

Parish of Rushen

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Kirk Christ 28th April 2026 7pm



Elizabeth Sheen after receiving the Maundy Money from the King
On 2nd April 2026 at St Asaph Cathedral, North Wales

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**The Diocese of Sodor and
Man
Parish of Rushen
Annual Parochial Church
Meeting**

The purpose of this booklet is to give you, the parishioners, an insight into the activities which are taking place in this parish week by week.

I would like to thank all of you who have contributed. I hope that by reading it you will see what a vibrant and forward-looking parish we are. Let's hope in the months and years ahead we will be able to see that we are fulfilling our vision which is 'To be at the Heart of the Community revealing the Heart of God'.

David Bowman

An APCM Prayer for the Future

God our Creator and Redeemer, help the Parish of Rushen to grow in holiness, unity, effectiveness and numbers.

Draw us closer to you and to those around us.

Give us enthusiasm in our faith, and wisdom in sharing it with young and old.

Open our eyes to new opportunities, our lips to sing and speak of you, and our hearts to welcome the stranger.

Grow your kingdom in us and in the world,
through our Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Vicar Writes



Looking back over the last twelve months causes us to reflect on the many goings-on within the Parish. This last year has been full of many exciting new ventures with a focus much more on people. (The previous three years a significant proportion of our time and energy was given over to major re-ordering of St. Mary's and St. Catherine's). I am hugely conscious that the life and worship of this Parish is very much a shared contribution. So a HUGE, HUGE thank you to retired clergy and readers, churchwardens, worship group, organists, children's leaders, the many volunteers and, of course, you good people in the pews.

Just a few of the highlights we have seen across the Parish: a well-attended community Flower Festival in July; the launch of *Wild Sparks* in September; our first off-island youth trip to 3Gen in October; an Advent course with reflections from Bishop Tricia; two new home-groups have started in February; and a Confirmation service for five adults and two young people. Many of these (and much, much more) are covered in the reports in this booklet from the various groups. All of this, together with the many on-going activities that happen each and every week, indicate that we continue to be a vibrant and growing parish.

Shortly before Easter, Natalie decided to step down from her job as Family/Youth Worker so that she might spend more time with Isaac and their two boys. During her time Natalie has transformed the ministry to our Families and Young People and there is much to give thanks for. In the coming months we will need to consider how we continue (and build upon) the many strong links that she has developed with our local schools, SUMT and our ecumenical partners.

May this next year be one where we more fully recognise all that God is doing in our midst and so continue to reveal him to the world.

With every Richest Blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe".

Rev Joe Heaton

A Report on the Proceedings of the PCC



As with all institutions there has to be a management structure in the Parish of Rushen which ensures that everything within it works smoothly and that flaws, should there be any, dealt with professionally, and to the satisfaction of all parties involved.

As such the Parish of Rushen has individuals, or groups of people, to cover every eventuality. The structure starts with Joe, as he is our leader. Anything out of place, or not running correctly, should be brought to his attention. However, many things can be dealt with before Joe has to be involved. Hence we have a committee of elected parishioners who deal with such problems. It's called the P.C.C. or Parochial Church Council. At present the council is made up of representatives from the four churches in a ratio of five from St Catherine's, five from St Mary's, three from Kirk Christ and two from St Peter's. These are elected at the A.P.C.M. (*Annual Parochial Church Meeting*), a meeting usually held in April. The election process allows for members to stay in position for a period of three years, after which they have to stand down for a year before being re-elected, should that be their wish. Other positions also have to be filled at the A.P.C.M. Members can be elected on to the Diocesan Synod. At present this involves three parishioners. Churchwarden's have to be elected, at present we have three. We also have an election for parishioners to represent the parish on to the Southern Mission Partnership (*one person from each church*). This committee deals with the affairs of the parishes in the southern part of the diocese. Finally 'Readers' are allowed to be members of the PCC. These are not people who read the lessons at our services, but those who have been trained to preach. Safeguarding too is a matter which has to be discussed at PCC meetings. Rhiannon Manning is our representative. She is not expected to attend meetings but should present a written report to them. She does not have a vote, and can be asked to attend meetings should it be

necessary. Of course there are lots of approved lay personnel, with expertise in maintenance issues, invited to provide quotations for any work required. All issues will have been discussed by committees and aired at PCC meetings. Items requiring capital expenditure which, might have a bearing on church structure, or additional items, requested by parishioners, which could alter the existing ambience, have to be approved by the Diocese of Sodor & Man before any work can commence.

We have five committees formed from PCC members. Each committee looks after a particular area of the management structure. They cover 'Finance, Buildings, Mission and Outreach, and Social activities'. In addition there is a committee which deals with 'Worship'. Each committee meets between PCC meetings and reports issues connected with their particular area of expertise.

We hold five or six PCC meetings each year, and items of interest, or need, identified by the committees, brought to the attention of the PCC. You cannot look at our four churches and not notice the work that has been undertaken by the PCC to enhance each of our four churches. Kirk Christ, St Mary's, St Catherine's and St Peter's have had significant work done to ensure that the churches are fit for purpose, comfortable and have little or no maintenance issues. Arthur Cregeen, Churchwarden at Kirk Christ, left a considerable sum of money to the parish, and we have been able to utilise this wonderful gift in refurbishing three of the churches. Some of Arthur's legacy has been used in ensuring that three of our church buildings, and our church hall, are in an excellent state of repair. Other legacies have been used to assist St Peter's Church to be as comfortable as the other three. Our PCC is active and wants to see the parish thrive well into the next century.

If you are interested in being a PCC member, so that you can follow the inner workings of our elected members, please complete an application form and give it to one of our churchwardens. To qualify for membership you have had to be registered on the parish electoral roll for a period of six months, you are a baptised member of the Anglican communion, and a regular attender at one of our four churches. Please do consider being a PCC member. It is well worth it.

David Bowman
PCC Secretary



Financial Report

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025

Overall income was £15,000 down on the previous year, mainly due to a reduction of £7,000 in total giving, together with

decreases of £5,000 in investment income and £3,000 in wedding & funeral fees.

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 showed an ordinary deficit of £24,740, compared with a surplus of £3,615 in the previous year.

In view of the deficit in 2025 and the prospect of a similar loss in 2026, the vicar sent a letter out to all members in January to encourage increased giving.

Current year

There was a deficit on ordinary activities of £511 for the 3 months ending 31st March 2026.

Major works

Major work in 2025 comprised repairs to the north wall at St Catherine's Church at a total cost of £14,700 and new lighting at Kirk Christ costing £9,000.

New Legacies

Two new legacies of £1,000 each were received during 2025, one of which was paid to the Vicar & Wardens.

Conclusion

The PCC remains in a sound financial position, thanks to substantial reserves created by legacies from Mr Arthur Cregeen and others. The total balance of reserves at 31st March 2026 was £652,000.

Stephen Curtis
PCC Treasurer

Your Giving 2026

Dear Friends

I am writing to you, on behalf of the PCC, to update you on the finances of the Parish. Many of you will remember that nearly ten years ago we had a focus on sustained giving to support the mission and ministry of this Parish. At the time a short leaflet was produced, *Rushen Parish – Your Giving*, that summarised much of our thinking. The leaflet is still available at the back of each church (and on our website) and is as relevant today as when it was written. Congregation members were encouraged to consider their giving and you all responded very favourably; the weekly shortfall of £740 was all but eliminated and for a number of years our ordinary income (collections at services, planned giving, hall rent, etc.) matched our ordinary expenses (shared ministry fund, repairs, lighting and heating, etc.).



In addition, over the last five years we have been richly blessed with a number of legacies; some of them significant. In September 2021, the PCC decided to invest the legacies in the *Church of England Investment Fund* in order to have a regular sustainable income to support new and on-going ministries within the Parish. This has proved fruitful and we have a growing Children and Youth ministry across the Parish. In two short years we now have a thriving Parish Youth Group, more families attending church and a new exciting venture *Wild Sparks* was launched in September.

These legacies have also allowed us to invest considerably in our church buildings, namely major refurbishments at St. Mary's Church in 2023; St. Catherine's Church the following year; and upgrading the lighting at Kirk Christ last year. These improvements have enabled us to use our church buildings in a much more flexible way for not only worship services but also many community-based events (e.g. Coffee & Chat, concerts).

However, it is becoming apparent that our day-to-day income no longer matches our day-to-day expenditure; our deficit at the end of 2025 was £24,740. This deficit amounts to a weekly shortfall of almost £500.

Should this shortfall continue it will mean that the PCC will have to

continually draw upon the investment capital to fund our ordinary expenses. In the long term, our capital will be reduced thus impacting upon the return on the investment.

Our vision for the Parish is achievable but requires sustained financial support. I, along with the PCC, hugely appreciate all that you have contributed over the years, but we also encourage you to review the amount you give and to give regularly. The following table gives an example of how, together, we can make up this shortfall.

This many people	Additional weekly giving	Equals this much extra income
65	£2	£130
30	£5	£150
16	£10	£160
10	£15	£150
6	£25	£150
To meet our target of		£740

Should you wish to set up a regular Standing Order or want to find out more on how to support our on-going vision simply visit:

**Richest Blessings
Rev Joe Heaton**

Church Wardens

We are indebted to our Churchwardens who do a wonderful job in making sure that our four churches are up to scratch and comfortable and warm spaces for our parishioners who come to worship week by week.

It is hard to list the number of activities they cover each week. They are constantly checking the buildings for defects on a minor scale, and much bigger projects such as the refurbishment of our churches and the church hall. The silverware in each church is regularly inspected for scratches or damage. They ensure that the linen is laundered by dedicated church members, They open and close our churches every day amongst many other tasks. The next few pages give you an insight to their work.



We have recently received the Diocesan Surveyor's Quinquennial Inspection Report on the state of the church building and fabric. The church which was built by the villagers is now 148 years old and considering it is regularly

lashed by the south-westerly gales and is adjacent to a couple of underground streams it is in remarkably good condition. This is testimony to the care successive generations have given to the building. Comments written in the Visitors' Book confirm this too.

The carpet, which was laid after the major refurbishment in 2014 had seen better days and was replaced at the beginning of the year. The rich red carpet now in place, is the same pattern as that in the Parish Church, and is much appreciated by the regular congregation. It adds a warmth and richness to the ambience of the building.

The main services continue to be those of Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer and are usually well attended. In recent times the nature of the Harvest Thanksgiving service has changed. In times past the church would be decorated with "the fruits of the earth" and on entering the building there was the unmistakable mellow aroma of the fruit and vegetables – to be auctioned at a Mhelliah on the Monday evening. The gifts of the people are now tins and packages of food to be conveyed to the Food Bank.

Carols Candles and Cake has changed a little too. The music now being provided by a small group of brass instrument players – friends of Bex – a resident of the village and daughter of one of our organists! As usual the pews were full.

Throughout the year we have had two weddings and a single baptism.

We are indeed fortunate that the congregation feel that St Peter's is "their church" and readily volunteer in providing after service refreshments, altar flowers, laundering church linen and the many other essential tasks.

Thank you to everyone.

Harry Dawson (Churchwarden)

St Catherine's



The re-ordering of the church was completed over a year ago and we still get visitors, both locally and from further afield, amazed at the transformation. There is no doubt that it is now a church fit for contemporary worship, as well as being used for more traditional worship. Some of the comments made are very encouraging and the future of the church seems to be very secure. What they are not privileged to is the style of music provided for the singing of modern hymns and worship songs, and that attendance has improved because of it. In addition there are comfortable chairs which can be re-arranged for social gatherings, and hopefully in the future, barn dances or similar functions. The Late Arthur Cregeen would have loved to see what some of his legacy has created. He liked the modern style of worship and I know, would have loved to be a member of the congregation from time to time.

There has also been an increase in the attendance of children in the congregation. This is probably due to the work of Natalie Heaton, who soon will be leaving us, and their parents who now have access to a more modern style of worship. A big thank you must be given to Wendy Heaton who also is involved in children's work and the music group which now plays the majority of accompaniment at services. Not forgetting Mike Porter, who at present is on sick leave recovering from an operation. Mike plays the organ for traditional hymns when required, and we wish him a speedy recovery. The organ itself is quite troublesome and temperamental and doesn't always do what it is asked to do! However, it still plays music that can be sung to so long may it continue.

The weekly concerts during the summer months, and occasionally during the spring, are still being held in the church, with refreshments afterwards served in the hall. Throughout the 2025 season they were well-attended and thanks must be given to Michal Kewley who organises the concerts. He does a sterling job which is well received by the many people who attend. It is always a struggle to ask for volunteers to welcome the people who come along and to assist with the refreshments. If you would like to help in any way please contact me.

Finally I must pass on my thanks to those of you who decorate the church for special occasions, and week by week for services. Similarly the sidespersons and those who provide refreshments after services are not forgotten. Everyone who plays a part in the life of the church deserves a big thank you, and without them we would not function as well as we do now.

Gerry Callister (Churchwarden)



Our church is in good condition and the log book and Terrier are up to date. Valuables, brassware and silverware are all present, in good condition and are well cared for. Silverware is kept locked in the safe when not in use.

We continue to celebrate a mixture of holy communion, all-age and morning prayer services throughout the year. Our lovely Sunday school meets in the hall most weeks and we really appreciate their contribution to our All-Age services with songs and dramatized readings. Hymn singing is, as always, led by our brilliant organists and enthusiastic choir.

Congregation numbers have been slowly increasing over the year with between 40 and 50 people worshipping most Sundays, and while we have said goodbye to several old friends, it is also great to welcome new congregation members.

The Acts 29 youth group, based at St Mary's continues to go from strength to strength, as does our Monday morning Coffee and Chat meeting, providing a warm welcome, companionship and chance to talk over a hot drink and a biscuit for congregation members and passers-by alike.

The regular highlights of the Mary's year were very successful with the Pentecost barbecue and the Christmas Eve crib service both very well supported (standing room only for the Crib Service)

In a new venture this year, the Ladies Working Party organised St Mary's hosting the Lord's Prayer exhibition from the Cathedral for a fortnight, providing refreshments and a friendly welcome every weekday. While numbers through the door were not huge it was still a great outreach to the community and we did see some people cross our threshold for the first time. This is hopefully a model that can be repeated with other exhibitions in the future.

In March 2026 we were privileged to host the first Confirmation Service in Rushen for many years. We had 100 people in the congregation to support the candidates and join us to celebrate the happy event. It was also great to welcome Bishop Tricia to our church for the first time and to enjoy a delicious faith lunch together afterwards.

As always, I would like to thank the many wonderful volunteers from our congregation who have given their time and energy to help me in so many ways to maintain the life and work of our church. This might be the same message as every year – but my thanks are none the less sincere.

Peter Hayhurst (Churchwarden)



Kirk Christ is our Parish Church and it is used for joint services every month on the fourth Sunday, and for weekly services at all other gatherings for Sunday worship. It has a congregation of between ten to thirty regular parishioners, and services follow Common Worship. It is a beautiful building and is visited by many people both from the Isle of Man and further afield. Comments written in the Visitor's Book are always plenty and very favourable. During each week the church is used for private prayer and contemplation by local people, or those who have visited the grave of a loved one in the churchyard. It's a place of quietness which is at a premium these days.

In July we held a Flower Festival in the church. Contributors were invited to display one of the windows with a theme, previously listed, as well as in other areas of the church. The result was incredible with displays of flowers throughout the church itself. Each was a credit to its creator and demonstrated the incredible talents that people throughout the island have. I offer my thanks to them all. The event raised a huge sum of money which was going to be used for the Parish of Rushen as a whole.

It would be remiss of me not to thank the flower arrangers who come to the church throughout the year to ensure that flowers are present near the altar and in other areas of the church. They are a splendid array of beauty which shows how much everyone who participates love the church. I should also mention readers, sidespersons and those who provide after church refreshments week by week.

On the Sunday before Christmas 2025 our annual carol service was held at Kirk Christ. It is a joyous occasion when the church is full, with very little room at the back! Many thanks must be given to Mike Porter, our organist who plays for us occasionally at the beginning and conclusion of services as well as for the hymns that we sing. He is also the organiser of the carol service at which choir members from the island take part. At present he is convalescing after an operation and is on sick leave. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Recently the annual Mariner's Service was held in the church. At this event the Mariner's Choir come and sing for us. During the proceedings refreshments are served after which there is a sing song of favourite hymns during which the congregation take part.

The last major service was held on Easter Day. There was a dawn service at 6.30am followed by Easter Communion at 9.30am. The church looked lovely. I would like to thank everyone who helps to keep the church as beautiful as possible, you are wonderful.

Gerry Callister (Churchwarden)



Since the last PCC meeting, 4 people have completed the Leadership Safeguarding course for their roles. All ministers have current DBS certificates and have completed relevant safeguarding training.

All of the PCC members have completed the required safeguarding training. Anyone joining the PCC who does not hold a current Safeguarding certificate (ie completed within last 3 years) MUST complete this training as soon as possible. All members of the PCC MUST complete Basic Awareness and Foundation training as a minimum.

Three people are still outstanding their basic training – we are contacting them every month to remind them to complete the mandatory training.

We have 3 open cases of Safeguarding concerns and the relevant authorities are aware.

The latest guidance from National Church as to who needs to do the safeguarding training is:

- Those working with young people e.g. Sunday school, youth club, messy church leaders
- Those working with Adults e.g. home visits, lunch clubs, drop ins
- Governance e.g. PCC members*
- People in positions of trust e.g. welcomers, servers

Note, our parish may not be covered by our Insurance Policy if an incident was to occur and you hadn't been following the diocesan safeguarding policy.

Domestic Abuse training - a new policy and training has come into effect January 2025. As a diocese we are reviewing who we require to do the training.

Annual Reviews – A new Safeguarding Dashboard has been put in place to help us efficiently review safeguarding policies and ensure our obligations are up to date. There are several policies or procedures that need to be approved by the PCC on a yearly basis. These policies will be added to the agenda for the first PCC meeting following the APCM

A few reminders:

Each organisation that regularly uses our church buildings has to show they have a Safeguarding Policy in place, otherwise the Insurance policy will be invalid.

There should also be an accident book in all the buildings alongside the first aid kit. Risk Assessments need to be completed for all Church activities including services. It is the responsibility of the PCC to ensure that these are being done.

Job descriptions are required for all roles in the church. It is the responsibility of the PCC to ensure that these are in place.

Rhiannon Manning, Parish Safeguarding Officer, March 2026



St Mary's Sunday School

St Mary's Sunday School usually meets every 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday in term time at St Mary's Church Hall – 11am to 12noon. We begin our worship by joining the congregation in church for the first hymn, and after a short prayer we move into the hall for our session. When it is a communion service, we return to church to receive a blessing or take communion, before finishing off our meeting in the hall and joining the congregation for refreshments at the back of church.

Our numbers have been fairly steady over the last year, with 3-4 families attending most weeks and up to 9 children in total (plus the occasional visitor). As well as having Lukas as our regular helper, it has been great to have Natalie with us in several sessions, and she has been of invaluable help with preparing (and sometimes leading) our monthly all-age services. She will be greatly missed!

In our sessions, we explore a variety of Bible stories and themes through drama, video, songs, fun games, craft and prayer activities. This year our sessions have mainly focused on the lectionary readings or the theme of the

next all-age service, as well as the main church seasons and festivals, eg Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Mothering Sunday, Easter and Pentecost. Other themes have included: God's Word - our guiding light (our theme for last summer's Flower Festival display), Noah's Ark (God keeps His promises), Zacchaeus (The love of Jesus changes hearts), The Lord's Prayer, Jesus' 12 disciples (following Jesus), 'Seek first the kingdom of God,' and Moses in the bulrushes (God keeps us safe). Last July we all enjoyed our annual Sunday School Picnic at Silverdale (together with some families from St Catherine's), and in December we had great fun at our Christmas Party.

The Sunday School also regularly contributes to our monthly all-age services with Bible readings (some dramatised), songs and prayers. We are very grateful to the parents and our congregation for their continued support, as well as to our vicar Joe and to Rev Ginny for including the children in services and making them feel welcome.

Please spread the word, as we always love to welcome new members.

Blessings, Claudia König

Children's work at St Catherine's

I am delighted to say that this Easter Sunday we had 17 children/young people attend St Catherine's and that wasn't all of us! This year we have had a few new members join us in Wonderzone which is such good news especially as we will lose some of our regulars soon as they progress to youth group. We continue to use Godly play most Sundays and we have also introduced a few additional full Godly play sessions during the half term holidays. These sessions have been attended by both Sunday schools and also visitors. We could meet more often if we had more volunteers coming forward to help.

Wendy Heaton



Family & Youth Ministry Report

Vision and Strategy

This year, our youth and family ministry has focused on three core pillars: Identity, Discipleship, and Community. Our vision was to provide our young people with opportunities to encounter the wider church, deepen their personal commitment to faith, and find their own "voice" within our worshipping community.

Youth Ministry: Acts 29

It has been a great year for Acts 29. We have focused on moving from being a group that meets to a community that leads.

- **3Gen Conference:** A significant highlight was our trip to the 3Gen national youth conference. This was a transformative experience for our young people, allowing them to engage with thousands of others, participate in activities to build their faith, and broaden their perspective of the Church beyond our local context.
- **Discipleship and Confirmation:** We successfully ran a dedicated Confirmation course this year. It has been a privilege to walk alongside our youth as they explored their questions of faith, resulting in a deeper, more personal commitment to their journey with Christ.
- **Acts 29 Band:** To encourage creative expression and worship leadership, we have formed the Acts 29 Youth Band. This project has not only developed their musical talents but has given them a tangible way to contribute to the life of the church and take ownership of their worship.

Family Ministry: Wildsparks

We are delighted to report the launch of Wildsparks, our new primary age family ministry.

Growth and Engagement: Wildsparks was created to bridge the gap for our younger families, offering a space that is high energy, creative, and accessible. We have run six Wildsparks meetings this year and some families outside our churches have joined in various ways. This is an amazing way to build into new families exploring faith.



After the excitement of the St Catherine's re-ordering it has been a relatively business as usual year for our church buildings, but the regular work of maintenance doesn't stop. Our central heating boilers, pipe organs and fire extinguishers have been serviced, as has the tower clock at St Mary's. Slipped slates and blocked gutters and drains have been fixed as they were spotted and paint touched up as required. All the churches have had their Quinquennial inspection which have thankfully not unearthed anything exciting or expensive.

A major exercise this spring has been to update our church log books (what work we have done in our churches over the past 6 years) and 'terriers' (an inventory of our church buildings and their contents) in preparation for an archdeacon's visitation. The visitation has also prompted us to review security, fitting key safes and making sure we have copies of all keys.

In addition to this general work on all of our churches we have also working on several larger building specific projects.

At Kirk Christ we fitted a new vinyl floor to both of the toilets to make cleaning easier and improve hygiene.

At St Catherine's we have had the North wall repointed with lime mortar to stop moisture getting in (while allowing the wall to breathe). This year we are hoping to do the same for the East wall.

At St Peter's we have had a major internal facelift. The internal walls have been re-painted and fitted a new red carpet has been fitted to the aisle and east end, matching the carpet at St Mary's and Kirk Christ. The church now looks very smart. For the future we continue to address the damp problem and are looking at lining the west wall.

At St Mary's we finally fitted iron hand rails to help people climb the steps up to the chancel (work generously paid for by the Ladies Working Party). We have on-going job addressing minor problems with the tower roof (before they become more serious) and we sincerely hope that 2026 might be the year of the new waterproof notice board!

Peter Hayhurst

St Catherine's Music Group

St Catherine's music group has continued to provide musical accompaniment for worship during services. Often we are now providing all the music for morning prayer services depending on the season of the Church year. We have been delighted to be able to welcome back Petrina after a personal break and it is delightful to hear her violin sing out yet again. We continue to introduce new music both well-loved hymns and more contemporary songs. On Good Friday this year it was lovely that Claudia and Peter joined us singing the Taize music enabling more harmony to be introduced. We are keen to welcome new members to the group please just come and ask how you can contribute.



Wendy Heaton

St Mary's Organists and Choir

Points worthy of mention are:

- Mike continues to provide leadership despite his ailments;
- We are grateful for the support of the cohort of organists who provide accompaniment week after week;
- We have been delighted on occasion to welcome John Binns to the choir - **four** part harmony for a nice change;
- The Christmas Carol service was a great success (from where I was sitting anyway). It was certainly uplifting to participate in.

And we should mention the passing of Phil Woodford. Phil always brought his sense of humour and an ability to reach some of the low notes beyond the rest of us. And of course, like a naughty schoolboy, if he liked the tune of a particular hymn he would sing the melody rather than the harmony - always with a twinkle in his eye.

Jonathan Hall

Report on the Concerts at St Catherine's Church 2025

The concerts returned to St Catherine's this year and the re-ordering has proved most successful in providing plenty of space for the groups to perform.

Spring Series

There were four concerts this year with an additional concert in May as the Tallis Consort asked to perform in the Parish. Total attendance was 280 with £579 being donated to the Church in the retiring collections.

Summer Series

Due to the number of groups wishing to participate, two additional concerts were held at the end of June making a total of fourteen concerts with a total attendance of 783 with £1,972 being donated to the Church from the retiring collections.

Overall, the attendance and collections during the year have held up very well and they continue to be very popular with both the audiences and the participating groups.

It is now 12 years since the Church took over the running of the concerts from the Port Erin Commissioners. Total attendance during this time has been 10,375 with total collections of £39,595 of which £21,962 has been received by the Church.

I am pleased to say the spring concerts for this year commenced in March and will conclude on 14 May 2026. The programme for the coming summer is now in place and concerts will run each week on a Thursday evening, commencing at 7.30pm, from 2 July to 17 September 2026.

I should like to take the opportunity to appeal for extra volunteers to assist at the concerts both at 'front of house' and with the serving of the refreshments. Although the concerts are held at St Catherine's they are Parish concerts. It would be a shame to see them come to an end due to lack of assistance. The other option would of course be to promote the concerts at an alternative venue, which was very successful during the re-ordering in 2024. If you feel you can help in any way please contact me or Gerry.

I should like to take the opportunity to thank Gerry for his unstinting support and to everyone who has helped with refreshments and in any other way. It is much appreciated.

Michal Kewley

Social Committee

The social committee includes PCC members and lay personnel. It meets to discuss possible fund-raising activities, and to report on past events and to ensure that any issues are discussed. It usually meets in St Catherine's Church Hall after 'Roamers' on a Wednesday morning, usually to discuss a forthcoming event. Up until now we have met approximately five times per year.



In our discussions about possible fundraising events we have tended to draw a blank. During this year the committee has organised two quizzes, the Mariner's Choir service, and has been involved in the annual flower festival at Kirk Christ. We would love to organise other events which will please church members and the wider community. **The first quiz this year is being held in St Catherine's Church Hall on Friday 17th July.** The second will be held sometime in November, the date to be finalised.

At a recent PCC meeting members were asked what kind of events we could hold which would attract people to come and enjoy themselves for a couple of hours or so. Suggestions offered were: Beetle Drives, Bingo, Faith Gatherings/Faith Lunches etc, Away Days, Instrumental Brass evenings, Beer and Hymns, Murder Mystery, and Barn Dances (possibly to be held in St Catherine's Church). If you have any ideas please let the churchwardens know. If we can stage it, we'll do it!

Michal Kewley has prepared concert seasons in both the spring and summer months. His report is covered in this booklet. I would like to offer my thanks for the work he does every year. At these events, and other gatherings, refreshments are always available. Unfortunately finding parishioners to serve these week by week can be quite difficult. Both Michal and Gerry Callister do a lot of work in preparing for these well attended concerts. Can I ask those of you who are willing to give of your time and energy to the serving of refreshments, at our spring and summer concerts, would let Gerry Callister know so that he can draw up a rota of volunteers who would manage the concerts. There is nothing worse than him having to make endless telephone calls in a plea to get people to assist at one or more of the concerts at the last minute. Thank you.

David Bowman

Coffee & Chat

Coffee and Chat has now been running for over two years in St Mary's Church. It has been open every Monday throughout the years, except for the two weeks in the summer when the Beach Mission takes priority.

Social and Fund Raising Activities

It functions with the help of a very hard-working team from the Ladies Working Party, and the congregation and has grown from strength to strength. We now cater for an average of 15 to 20 people every week. This is an outreach service providing cheerful company and conversation along with refreshments for a modest donation. We run a service which is particularly valuable during the cold winter months, and we break out the mulled wine and mince pies at Christmas. Everyone is welcome, every Monday from 10 until 11.30am.

We would particularly welcome anyone who would like to join our serving rota, to occasionally come and make tea or coffee, and enjoys chatting to people.

If you would be interested in helping please contact me.

Lesley Scott (832919)



Ladies Working Party Report

There are 17 members of the group, of whom on average 10 or so are able to attend regularly, taking holidays, health and weather into consideration. Our weekly meetings begin with a short service of prayers for the sick and housebound, and a reading, before business is discussed, which in the last year has included our involvement in the following: -

- Serving of refreshments after Sunday morning services at St Mary's,
- St Mary's Church flower rota and Monday's Coffee and Chat rota;
- Decorating the church for Christmas, Easter and Harvest (which includes the distribution of flowers for the sick and foodstuffs for the Foodbank);
- Faith Lunches for Harvest, Confirmation, Pentecost; refreshments for Broughton Parish Choir, the Mariners' Service,
- The Christmas Eve Crib Service in St Mary's; the annual flower Festival in Kirk Christ, (with both flowers and baking);
- The Lord's Prayer Exhibition in St Mary's; making Christingles, posies for Mothering Sunday and fund raising afternoon teas for
- The Leprosy Mission. In addition, we collected and trimmed used stamps for the Bone Cancer Research Trust, we wrote to our MHKs in support of keeping the Bishop's vote in Tynwald.
- Paid for the chancel railings in St Mary's.
- We had two outings to the Golfers' Rest in Port St Mary, for a tea and scones afternoon, and for a delicious Christmas Dinner, and we also enjoyed
- Participated in Rev Ginny's Bring and Share Christmas Evening.

This has been another good year of friendship and fellowship. Anyone is welcome to come and join us on Tuesday afternoons.

Pat Thomson



Mission & Outreach

In the Autumn, we seconded Claudia, Natalie, Gill and Jenny on to the committee to help organise and run the annual Tear Fund quiz.

It was very successful and we raised £838 which was then match funded. We are very grateful to all who helped and especially to Margie Newton who brought her Fair Trade stall and kindly donated her takings to the Tear Fund event.

At the subsequent Mission and Outreach committee meeting we were delighted to welcome Rev Joe. We reflected on the good work being done in various areas of our parish life, notably Wild Sparks, Coffee and Chat, Soup Inn, Rushen Roamers, Acts 29, Godly Playroom, Our Sunday Schools, SUMT links and Beach Mission.

We chatted about Tear Fund and Leprosy Mission and supporting mission in general.

We looked at the church guidance on what we should be doing as a Mission and Outreach committee and reviewed the outcomes we reached on the Parish day out and shared ideas for going forward.

We asked the question How should we be sharing the Gospel?

We discussed encouraging sharing stories of our Christian journeys in services, and holding a Songs of Praise service where we share our favourite hymn, or modern worship song’ and tell everyone why it is special to us.

Annie Curtis

Mothers’ Union Report

The Rushen Branch of the Mothers’ Union is one of the biggest and most thriving on the Island. We enrolled two new members this year and now have a membership of 24. We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month, in St Catherine’s hall in



the winter and in St Mary's Church in the summer, mainly because of the efficiency of the heating!

Over the past year we have had a range of extremely interesting and entertaining speakers as well as a session of 'Chair Yoga' from our own Jane Gunn. Rev Ginny gave us a great talk about her experiences in Antarctica and our faces were sore from laughing at the funny stories of Judith Ley. Simon Archer told us of his journey from a publican to a priest and Tina Teare gave an extremely informative talk about the work of the Southern Befrienders. Our Christmas Party was held in the festive surroundings of St Mary's Church, it involved food and mulled wine, crackers, carols, a quiz and several seasonal readings and stories. A fun afternoon.

Our branch hosted the Mothers' Union jewellery sale for the south of the island. This was held in St Catherine's Hall and involved selling preloved costume jewellery that had been donated by all the MU branch members. The proceeds went to support the MU charity AFIA (Away From It All) which provides breaks and respite for families and carers in need, it also went towards buying video doorbells and other necessities to help Victim Support as part of the MU Rise Up campaign which aims to raise awareness about domestic abuse.

Our members also manned a baby changing tent at the Southern Show, this is a much-appreciated service, as changing a baby can be problematic at these places.

One of our harder acts of service was to join the other MU branches to help provide the refreshments at Andrew Hillias funeral, for which the Bishop was extremely grateful.

2026 celebrates the 150th Anniversary of Mothers' Union and many events are being planned. All are welcome to join the Mothers' Union, if you are interested or would like to know more, please speak to a member, or contact me.

Lesley Scott

Rushen Branch Leader

832919

Roamer's Report

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Every Wednesday morning, rain or shine, a group of eager walkers meet in St Catherine's Church Hall to prepare for a walk somewhere within both ports.

Very rarely they don't go out on their walk because it is either pouring down, or it looks as though it might. On those occasions they gather together for coffee and a chat. Also meeting up with them are those who feel that taking on such exercise is too much and that a cup of coffee and fellowship is all they want. Sadly I am one of them!

When it is fit and the walk is on the happy group leave the hall at about 10am and spend the next hour roaming around the villages. On their return, at about 11am, the coffee, or tea, is ready for them. One member, June Davies, makes scones each week which are always gobbled up. Everyone sits around the table exchanging all sorts of stories and at about 11.30am everyone begins to leave.

You don't have to be a church member if you would like to join. Everyone is welcome. We charge £2 for the privilege of being part of the group. Over the year we collect well over £100 which is given for the upkeep of our churches.

David Bowman



Parish Magazine

The magazine is published each month and has a variety of articles covering many topics for the reader. It also has articles from church members about the activities that take place within the community. Some of those have been mentioned in this booklet. It costs nothing but hopefully provides

readers with interesting articles. If you would like to contribute please send your articles to me via email at dbow43@outlook.com, no later than the 20th of the month. I would love to receive them.

David Bowman

St Mary's Sunday School Photos



