

.....we felt quite brave and clever. We came to another crossing that was not so easy and we managed to get half way across, when somehow or other the policeman on point duty was in the middle of us. He must have thought where on earth these had these women come from. Somebody shouted. 'We're from the Isle of Man.' and the policeman replied, 'more likely the Isle of Women!' He stopped the traffic and took us over to the other side, he had quite a good laugh, as well as we did. I do not think that those that saw Mrs Harrison on point duty will ever forget the sight. Eventually we arrived at the pictures, but there was no room for 44 of us, so we marched off once again. Our guide was not discouraged and said that we would go to St Martin's Crypt.

We arrived there and introduced ourselves to the matron and the sisters on night duty. My word, we had a very interesting hour as she showed us all over the place. It was called 'The Ever Open Door', and it was for the down and outs that had no money. They go there because it is a night shelter, no questions were asked, the only thing is they mustn't have any money. The shelter could take about 40 women and about 60 men, and they started coming in around 10pm until 12 midnight. The beds were just like shelves, one over the other, and the centre and around the sides of the room were just bare boards. No bedding was allowed as it would have to be stored, so they just laid on the bare boards and had a coat thrown over them. The matron told us that they slept like tops and were glad of the shelter. She also said that they were very thankful for any clothes that may be sent for these poor forsaken people. They go out in the morning and look for work, but more often than not, they come back at night unsuccessful, despondent and broken-hearted. It made one feel what a lot we have to be thankful for. We had a most interesting time and we tried to thank the matron for her kindness by leaving a little behind to carry on the good work. The matron and the sister's faces showed true compassion, so kind and yet so firm. It was obvious that they loved their work. They deserved great blessings for their interest in these poor downcast people.

Next we went to a café for supper. There was no room on the first floor, so Mrs Harrison marched us all up in the lift to the floor above. There was no room for 44 women here either, so we marched back to the lift and went down to the basement, and there we could get tea, coffee or whatever we wanted while the band played. There was plenty of life here especially as the cafés were open throughout the night. We got back to the hotel at about 11pm, tired but happy. No use going to bed, so we just sat talking until about an hour after midnight, then laid down to rest, and with broken intervals we got a little sleep.

Thursday morning started off once more, at about half past nine. We were to go through some of London's interesting places.....

To be continued in the May edition of Rushen Parish Magazine



News from Kirk Christ and St Catherine's



Kirk Christ

The Mariner's Service was quite well supported again this year. I would like to say a big thankyou to those of you who came to it. Thanks too for our Vicar Joe who led the worship, and Jill Collings, our organist who led the service's hymns and music. She also went on to play the hymns for the community singing during the second part of the evening. Once again it was an evening of fellowship for us all.

St Catherine's

St Catherine's spring concerts commenced on 12th March when we were entertained by Rushen Silver Band. There are two more Spring Concerts to follow in April and May. Details of these can be found on page 17. The Summer Concerts will follow commencing in early July and continuing to mid-September.

Gerry Callister

Continued from Page 6

.....faith journey. The children collected all the petals and stuck them together to make a big beautiful sunflower! The Sunday School concluded the activity with some prayers of thanksgiving before distributing beautiful daffodil posies, which had been lovingly prepared by the ladies from St Mary's. Many thanks to all who contributed to this uplifting service, especially to the young people who read, sang and acted so well, to Mike Porter for playing the organ, and to those providing refreshments for us all afterwards.

We are now looking forward to our Confirmation Service with Bishop Tricia, which will be followed by a faith lunch, as well as to Palm Sunday and to celebrating Easter together with the congregation at St Mary's, followed by our annual Easter egg hunt.

Wishing you all a very blessed and joyful Easter! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With love and Blessings

Claudia



Prayer Activity



Mothering Sunday Posie Girls

Sudoku April 2026

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

Jesus' granny

The little boy came home from his first day at Sunday School and casually told his mother that his Sunday school teacher was Jesus' granny. Astonished, his mother asked: "Whatever makes you think that?"

"Well, it's pretty obvious," said her son. "She never stopped talking about Him all morning. She told us Jesus is smarter and stronger and better-behaved than anyone else she knows. She even showed us a picture of Him."

Sudoku Solution Mar.2026

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

Crossword Solution Mar.2026

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



Reflected Faith Series: 'Same Old, Same Old'

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

Last time I wrote I suggested you listened carefully to your own internal thoughts and feelings before and after listening to a sermon – be it in church live or on a video or broadcast.

Well, here we are at Easter – and guess what the sermon subject is likely to be? Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

In so many ways it really could be 'same old, same old' and the preacher could just repeat last year's sermon. Let's face it, nothing will have changed in the Easter story in the last 12 months.

Or has it? For me, and I suspect for most folks, 12 months can be a 'long' time; and things change in our lives. Babies are born, youngsters change school, teenagers leave school, young people move out, friends die, accidents happen, and pains and sorrows come and go.

Around all of that personal business the world turns: there are holidays, seasons, catastrophes, people hurting people, people caring for others and on and on it goes. Things might repeat but they are never truly 'the same'.

So it is with the Easter story. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed! Really? In the midst of my life and the world around me? In the centre of your life and your community?

Is it any less amazing today than it was last year, or the year before, or a decade previously or when the women went to the tomb that first Resurrection Day?

In so many ways I need to hear this story again – but anew. New, not just because the preacher will (hopefully) have made it register with what's happening around my small community today and new because I am not the same person I was a year ago – for better or worse!

I shall hear those words differently this year than ever before. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

This month

Before you listen to this year's Easter Sermon, think about the changes you've had in your life since last year and the world around us. How much more do you need a living Christ today? May you say in your depths, with me: *Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!*

God in the Sciences



*Editor: **Dr Ruth Bancewicz**, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

The Beauty of Good Friday

Some of the most beautiful things in the world have an ugly side. What about the emperor penguin chick, nestling in a feathery pouch above its parent's feet? There's a lovely gaping beak of their fuzz-ball offspring. Heads bent together, making a heart shape in the air, we can't help seeing a reflection of our own ideals of love in the pair.

But the reality of what those birds are going through is even more gruelling than human parenthood. Father penguin has spent all winter sheltering the egg from freezing hurricane-force winds, while mother penguin was feeding at sea. When the chick hatched its parents started an exhausting game of tag, taking it in turns to walk across the ice and risk being eaten by leopard seals or killer whales, in order to catch fish for their new offspring.

The living world is truly wonderful in so many ways, but the darker side of the picture is never far away. Creation is groaning (Romans 8:22), and just waiting to be rescued. Enter Jesus, through whom all of Creation was made. The king of the universe came to live with us, bringing His great love and wisdom to the human population of first-century Israel. The Creator was relating to His creation in a very personal way, and this could have been a totally beautiful picture.

But there is a horrifically ugly side of Jesus' story that threatens to obscure the beauty of what He did on Good Friday. It was a brutal and terrifying day when human sinfulness resulted in the Son of God being executed by His enemies, but thankfully there was much more to it than that. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ set off a seismic wave of spiritual events whose effects are still rippling out across the world.

So that ugly day over 2,000 years ago is called 'good' because of what it achieved. Those who follow Jesus find their lives are changed for the better, even if their day-to-day existence may still be incredibly tough. When people come to understand what Creation is for and who it belongs to, they can begin to serve and preserve the earth as they should. These things are only whispers of what is to come, but they give me hope for the future redemption of all Creation. I can choose to dwell on the beauty of Jesus' death because it was not the end of the story – the future beckons.

This article is extracted (with permission) from 'New Life: Reflections for Lent', edited by Amy Robinson and Wendy H Jones (£7.99).

Body on the Beach?



Having recently moved into a flat, after having lived in houses with gardens, or surrounded by fields, forests and mountains, we now live in a very nice flat overlooking Chapel Bay.

We have a beautiful view of the sea, which seems to go on and on into the horizon. Sometimes the sea is so calm with not even a ripple, and sometimes it has waves as high as buildings which lash on to our little bay and is so tempestuous that you wonder there isn't more debris left on the beach.

The recent storms which have just swept through, and pounded our coastline and beaches, did bring an unusual amount of seaweed, and scoured away our sand to leave a somewhat lumpy looking beach. Dogs must be fed up with getting their stomachs wet whilst searching for their balls!

From my window the view keeps changing with the tides that move the seaweed from one side of the beach to the other, or takes it out to sea in big islands, with the seagulls itinerant on it, and bringing it back in clumps and leaving it in picturesque shapes.

Such was the beach one day that the seaweed was profuse and painted with God's artistry, a sight worth looking at from my window. But!..... What is that I see? Is it a big rock, the corner of some sea wall brought all the way from Douglas, and perhaps left there in the sand like some huge trip hazard? Huge, and certainly not part of the seaweed islands that get washed in with the tide! Is it some large tree stump that's been rolled around the stormy seas, eventually coming to rest in the safety of our lovely bay? But wait, the small mound next to the large one moves, something attached may be?

But it could be a body, someone washed overboard? But the sea is calm so it couldn't be a body- could it? So I called my husband who gets out the binoculars. He's the one who knows about these things. He said, "I'd best get down there and investigate, Looks like a body to me!"

Ten minutes later he set off at high speed to solve the case! Suddenly the corpse came to life, shook out a towel, woke up the dog, packed the beach bag, and walked towards the promenade.

My husband greeted the lady to check that she was okay, only to be told that she was just taking photos and everything was fine.

Think we need to go to spec-savers!!!!

Inger Perkins

Snowdrops



Written by **Sylvia Lynch** wildlife artist/illustrator

A friend once gave me some snowdrops and later, she bought me daffodils. She said she much preferred snowdrops because they flower first. So I asked her which she'd rather be, a snowdrop or a daffodil? I know it was a strange question, but this question got me thinking, so I did some research. I had it in my mind that, just as the oak and the ash trees have different requirements before coming into leaf; the oak being temperature sensitive, whilst the ash is determined by the time of year; so it would be with daffodils and snowdrops.

I was right up to a point; because, like the oak, daffodils wait for the conditions to be perfect before they flower, but snowdrops flower regardless of the conditions. But, scientists have discovered that snowdrops are flowering earlier each year, indicating not only climate change, but that the snowdrop is also determined by the conditions; up to a point. However, the humble snowdrop still does its 'wonderful thing' early, lifting our spirits and bringing us hope when winter is still upon us; and it does this despite the snow and ice!

So which would you rather be? A flower that has to have everything just right, or are you bold enough to get 'on with it' during hard times and bad?

Coming back to my research, I discovered this wonderful fact, that not only is the snowdrop bulb expensive and sometimes valuable, but it also divides and multiplies during dormant times! - How poignant.

As Christian's, it is tempting for us to be discouraged when we see little evidence of spiritual growth in our lives. But we need to perhaps dig below the surface and realise that during our hard times, there can indeed be growth and multiplication. In fact, the snowdrop flower is formed in the bulb the previous March and waits nearly a whole year before pushing through!

My final thought is this - snowdrops contain their own anti-freeze and during the First World War they were harvested to make anti-freeze for tanks! So isn't it preferable to be like this hardy flower with its gentle beauty, resilience and determination? Rather than a flower that has to have everything just so. The humble snowdrop, despite the conditions, can grow, blossom and flourish, and be a blessing to others along the way.

Galatians 6:9,10 ESV

.....And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Article supplied by Petrina Kent

All in the month of April



125 years ago, on 3rd April 1901, Richard D'Oyly Carte, theatrical impresario, died. He built the Savoy Theatre and the Palace Theatre in London, managed some of the most important theatrical stars of the era, and founded a touring opera company.

100 years ago, on 6th April 1926, the Revd Ian Paisley, Northern Irish politician and Protestant evangelical minister was born. **Also on 21st April 1926**, Queen Elizabeth II was born.

90 years ago, on 23rd April 1936, Roy Orbison, American singer, songwriter and musician was born. Best known for *Oh, Pretty Woman*, *Crying*, *Only the Lonely*, and many more.

75 years ago, on 2nd April 1951, General Dwight D Eisenhower (later US President) became NATO's first Supreme Allied Commander. He assumed command of all Allied forces in the Western Mediterranean and Europe. **Also on 17th April 1951**, the Peak District National Park was established. It was Britain's first National Park.

70 years ago, on 18th April 1956, American film actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier III of Monaco and became Princess Grace of Monaco.

65 years ago, on 10th April 1961, South African golfer Gary Player became the first non-American to win the Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia.

50 years ago, on 3rd April 1976, the UK won the 1976 Eurovision Song Contest with *Save Your Kisses for Me* by Brotherhood of Man.

40 years ago, on 26th April 1986, the Chernobyl disaster took place in Ukraine, then within the Soviet Union. It was the world's worst nuclear power plant accident, killing 31 people outright, and leaking radiation across the western Soviet Union and Europe.

30 years ago, on 1st April 1996, during the BSE ('mad cow disease') outbreak, the government announced that it would begin slaughtering all cattle over the age of 30 months to eradicate the disease. In the end, 80,000 cattle were slaughtered.

25 years ago, on 7th April 2001, NASA launched its Mars Odyssey spacecraft to search for evidence of water and volcanic activity on Mars. It found water and ice below the surface.

15 years ago, on 29th April 2011, Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton were married at Westminster Abbey in London. They were given the titles Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

10 years ago, on 20th April 2016, Victoria Wood, comedian, actress, singer and songwriter died.



When you mix children and religion...

Editor - You get some unexpected gems. The following are extracts from religious exam papers...

In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark because Noah built an ark. The animals came on in pears.

The Jews are a proud people and throughout history they've had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.

Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.

The Seventh Commandment is: Thou shalt not admit adultery.

Moses died before he ever reached Canada.

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.

It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

The people who followed the Lord were called the twelve decibels.

St Paul cavorted to Christianity down the Damascus Road. There he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

Dawn chorus

If you sleep with your bedroom window open, you will know all about the dawn chorus around now. The birds are busy establishing their territorial rights, and the 'early birds' have probably already selected a nest site and started building.

The blackbird builds a solid cup of twigs, plant stems and leaves, lined with a thick skin of mud covered with finer grasses and leaves. The long-tailed tit forms a soft hollow ball of mosses, hair and wool, with a tiny hole as entrance. The wrens do it differently, with the male wren sometimes building several nests before his finicky mate will accept one. He gets his revenge, though, because he sometimes installs a second wife in one of the rejected sites.

Rushen Branch - Mothers' Union Report



We were delighted to welcome Judith Ley as our speaker this month. She not only presents At Your Service on Manx radio every Sunday as well as various other podcasts but Judith is also an active member of Mothers' Union and an excellent speaker. She is a very perceptive observer and loves to interview and generally talk to people.

She kept us enthralled with amusing tales of her experiences travelling across, from her views on airport security to her visit to York Minster and I'm sure many of us have returned to our childhood home at some stage only to discover that it had inexplicably shrunk!

We all had a wonderfully entertaining afternoon at St Mary's Church, thank you to all those who came and special thanks must go to Iris for providing the music and planning our hymns and Sue for organising our tea with lovely biscuits.

I attended the spring Council and AGM of Mothers' Union. The President's report highlighted all the activities that MU have all been involved with in the past year. Rushen branch was highlighted and thanked for hosting the very successful jewellery sale and the Rise Up event involving the police and Victim Support, and for supporting the MU tent at the Southern Show and helping with the catering for the funeral of Andrew Hillas, who was MU Patron.

Looking forward, we are in the 150th Anniversary year. A service at St Pauls on 10th June at 5pm will be live streamed, more details will follow.

Dates for Diaries

Sunday 19th April York Province Baton will arrive on the island. There are plans for this to travel around the island so that photos can be taken and used in an anniversary calendar. I'll pass on details when I have them.

Tuesday 21st April 2pm Festival Service, when a prayer will be added to the Baton. This will be at Braddan Church as they have 150-year anniversary too.

Tuesday 23rd June Quiet Evening venue tbc

Monday 6th July Tynwald Day – volunteers needed for MU tent

25/26th July Southern Agricultural Show – volunteers needed for the MU tent

7/8th August Royal Manx Show – volunteers needed for the MU tent.

If you can volunteer for any of the tents please let me know.

Lesley Scott

My New Car

My old car was a little tired;
It failed its MOT!
So then it was I felt inspired
To go PHEV.

It is a good car – nice to run
And helpful as can be!
But now my troubles have begun –
It’s cleverer than me!

I used to press a button once
For music on CD
But now – I must be such a dunce –
I can’t find BBC!

I got it playing from my phone
By Bluetooth link maybe?
But then what truly made me moan –
I spoke – it misheard me!

It turned my lovely music off
And played some awful sound;
I tried to speak, I tried to cough
But no way back I found!

So if you want to buy a car
To get from A to B,
Don’t forget you first require
A technical degree!

Nigel Beeton

Safeguarding

The Parish of Rushen is committed to the safeguarding, nurture and care of **everyone** within our church community. If you, or someone you know, are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk or has been harmed, or are concerned about the behaviour of someone towards children or vulnerable adults, please contact: **Rushen Parish Safeguarding Officer, Rhiannon Manning** Tel. 832275, Email psorushen@sodorandman.im. The **Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser** has now been appointed. For more details contact the diocese. A copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy is available on the Diocesan website:

http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion

The Parish of Rushen Spring Concerts 2026 St. Catherine’s Church, Port Erin

March 12 Rushen Silver Band
Concert commences at 7.30pm

April 16 Meadowside Choral Society
Concert commences at 7.30pm

May 14 Manx Children’s Choir and
Scoill Phurt Le Mairrey
Concert commences at **7.00pm**

RETIRING COLLECTION

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING CONCERTS



A glimpse into the future?

Children's Page April

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

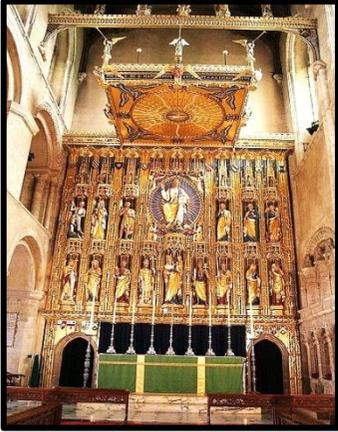
ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR

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.

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

God in the Arts



Editor: Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? The Rev Michael Burgess continues his procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the screen at the east end. Of course none of our four churches have a screen at the east end, but some of you will be going across to the UK in the next few months and undoubtedly will visit churches with screens. This article will provide a brief overview of one of them:

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – the Screen at the east end

“I am the light of the world,” our Lord says in St John’s Gospel. He is the One who can bring sight and insight to those born blind, and vision to those who feel they live in a world of darkness. In Him is the glory of God and life for all people. That radiant glory greets those who visit Wymondham Abbey in Norfolk and look down the main aisle to see the wondrous screen at the east end depicting Christ in majesty surrounded by our Lady and the saints.

Ironically, the history of the Abbey in the Middle Ages was one of darkness and conflict, where disagreement severed the harmony of monks and townspeople. The Abbey was dissolved in the 16th century, but then restored to its former glory in the early 20th century. Ninian Comper began working on the screen in 1922, and it was completed in 1934.

In front of the screen is a large altar with a crucifix and six tall, stately candlesticks. Their lights are signs of Jesus the Light proclaimed by the dazzling central figure on the screen behind. Originally candlesticks would have stood on the ground before the altar, or lamps were hung above. In the 14th century candles were placed on the altar.

Aesthetic judgement will vary from person to person, and some may find tall candlesticks like these obtrusive, detracting from the sacrament of the altar. Whatever their size, when lit they announce that Jesus is the true light, who welcomes everyone to find nourishment and guidance for life’s pilgrimage in communion at that table. Here at Wymondham Abbey I think the pilgrim visitor will find that the beauty and grace of these altar furnishings complement the great mystery of divine light celebrated in Ninian Comper’s masterpiece.

Rev Michael Burgess

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

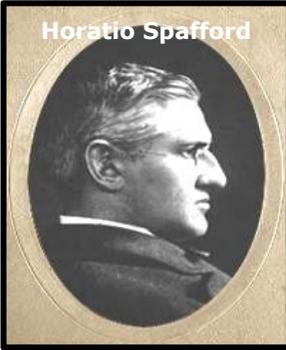
Dear Lord, we thank you for the seasons and the changing weather we experience in each one of them. We look forward to the warmer weather now that April is here, for the spring flowers and the changing countryside that you have created for us to enjoy. Help us to realise that without you none of these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

April 2026

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

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

Worship Songs and their Stories



It is well with my soul

When peace like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well
With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials
should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul
It is well (it is well)

With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

The lyrics to this uplifting hymn, ironically, arose from a series of tragedies suffered in the 1800s by Horatio Spafford, a wealthy Chicago-based businessman and attorney. First, in 1871, the great Chicago fire destroyed most of Spafford's real estate investments, leading Spafford to lose his life savings.

Two years later in 1873, Spafford, his wife, and their four daughters booked passage on an ocean liner sailing to Europe. Spafford had a last-minute change of plans due to business matters and never boarded the ship. While at sea, the ship was struck by another vessel and sank. Spafford's wife survived, but all four of their daughters drowned.

When he received news of the tragedy, Spafford boarded the next available ship to join his grieving wife. During his voyage, the ship's captain identified for Spafford the approximate area where the shipwreck had occurred and his daughters had drowned. The painful events led Spafford to pen a hymn confirming his continued faith in God.

In 1881 and despite their devastating personal loss, Spafford and his wife continued to reflect their devotion to God by moving to Jerusalem to serve the needy and establish hospitals. His incredible faith created this meditation for us all, that no matter what horrible circumstances we face, we can be at peace knowing God is sovereign and his love is constant.

Services April/May 2026

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)
3 rd May (Easter 5)	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)
10 th May (Easter 6)	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)
17 th May (Easter 7)	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)
24th May (Pentecost)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)

Contact Details for Rushen Parish

St Mary's Sunday School Leader:

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

St Mary's Ladies Working Party

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

St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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

Parish Web Site

www.rushenparish.org.uk

Parish E-mail:

rushenparishorg@gmail.com

Magazine Editor

Mr David Bowman, The Old Bakery, Qualtroughs Lane, 837117/260539
Ballafesson, Port Erin e-mail: dbow43@outlook.com

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

Parish Director of Music:

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

Churchyard Enquiries:

Please contact

Mr Harry Dawson: 478050/835770

or Mr G Callister: 474924/834627

Crossword April 2026

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Across

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

Down

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