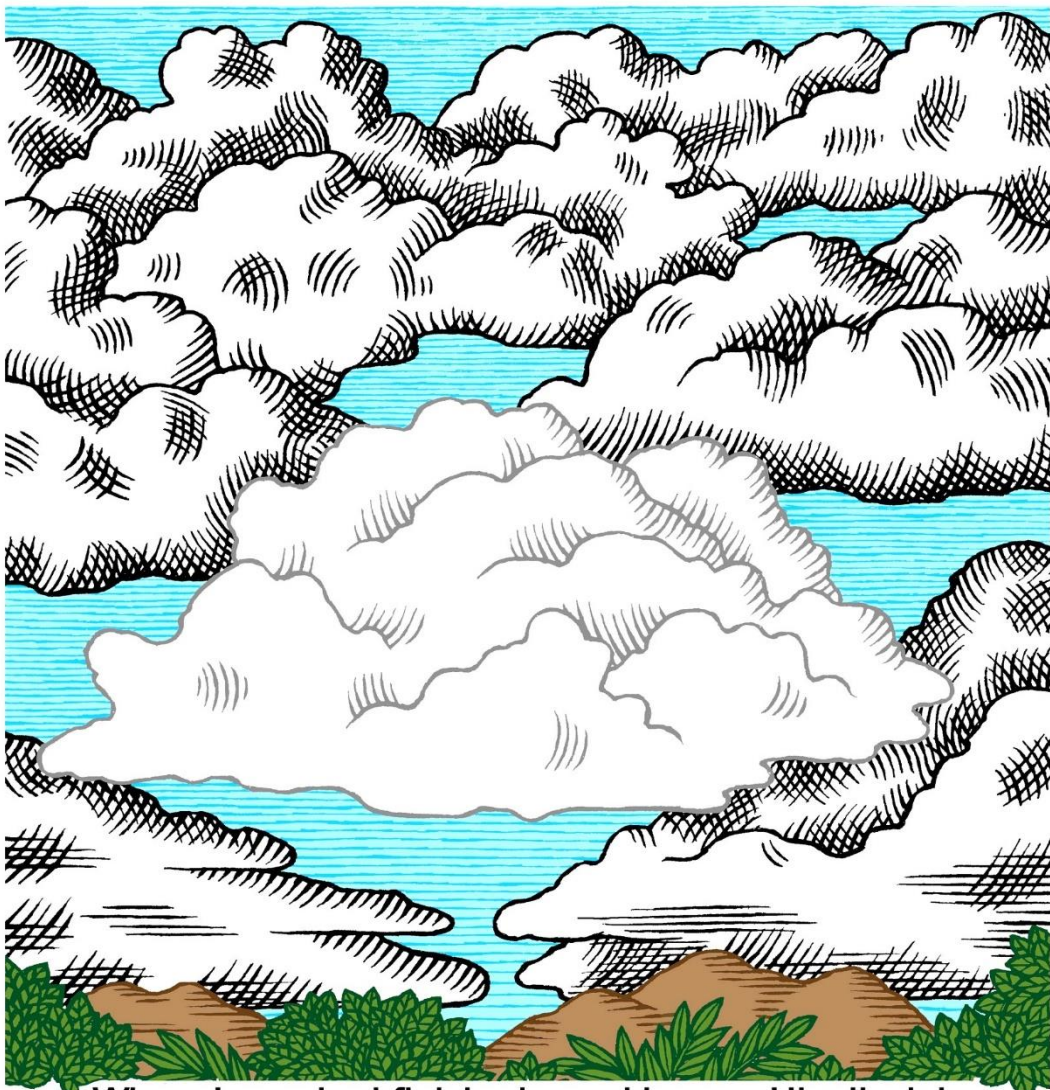


May  
2026

# Rushen Parish Magazine



... When Jesus had finished speaking, as His disciples watched intently, He was taken up into heaven and a cloud hid Him from their sight. Acts 1:7-9

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# From the Editor

As I write this editorial I have countless emotions flooding through my body because tomorrow is the sixth anniversary of the death of my wonderful wife Pauline. It was without doubt the most awful thing that has ever happened to me, although the death of my son Nicholas comes a close second. Tomorrow will be the same for countless others in the world who have lost a loved one on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Most of us will have, or have, faced the death of a loved one at some time in their lives. All of us, who love Jesus with all their heart, have recently been reminded of His death on that bleak Good Friday over 2,000 years ago. We cannot imagine the pain and the suffering that He must have had to go through so that our lives could be saved.

One of the things I always do on this anniversary is to read some, or all, of the poems that Pauline wrote. She was so gifted that her poetry was always poignant and referred to all Christians as they followed their own journey of faith. Sometimes she would write about animals and link their journey through life. Her gift was so precious that some of her poems were used on special occasions, not necessarily near to our home, but usually in a Christian setting. Very often in the evening she would be sitting in the chair next to the window, pencil in hand, and drafting a poem about something she had seen on the television. I'm pretty sure that if she were still alive today she would write about the dreadful state in which the world now finds itself.

Some years ago her poem 'Church Mouse' was entered into a competition held by the Isle of Man Literacy Society. It didn't win a prize, but that wasn't the intention. All she wanted was to spread the Word of Jesus to as many people as she could. My favourite poem that she wrote was entitled, 'Jesus, Light of the World.' It encompassed her love for Jesus, and how we can always rely on Him. I make no excuses for writing it here:

There's a light that has been shining  
since before the world began,  
and it cannot be extinguished  
by bird or beast or man.

It will shine on in the darkness,  
through all eternity.  
A sign of everlasting hope  
for all mankind to see.

Though sometimes we forget it,  
when our days are bright and clear,  
it is waiting in the darkness  
when our days are dark with fear.

It is always there to guide us  
when we seem to lose the way,  
and its rays have been a comfort  
through many a weary day.

This light, it is a gift from God  
to His beloved earth,  
for He knew that we could stray from him  
from the moment of our birth.

So He gave it as a safeguard  
until the battle's won,  
for this light that guards and guides us all,  
is Jesus, His own son.

**God Bless  
David**

## 50 days after Easter



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

Pentecost. The word means '50 days after Easter'. It's the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Acts chapter 2, and it's the birthday of the Church. So far so good; but beyond this, things get a bit hazy for some of us. We are familiar with the idea of God the good Father, and we've heard and read of all that Jesus - God the Son - said and did. But the Holy Spirit? *Who He?!*

The images used of the Holy Spirit in scripture can be a bit of a barrier to understanding. Words like 'spirit' 'wind' 'flame' 'breath' are all a bit elusive, and they possibly leave us with a feeling that in trying to understand the Holy Spirit we're chasing rainbows. But if we dig a little deeper, we can see that these images speak of an unhindered force which can be powerful and yet gentle, cleansing and free.

The Bible is full of images of the Holy Spirit. There is 'dove', as seen on many Christmas cards and in stained glass windows. It's usually white. A white dove image speaks of gentleness and purity, unfettered as it wings its way across the sky.

Then there's the more difficult word 'advocate'. Someone who speaks up for us, comes alongside us, someone to aid us in times of need. We could go on with different images which tell us more of the character of the Holy Spirit, but there are two key things to remember. Firstly, this is the spirit of Jesus. All that Jesus was in earthly form, the Holy Spirit is to us now. Jesus is no longer among us as He was two thousand years ago, but the Holy Spirit makes Him available to us now.

Which brings us to the second point; the Holy Spirit is given by the good Father to us, His children - giving us, as it were, an injection of Jesus' personality, wisdom and holiness, enabling us to serve as Jesus did, enabling us, as Mother Teresa put it, 'to do little things with great love'.

The first Pentecost set the young Church in Jerusalem off on a great adventure which culminated in today's world where one in three people worldwide say they are Christians. It could be a great adventure for us as we ask God, the good Father, to gift us with the Spirit of Jesus. Let's do it!

### **Breakable**

*There was a very gracious lady who was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.*



## Women's Fellowship

### Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

The well attended Confirmation Service on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, led by Bishop Tricia and Joe, was a lovely and very meaningful ceremony, and the faith lunch thereafter in the hall was enjoyed by everyone.

After Lent, it was lovely to see the church so beautifully decorated with flowers. The ladies had met together on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April, with bunches of colourful flowers, which filled the vases on window ledges and decorated the pulpit. As always at Easter, Sally filled the altar vases and arranged her usual beautiful display for the porch.

At the time of writing, our plans for Pentecost on 24<sup>th</sup> May have been discussed but are yet to be finalised. Our heartfelt prayers for those who are ill at home or in hospital at this time are said together at our meetings every week, and we send our love and very best wishes for recovery to them all. We also pray for a safe return to the island for those travelling overseas at this difficult time.

**Pat Thomson**

### The Fire of Pentecost – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026



*"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8*

*We all get tired, and battle weary sometimes. The disciples of Jesus had just been through a three-year long roller coaster adventure with Jesus that had culminated in His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.*

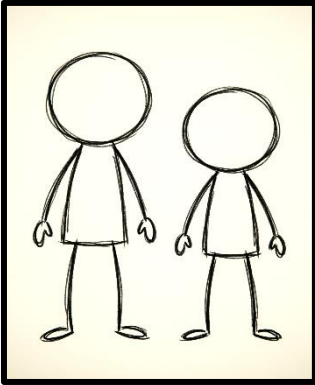
*The range of emotions would have been hugely taxing in the days leading up to Pentecost, as they remembered Jesus weeping in the garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, brutally beaten and crucified, and then dead and buried. Then there had been the shock and awe of finding out that He was alive again! But then He had left them again, to return to His Father. By the time the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples would indeed have welcomed some fresh spiritual fire!*

*Today, many of us have been emotionally drained by the uncertainties of Covid 19, the worry of prices rising at an alarming rate, and now the uncertainty of what will happen in Russia's war in Ukraine.*

*So, what better day to pray for fresh spiritual fire for each of us? As we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church, let us thank God that He will never leave us or forsake us.*

**Parish Pump**

## St Mary's Sunday School Report



Due to the Easter holidays taking up most of April and several families being off-Island (me included), the Sunday School has not actually met since the end of March. However, we made the most of our Palm Sunday session, as we went on a journey through Holy Week from the Palm Sunday celebration via the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday and the crucifixion on Good Friday to the glorious resurrection on Easter Day! We even broke with tradition to fit in our annual Easter egg hunt before most families left.

With the help of 12 'resurrection eggs' (each containing a small item relating to the Easter story) as well as a Bible storybook with illustrations, we enjoyed retelling the events of Holy Week. Some of the children had been learning about the Easter story in great detail in school, and it was wonderful to see how much they had remembered!

We started by celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, waving Manx palm branches and joyfully singing "We have a King who rides a donkey." To help us understand and remember the Last Supper, we learnt what Jesus told His disciples about the bread and the wine on that very special evening, before we shared tortilla bread and blackcurrant juice, with prayers of thanksgiving. We remembered Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, followed by His painful sacrifice for us on the cross on Good Friday... before we rejoiced in the wonderful resurrection on Easter Day! Alleluia! Jesus is alive!

The children also enjoyed doing a variety of Easter craft and eating hot cross buns, before we had our fun indoor Easter egg hunt in the hall (due to the bad weather). All the eggs were found and shared out - a great reminder that Easter brings new life through Jesus!

On Holy Saturday, as the ladies were busy decorating the church with beautiful flowers, Tina and Megan once again helped to create a lovely small Easter Garden. It was wonderful to have such a vibrant display of colours in church for our Easter Sunday service, as well as Peter's painted Easter banner and new 'He is Risen' bunting outside. We had a joyful celebration with a large congregation, including some visitors and family members, which was lovely. And more Easter eggs for everyone!

After a welcome break to enjoy the holidays, we now look forward to meeting again in early May and to celebrate Pentecost together at the end of the month.

**Love and blessings, Claudia**



## Ever thought about wearing a cross as a necklace?

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

“Good morning, sir, madam. You’re interested in a cross and chain I believe? Very wise, sir, if I might say so. So modern, so chic. Never out of fashion. Will you be interested in one with the little man on it, or without?”

*“Let us see both, please.”*

“Very wise sir. Now here we have the traditional model, but with a small diamond in the centre. Let’s people know you’re not without means, just a gentle hint there. Discreet size too, sir, not too pushy if you see what I mean. No?... Okay, what about this one... you look like a sporty-type sir, this one is lightweight, comes in various colours, to blend with your track suit or gym wear....or this one sir..... the ‘Weekend’ model - slightly larger so you can project well, particularly on Sundays, sir..... Or we have this one sir, imported from Jerusalem, so it’s very authentic, made of olive wood, I think there’s a special something about that don’t you sir?... Or here’s our very latest model, just come in, it’s recyclable, so when you get tired of it you can happily recycle it and know it’s not going to landfill. Very ethical sir.

“Now madam, here’s one of our high-end models, which I think madam will like; encrusted with small rubies, very appropriate I’m sure you’ll agree. Again, it gives just that little hint you’re a discerning person, yes? Or this one, it’s in plain gold, but rather larger because it plays ‘There is a green hill far away’ if you touch it, which is very sweet, don’t you think? “

*‘We were looking for something more traditional, plainer.’*

“Well, we can do that sir, if you wish. I just thought that madam might like something more in keeping with the times, if you see what I mean. Right, so two plain cross and chains. I’ll wrap them up right away...”

If you wear a cross and chain, or have a cross as a tattoo, what do you want it to say about you?

What does the cross of Jesus mean to you?

If you were asked *why* you wear a cross, how would you respond? And would it be an easy, or embarrassed response? Talk to God about this.



## **News from St Catherine's and Kirk Christ**



The decorations for Easter at Kirk Christ were beautiful and I must thank all those who were responsible for this. These included those who provided the flowers, those who came to the church on Easter Saturday to give of their time and patience to decorate the church so tastefully. It was a wonderful sight and I'm sure that those of you who attended on Easter morning felt the same. We now look forward to warmer weather and sunshine.

We have already had many visitors to Kirk Christ during this springtime. Many have made comments in the visitor's book, especially about the flowers and how beautiful the church looks with the sun streaming through the windows, in addition to the welcoming daffodils as they walk from the lych gate and along the pathway to the west door.

St Catherine's Church too was beautifully decorated for Easter with spring flowers. Again I must thank everyone who provided the flowers, and gave of their time to decorate the church on Easter Saturday morning. The Spring Concert along with the Rushen Silver Band was enjoyed by many. I have been asked to thank Andy Davies for helping Michal Kewley, along with Marjorie Gale and Rosemary May, for their help at the concert, as I was unable to attend because of having to represent the parish at the Diocesan Synod that evening.

We have had many early season visitors to St Catherine's Church, some of whom have been for their first time. Comments were made about the beauty of the church with its decorations for Easter with flowers decorating the window ledges and throughout the church.

A special thank you for those who attended our Easter Day Communion Service, and it was great to see so many children in church.

**Gerry Callister**

### ***When technology goes wrong***

*The father of a family - who was a big-time techie - got his oldest daughter an iPhone for her birthday. He also got an iPad for his son. Later he bought an iPod for the youngest daughter. Then, when his wedding anniversary rolled around, he got his wife an iRon. That's when things went wrong.*

**Sudoku May 2026**

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

**What the Bible really means....**

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means, Daddy."

His father smiled "Okay. What does the Bible mean?"

"It's easy, Daddy," the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'

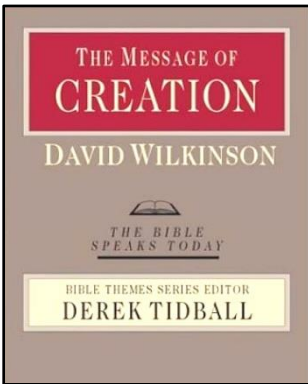
**Sudoku Solution April 2026**

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

**Crossword Solution April 2026**

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

## 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.*

### Humility

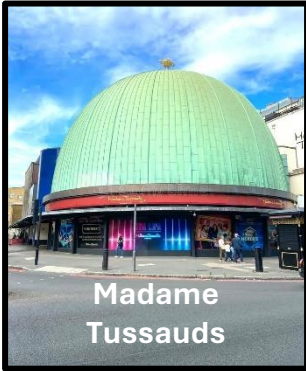
A few years ago, I visited the Smithsonian Museum's Hall of Human Origins. Our guide, the curator of anthropology, was keen to help Christians think about the evidence for human evolution. The fact remained that other species, a bit like us, were around before we came on the scene, or in the case of Neanderthals, at the same time.

Part of the exhibit included lifelike reconstructions of the face and hair of several different hominins, displayed on pillars at the right height for each species. So, I could crouch down to 'meet' *Homo floresiensis* or stand tall to look into the eyes of *Homo heidelbergensis*. Most of these beings? creatures? were on other branches of the evolutionary tree to us, and we share a common ancestor much further back. I did, however, feel as if I was meeting my forebears.

As I walked between the statues I asked myself, "Why us?" There's evidence that Neanderthals used symbolism as we do, and also buried their dead. Did they have the potential to evolve to a point where they could do similar things to us? The curator explained how, as the ice ages came and went, human beings moved around but other species appear to have stayed put and suffered the consequences – they just weren't ready yet for that big change. As I took in the displays about how we began to gather socially around a fire, make music or write, I felt humbled. We managed to adapt, but we could so easily have disappeared with the rest.

In his book shares his view that being made in the image of God has nothing to do with our own cleverness or abilities, but instead it is a gift. God created us on purpose (I believe through the long slow process of evolution) and chose to enter into a relationship with us, making us His representatives on earth.

Thankfully I don't have to figure out how to interact with other human-like hominins today. I do, however, have an equal share in humankind's God-given commission to tend and keep creation. Am I ready to go further than ensuring my own species' survival - not necessarily because we have evolved further than our ice-age ancestors, but because I have one of the 'new hearts' promised in Ezekiel 11:19? Can I work together, in a true spirit of humility, with people from all over the world to ensure the full diversity of life can flourish?



## Mothers' Union Trip to London 97 years ago (Part 4)

.....passing Trafalgar Square, Fleet Street, Piccadilly Circus, Hampton Court, Chelsea Barracks, through Knightsbridge and home to the hotel where dinner was waiting for us, and which we were all ready for. After dinner the gallant 44 once more got together and set off for a ramble. Finally we arrived at Madame Tussauds. This was quite a novelty, we saw more crowned heads than we had ever seen before, and they looked so real that one would think they were smiling at you. All the Members of Parliament were there and many others too.

We quite enjoyed the evening but it passed by quickly. We had supper and at about 11pm we all went to our rooms and started to pack our luggage ready to set off in the morning. Everyone seemed to be laughing and had plenty to talk about, but gradually the noise lessened and by one o'clock all was silent. Next morning we had breakfast at about half past seven, then the busses came to take us to Paddington Station where the train left for Birkenhead at ten minutes past nine.

This ended one of the most enjoyable and wonderful trips to London. We were a most happy party and I am sure that one and all enjoyed it. Our only regret was that some of you were not with us. Many thanks are due to Mrs Chapman for the many comforts we enjoyed. It was an unforgettable trip which we were privileged to have had and to be a part of.

With gratitude to Mrs Moore, Mrs Corrin, Mrs Salter and Mrs King for their help in the writing of this report.

*Editor: I too would like to add that this report is 97 years old, it is somewhat delicate and frail to touch, and some of it may not be exactly as it was written. I have tried to make it as accurate as possible. Should any of the authors still be alive it would be lovely to hear from them. The Rushen Branch of the Mothers' Union is thriving and meets every month except during the summer.*

### **How to get rid of squirrels**

*Three churches in town were overrun with squirrels. After much prayer, the elders of the Baptist church decided that the animals were predestined to be there. Who were they to interfere with God's will? So, they did nothing, and the squirrels multiplied. The elders of the Methodist church, deciding that they should not harm any of God's creatures, humanely trapped the squirrels and then set them free outside of town. Three days later the squirrels were back. It was the Anglican church which succeeded in solving the squirrel problem. The curate baptised the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now, they only see the squirrels on Christmas and Easter.*



## How a dying bishop said farewell to his diocese

The Bishop of Guildford, the Rt Revd Andrew Watson, was diagnosed with aggressive and untreatable cancer of the pancreas on 10<sup>th</sup> February this year.

After he was told that he had less than a month to live, Bishop Andrew wrote a letter to his diocese, to say goodbye and to reassure them. He wrote:

“Only our good Lord knows exactly how long I have left, of course. But the conversation with my doctor – together with a sense that I am getting a little weaker by the day - means that my main focus now is on 'cheerfully persisting towards a good death.'

Yesterday I signed a deed of delegation, handing over the interim leadership of the diocese to our dear Bishop Paul. I'm sorry that it means I will no longer be honouring my existing commitments...

I don't fear the prospect of dying, and find to my relief that my faith in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting' has only grown stronger over the past few weeks. I've sometimes had private worries that, when faced with the starkness of a terminal diagnosis, my faith in the Risen Christ might falter. Well, it hasn't. Or better still, God hasn't faltered. Quite the reverse.

Nor do I feel short-changed by what's happening. Of course, I have grumpy patches when I'm in pain, or not sleeping properly. (I'm only a saint in St Paul's most generous definition of the term!) But I still consider myself as deeply blessed to have been born into such a loving family, to have met with Christ as a teenager, to have spent nearly 40 years of my life so joyfully married to the 'wife of my youth', to have raised four remarkable children (all equally remarkably partnered), and to have been entrusted with a series of fulfilling ministries within my beloved Church of England.

Of all the closing words to St Paul's various letters to individuals and to church communities, perhaps the one I value most comes right at the end of his first letter to the Church at Thessalonica. We sense that the apostle is running out of parchment, and wanting to cram as much as he can into the last few inches; and he does a great job from my perspective, beautifully articulating so much of what I would want to say in what may well prove to be my last message to the Diocese of Guildford.

Could I encourage you to read these words quietly and prayerfully - so that each one of us, lay and ordained, might be freshly inspired to embrace God's call on our lives with renewed vigour and gratitude:

*'We appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.*

*May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do this. Brothers and sisters, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.'*

### **The Late Right Reverend Andrew Watson**

# **EUROVISION** **SONG CONTEST** VIENNA 2026

## **Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Eurovision Song Contest**

*This year's Eurovision Song Contest, to be held 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May in Vienna, will look a bit different as it marks its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

*That is because Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain have opted out, as a protest to the inclusion of Israel in the contest, following the war in Gaza. That is the largest number of boycotting countries in the contest's history since 1970. On the other hand, at least Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania are set to return this year.*

*Eurovision is a long-established annual international celebration of music. This year's programme will consist of two semi-finals, on 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May, and then a final on the 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at Wiener Stadt Hallé in Vienna, and presented by Victoria Swarovski and Michael Ostrowski. Broadcasters from 35 countries will also participate.*

### **Britain has won the Eurovision five times in 70 years:**



- |      |                                |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 1967 | <i>Puppet on a String</i>      |
| 1969 | <i>Boom Bang-a-Bang</i>        |
| 1976 | <i>Save Your Kisses for Me</i> |
| 1981 | <i>Making Your Mind Up</i>     |
| 1997 | <i>Love Shine a Light</i>      |



## All in the month of May



**200 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1826**, Ebenezer Butterick, American tailor was born. He and his wife invented tissue paper dress patterns in multiple sizes, and thereby revolutionised home dressmaking.

**175 years ago, from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> October 1851**, the Great Exhibition was held in The Crystal Palace, Hyde Park. More than 10,000 exhibitors attended what is regarded as the first World's Fair.

**100 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 1926**, the UK's General Strike was held. The Trade Union Congress (TUC) called a General Strike in support of 1.2 million coal miners. The strike lasted nine days, and had little effect.

**90 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1936**, British aviator Amy Johnson made the fastest-ever (at that time) solo flight from England to Cape Town. **Also, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1936**, the RMS Queen Mary began her maiden voyage, sailing from Southampton to New York.

**75 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1951**, the Festival of Britain and the Royal Festival Hall in London were opened. **Also on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1951** the Lake District National Park was established as Britain's second national park. **Also on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1951**, British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to Moscow. They were members of the infamous Cambridge spy ring.

**70 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1956** the first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. It was won by Switzerland.

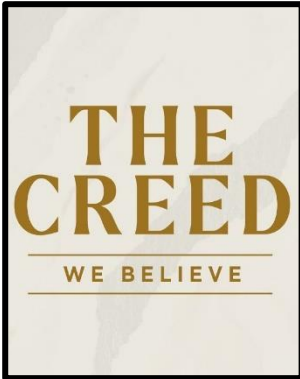
**65 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1961**, Michael Ramsay became Archbishop of Canterbury (until 1974).

**60 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1966** the Moors Murderers Ian Brady and Myra Hindley were sentenced to life imprisonment for killing five girls, aged 10 to 17.

**40 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1986**, Tenzing Norgay (Sherpa Tenzing), died. This Tibetan/Nepalese mountaineer had been with Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand when in 1953 they became the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

**30 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1996**, the Duke and Duchess of York (Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson) were divorced after ten years of marriage.

**10 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016**, Carla Lane, TV screenwriter, died. Best remembered for creating the sitcoms *The Liver Birds*, *Butterflies*, and *Bread*.



## Reflected Faith Series The Creed Part 1

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

There are various sections that make up a Communion service. While different denominations, and different styles of churches even within the same denomination, may do things differently, generally speaking they all include the same foundational elements.

So, after the Bible readings, and then sermon, what follows next?

In Common Worship (CW) we ‘immediately’ jump to our feet and proclaim our faith!

If you follow the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the Creed comes between the Gospel reading and the sermon – which is my excuse for forgetting to say it more than once when I’ve conducted the latter service first (if you get what I mean) on a Sunday morning.

The question is, ‘Why is it placed here?’ Wouldn’t it make more sense to have it at or close to the beginning of a service; so that we can be sure everyone in the congregation is on the same page, so to speak.

Or why not at the end, just before we go out into the world taking our faith with us?  
Why here?

When (BCP) it follows directly after the Gospel reading, it’s as though having heard the words of Jesus we rush to say ‘I believe that. I believe in who said it. And I believe in ... etc etc.’ Rather like after your favourite team has scored a goal!

Where we’ve had the sermon first (CW), it’s as though the ‘explanation and contextualisation’ by the preacher makes it so plain that we can do nothing less than join together and reaffirm our baptismal faith.

### ***This month***

Pause for a moment before you say the Creed next time and consider where in your service it is placed. What has encouraged you to be able to say it from your heart? Was there a word, phrase or sentence that particularly gripped you and prompted you to your feet? Or was it just words written on the service sheet with a direction to stand?

### ***Who’s been good?***

*A father of five young children won a toy at a raffle. Back home, he called his children together to let them determine which one should have the present. "Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to Mother? Who does everything she says?" Five small voices answered in unison: "You, Daddy!"*

## Rushen Branch - Mothers' Union Report



We had a very enjoyable meeting in March when Jane Gunn entertained us with Chair Based Yoga. We were asked to take part and everyone was given a tennis ball to help us with the exercises. We used our feet and the ball to demonstrate how easy it is to exercise the muscles in our feet and legs. It was lovely to see everyone rolling the ball using their toes and the bottom of their feet. Something we probably hadn't done lately!

Jane is holding a chair based yoga course at Rheaty Y Chrink in May and June, and everyone is welcome. Here are the details:

Chair based Yoga is Gentle Yoga Exercise ( Asana) for the over 65's to maintain and enhance the quality of life. The United Nations predict that by 2050 one in six people worldwide will be over the age of 65. As this happens we are becoming more isolated with people living on their own.

I am coming to the end of my teacher training with The British wheel of Yoga and now have to do teaching practice for six weeks with the minimum of six students, both ladies and gentlemen. I am required to hand out a Health Form, and to do two Case Studies. If anyone is willing please contact me.

It will be a 75 minute chair based class, sitting using some properties such as balls, scarves, small beanbags and resistant bands (not all at once, and I will provide)! I would like it be enjoyable, fun and to help general ageing and health issues. It will be held at Reayrt Y Chrink Community Lounge on Wednesdays from 10.30am until 11.45am. Refreshments follow and everything completed by 12 noon.

The sessions commence on 15<sup>th</sup> April and ends on 9<sup>th</sup> June. **(Please note that there will be no sessions on 20<sup>th</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June?** There is no charge for this course. I am being examined by my teacher from Liverpool on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June, so would like as many people to attend as possible. (The time to be announced)

These details are being sent to current and past students. Everyone is welcome. Please contact me if you are interested on Email [janegunn@manx.net](mailto:janegunn@manx.net), mobile 463897, or landline 832157

**Jane Gunn**

**Thank you – OM Shanti (peace be with you)**

## Mothers' Union Forthcoming Events

### Dates for Diaries

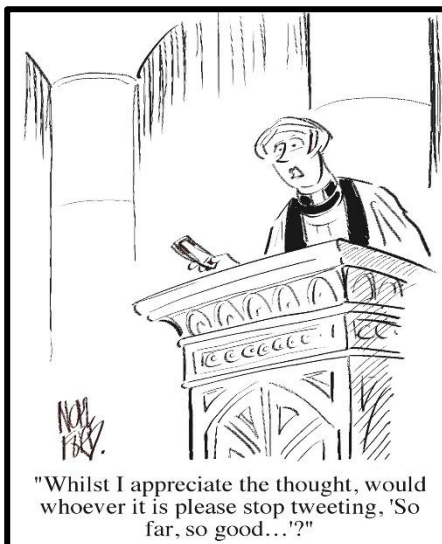
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April:** York baton arrives in IoM. I don't have any further details yet
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April:** Festival service 2pm, Braddon Church, cake requested. It's their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary too.
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June** MU service will be live streamed from St Paul's Cathedral in London. At the moment this will be shown at St Georges Church but I'm hoping we can get it in St Catherine's Hall, to save us travelling. I'll let you know.
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July** MU stall at Tynwald Day, volunteers needed, let me know if you're interested
- July 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>** MU baby changing at Southern Show, again volunteers needed
- August 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>** MU tent at Royal Show, again volunteers needed!
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August** Founders Day Service, 2pm at the Cathedral, prayer candle with prayers as part of a circle across York Province.

**Our next meeting will be a planning meeting at St Mary's Church on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Please come with ideas for next year.**

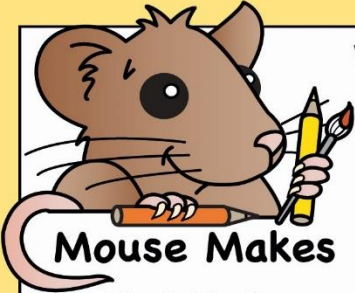
### Safeguarding

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](mailto: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](http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion)



Children's Page May 2026



Mouse Makes

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 1:2

The

\_\_\_\_\_ of the Father.

Acts 1:4

The Spirit of

A \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:15

H \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:26

The Spirit of

\_\_\_\_\_

John 16:13

The Spirit of

\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

\_\_\_ O \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Y

\_\_\_ C \_\_\_

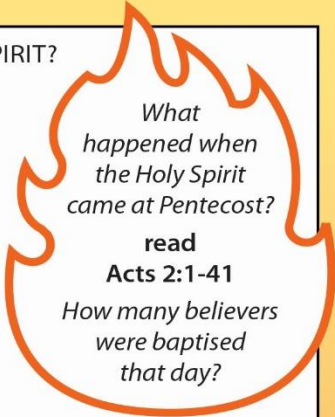
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What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

read Acts 2:1-41

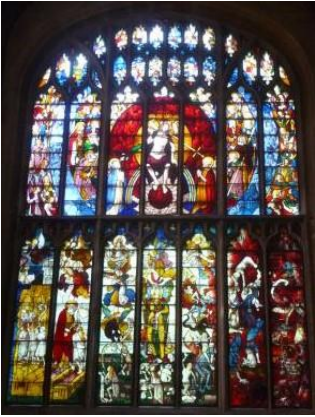
How many believers were baptised that day?

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

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

- HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
- ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
- GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

## 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 **Revd Michael Burgess** continues his procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the church windows. The window pictured here is at St. Mary's, Fairford.*

### **‘He gave us eyes to see them’ Stained Glass windows**

You may know the story of the little girl with her family during a guided tour around a cathedral. As the bright sun streamed through one of the windows, she asked the guide who were the people depicted there. “Those are the saints,” he replied. Later that evening the girl told her mummy, “I know who the saints are.” “Do you, dear? Who are they?” the mother asked. The little girl replied: “They are the people who let the light shine through.”

When the summer sun rises, its light catches the east window of a church I look after. It shines through the figures and colours of the Annunciation scene to bathe the chancel in a warm glow. Later as the sun sets, it shines once again through the west window showing Christ surrounded by angels, with the same wonderful effect. They are two stained glass windows by the Victorian designer, Kempe. But in St Mary’s Church, Fairford in Gloucestershire, there are an incredible 28 windows of medieval glass that have survived the centuries and continue to astonish the visitor.

As the sun catches this array of windows, the colours take on a new, vibrant life. We see scenes in the life of our Lord and our Lady, Old Testament prophets, New Testament apostles and the communion of saints. The eye moves round and we reach the west window portraying Christ in majesty and the day of judgement. This great work has been attributed to the royal glazier, Barnard Flower, who was influenced by the late medieval illuminated prayer books. The windows are a living witness to his skill and faith.

George Herbert has a poem that calls us to shine out like the church windows. It is easy, he says, to be “brittle crazy glass”, but in God’s good grace we can become like a window where colours and light, belief and life can combine and mingle to radiate out into the world.

### ***Morning prayer***

*"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," And there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."*

## Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

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

**May 2026**

***This is your invitation to pray day by day for:***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Anyone awaiting a diagnosis from their general practitioner or the hospital
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Those involved in bringing the news to us on radio, television, or other means
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The safety of all aid workers in places of unrest
- 4<sup>th</sup> Our vicar and readers as they relay the Word of God during their sermons
- 5<sup>th</sup> The staff at the Diocese of Sodor and Man
- 6<sup>th</sup> All those affected by the recent natural disasters and are looking for help
- 7<sup>th</sup> The work of missionaries and evangelists
- 8<sup>th</sup> Everyone involved in the recruitment and training of clergy
- 9<sup>th</sup> Peace and stability in troubled areas of the world
- 10<sup>th</sup> Consultants, doctors, nurses and their kindness and compassion to the elderly
- 11<sup>th</sup> All who are anxious, distressed or discouraged
- 12<sup>th</sup> All teachers of the Christian Faith
- 13<sup>th</sup> The courage to carry Christ within us and to present Him wherever we go
- 14<sup>th</sup> Christ's glorious ascension to heaven
- 15<sup>th</sup> Children who are hungry, orphaned or homeless throughout the world
- 16<sup>th</sup> Those who regularly read the lessons and lead our intercessions
- 17<sup>th</sup> The life and witness of the Apostles
- 18<sup>th</sup> Farmers as they prepare their land for a fruitful harvest
- 19<sup>th</sup> People who are lonely and isolated and would love neighbours to talk to them
- 20<sup>th</sup> Preparations being made for holidays during the summer
- 21<sup>st</sup> The wars in the Ukraine and the Middle East and the safety of civilians
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Skills given by God to surgeons as they carry out dangerous procedures
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Students having to depend on their coursework as the only means for success
- 24<sup>th</sup> Technology that has helped to link friends and family together
- 25<sup>th</sup> The Rev Ginny Viner and the Christian message she shares with us all
- 26<sup>th</sup> Tourism on the island and how it affects the economy
- 27<sup>th</sup> Help in places throughout the world where food and water are in short supply
- 28<sup>th</sup> For all those hoping to be married this year
- 29<sup>th</sup> Those who live rough in rough conditions throughout the United Kingdom
- 30<sup>th</sup> Charitable organisations which devote their energy to those in need
- 31<sup>st</sup> Mary, the Blessed Virgin, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ

## Worship Songs and their Stories



**Graham Kendrick**

### **Knowing you, Jesus**

All I once held dear, built my life upon  
All this world reveres, and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

*Knowing you, Jesus  
Knowing you, there is no greater thing  
You're my all, you're the best  
You're my joy, my righteousness  
And I love you, Lord*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more  
To be found in you and known as yours  
To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All-surpassing gift of righteousness

*Knowing you, Jesus  
Knowing you, there is no greater thing  
You're my all, you're the best  
You're my joy, my righteousness  
And I love you, Lord*

Oh, to know the power of your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings  
To become like you in your death, my Lord  
So with you to live and never die

*Knowing you, Jesus  
Knowing you, there is no greater thing  
You're my all, you're the best  
You're my joy, my righteousness  
And I love you, Lord*

A major Christian conference in the UK had circulated a number of songwriters asking them to consider writing specific material to accompany the Bible readings and teaching at their event the following year. The book of Philippians had been chosen, so in order to begin the process of seeking inspiration I began to read through the book meditatively, asking God to draw my attention to anything which might become the seed of a song. I had come to the famous passage where Paul lists his impressive qualifications, and then dramatically sweeps them all aside for the sake of one supreme aim – to know Christ.

At this point my heart was stirred by the theme of knowing Jesus, and in an attempt to make it a personal song directed to him, I began to experiment with the phrase 'knowing you' as the moment of release of the song. Having written the chorus I set out to paraphrase the key verses of the scripture text into a singable form. This is always a great challenge because of course no translation of the Bible rhymes and scans, and there is always a danger that in shaping a lyrical form something is lost. After all this is the Word of God that we are dealing with!

Eventually, and with some editing input from one of our church leaders, plus some private 'road testing' at my home church, the song was finished. I know of several people who have learned the song without realising where it is derived from and have commented "Graham, I found your song in the bible!". For me one of the most important things about it is the theme of sharing in Christ's sufferings (in the third verse), and of dying and rising with Christ. Perhaps for this reason the song has featured at funerals as well as in regular worship services. It has found its way into wedding services too where couples wish to express their commitment to putting Christ first in their marriage.

**Services May/June 2026**

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> <b>(Easter 5)</b>	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)	
<b>10<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>(Easter 6)</b>	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)	
<b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>(Easter 7)</b>	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)	
<b>24<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>(Pentecost)</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>	
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May</b> <b>(Trinity Sunday)</b>	9.30am	<i>Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)</i>	<b>(*)</b>
	11am	<i>St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)</i>	<b>(*)</b>
	11am	<i>St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)</i>	<b>(*)</b>
	3.15pm	<i>St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)</i>	<b>(*)</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> June</b> <b>(Trinity 1)</b>	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)	
<b>14<sup>th</sup> June</b> <b>(Trinity 2)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)	
	11am	St Mary's All Age Service (CW)	
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)	
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)	
<b>21<sup>st</sup> June</b> <b>(Trinity 3)</b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)	
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)	
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)	
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)	
<b>28<sup>th</sup> June</b> <b>(Trinity 4)</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)</b>	

**(\*) Services on 31<sup>st</sup> May subject to change**

**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**

Mrs Lesley Scott

**St Catherine's Hall Bookings:**

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

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

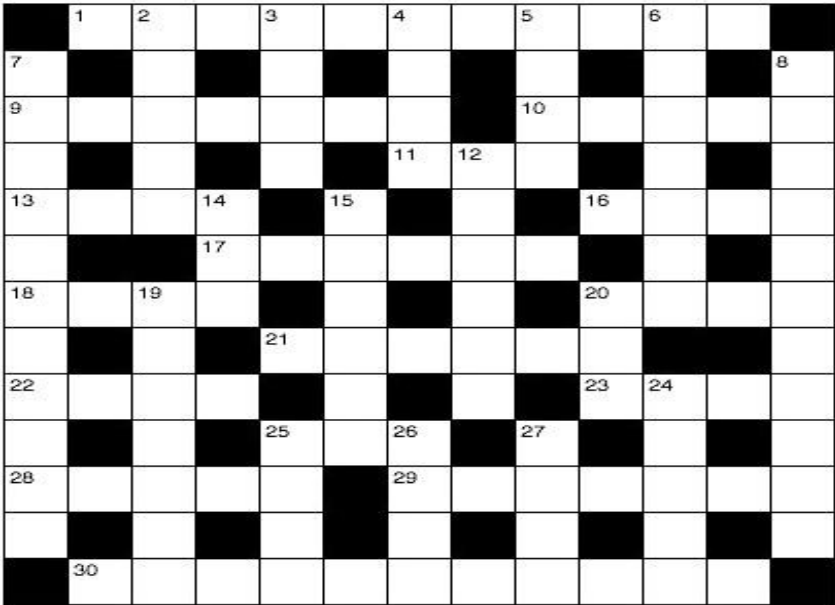
**Parish Director of Music:**

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

**Churchyard Enquiries:**

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

## Crossword May 2026



**Across**

- 1** Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
- 9** 'The — are mantled with corn'  
(Psalm 65:13) (7)
- 10** 'Each man—a sword to his side'  
(Exodus 32:27) (5)
- 11** On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom  
(Matthew 27:51) (3)
- 13** Stagger (Isaiah 28:7) (4)
- 16** 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought— and doesn't do it, sins'  
(James 4:17) (2,2)
- 17** Stir up or provoke (Acts 13:50) (6)
- 18** Burden (Luke 11:46) (4)
- 20** 'As far as the east is from the—, so far has he removed our transgressions from us'  
(Psalm 103:12) (4)
- 21** Sign (Luke 23:38) (6)
- 22** 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet'  
(John 13:5) (4)
- 23** The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
- 25** Has (anag.) (3)
- 28** 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, —sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
- 29** 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and— awake'  
(Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)

- 30** Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains'  
(2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

**Down**

- 2** Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
- 3** 'A bruised — He will not break'  
(Matthew 12:20) (4)
- 4** 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
- 5** Slip (anag.) (4)
- 6** 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life'  
(Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
- 7** Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
- 8** 'Therefore, as we have —, let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
- 12** Acquire (2 Timothy 2:10) (6)
- 14** Container cover (Numbers 19:15) (3)
- 15** 'He...became obedient to death, even death on—!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
- 19** Refrain (1 Peter 2:11) (7)
- 20** 'She began to—his feet with her tears'  
(Luke 7:38) (3)
- 24** One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)
- 25** 'Give to everyone who—you' (Luke 6:30) (4)
- 26** 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
- 27** One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)