



June
2026

Rushen Parish Magazine



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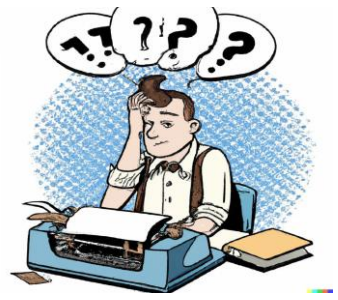
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From the Editor



On page 11 you will find an article about cows. Before you read it try and imagine that it was you who was 'kissing' the cow, and perhaps more interestingly how the cow feels as it is being caressed by a human. Of course we'll never know the answer! Throughout the world there are probably thousands of species of animals, some of which are revered by their owners. You only have to think about cats and dogs, most of which are loved and cared for, and that they return that love in their own way. Perhaps the worst part of loving a domesticated animal is the time when it must be 'put to sleep' at the end of its life, or because of an untreatable medical condition.

Many years ago, to earn money, I used to work on a farm in Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire. I had a variety of tasks to do which ranged from milking the cows, to 'mucking out' the pigs. Neither of these two tasks were particularly enjoyable, especially when attaching the milking cluster to the teats of a cow when it decides to relieve itself of both urine and manure. I did like it though, especially being in a wonderful environment and working with the animals. There were about twenty cows which had to be milked twice a day. There was something special going down to the field where the cows were grazing and bringing them up to the cow shed where they were milked. Somehow, they were always aware of the time we would collect them because they would be waiting at the gate.

One summer my parents allowed me to work at the farm for about three weeks. This was to give the farmer and his wife a chance to go on holiday and, at the same time, have someone at the farm to help their son and daughter with the many daily chores which had to be done. I was given the task of milking whilst he and his sister tackled the 'mucking out' jobs, although very often we would work together. Of the twenty cows there was one, who I called 'Daisy', who was particularly docile. You had to be careful with some of the cows as they could be quite feisty and wouldn't think twice to kick out if they weren't happy. I loved milking 'Daisy' because she had a lovely temperament, or so I thought. One day I was preparing the milking cluster and proceeded to put it on to her four teats. For some reason she wasn't happy, and in a flash kicked out at me and inflicted quite a considerable wound on my leg, as well as causing me to fall over. Rather dazed I stood up at her rear, looked down at the wound and received a dose of manure, and to make the matter worse a shower of urine too. Why would she do that? After all, up to that point, we had a lovely relationship. I even put my arms around her neck after every milking, and she appeared to love it. So why did my confrontation with Daisy cause me so much grief?

The International Fund for Animal Welfare says that '*Coexistence with animals means sharing our planet in a way that prioritises the safety, health, and ethical treatment of both humans and non-human species. It requires setting respectful boundaries, implementing humane deterrents, and understanding that wild and domesticated animals play vital roles in ecological and community well-being.*'

I doubt that there will ever be another time when I come across a cow with a split personality like Daisy, but you can be sure I'll run a mile if I do! Perhaps it is a lesson we should all learn and not try out some of the escapades that you'll find on page 11!

David



Jacob: the man who encountered the holiness of God

Editor: **Lester Amann** considers the man who is our 'spiritual father'...

Have you ever had a dramatic turning point in your life? Was there an incident, a meeting or something you saw or read which profoundly changed you? The Old Testament character Jacob had a dream, which changed

One night, in the region of Luz, a Canaanite city, Jacob had a dream. He saw a ladder, on which were angels, linking earth with heaven. The dream revealed to him that God is continually connected with this world. When Jacob woke up, he knew he was in a special place. He became a changed man and changed the place name from Luz to Bethel, which means House of God. Many years later Jacob changed his name from Jacob to Israel. Bethel became a holy place.

How might we define a holy place? We could say it's a place where God has touched earth with something of heaven e.g. with a miracle or a vision. Venues such as Lourdes (France), Lindisfarne (England), St Peter's in Rome or Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre are considered Holy Places. The Garden of Gethsemane was a special place for Jesus.

Jacob certainly wasn't faultless or impeccable. His encounter with God didn't completely change the way he behaved, but it gave him a fresh perspective on life and where he fitted into God's plans. Like Jacob we too may encounter God at a particular time and grow slowly with God and His plans for us. God doesn't wait until we are perfect before He can use us. Sometimes we too may need a Holy Place to make or to return to, to help us remember we are in God's hands.

Dear God, in my busy life, find for me a place where I can be still; a place to meet with You. I am weak and need your strength for each situation. Give me a holy place where I know your arms are embracing me, always safe and secure. Amen.

Sermon

A pastor, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the pastor asked the man where he had gone.

"I went to get a haircut," was the reply. "But," said the pastor, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

The man replied, "I didn't need one then."



Ladies Working Party – St Mary’s

This report will be somewhat short and sweet as I have only recently returned from visiting my family in South Africa and Dubai so am a little out of the loop. On a personal note, I would like to thank Pat for taking over the LWP magazine reports while I have been away, she does a really good job. Even more personally, I would like to thank all those people who have been concerned for my travelling during this time of war in

the Middle East and thus included me in their prayers. God is good.

The Ladies Working Party continue to run the popular Monday Morning Coffee and Chat sessions 10am – 11.30am in St. Mary’s church and would love to see more of our Parish family members coming along to enjoy the lively get-togethers, especially now the weather is warming up at last, so no excuses. It’s certainly affordable at just £1 donation for limitless coffee or tea and biscuits. Today, thanks to Inger Perkins, we even had cake!

We have spent some time too, snipping used postage stamps as we chat which we then send off to the Bone Marrow Research Trust and have so far sent them 8 very large envelopes full, that’s a lot of stamps! We have received a lovely e-mail thank you letter from them, in which we learned that in the past year £10,900 was raised through this initiative, and we were part of it.

By the time you read this we will have already hosted the Pentecost Faith Lunch, and we hope that you enjoyed it. The next activity we will be involved with will be the Flower Festival in July, during which we will be participating. We are really looking forward to it.

Our LWP meetings are held every Tuesday afternoon from 2pm, usually until approximately 3.30pm. Anyone is welcome to come and join us, as we pray for our church family and friends and families of members. We share interesting readings or stories and island chatter, mixed with plenty of laughter. That’s all for now folks.

Blessings - Rev Ginny Viner

Late for Church

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could go to church. As she ran, she prayed, *"Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"* While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her dress dirty. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, *"Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me again, either!"*

News from St Mary's Sunday School



We've had a busy time in May, starting off with a session about the Fruits of the Spirit. We learnt that the Holy Spirit helps everyone who believes in Jesus Christ to grow in Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. We discussed what each of these qualities mean and how we can show them to others, and we realised that we all need the help of the Holy Spirit to grow a bit more in some of them, especially patience and self-control!

To help us remember, we matched each one up with a real fruit: Strawberry for Love (it's red and if you cut it in half, you get a heart shape!); Orange for Joy (the segments look like smiles!); Pineapple for Peace (you need to cut it into 'pieces!'); Kiwi for Patience (you need a lot of patience to get the seeds out of your teeth!); Grapes for Kindness (we kindly give grapes to sick people); Blueberries for Goodness (there's a lot of goodness in this 'superfood'); Bananas for Faithfulness (they stick together in a bunch!); Peach for Gentleness (you need to be gentle so as not to damage it), and an Apple for Self-Control (when we lack self-control, we easily give in to temptation, like Eve did when she ate the apple). We all enjoyed eating the various fruits, and the children had fun with some craft activities.

Our May all-age service was led by our vicar Joe, who asked the children where the best hiding places in our church would be if we were to play a game of hide and seek. They came up with lots of good suggestions, including in the pulpit and under the vicar's cassock! Joe went on to tell us a story to illustrate that God has chosen to 'hide' in our human hearts, so that we carry Him with us wherever we go (John 14: 15-21). Jesus lives in us through the Holy Spirit, who breathes life into us (similar to CPR mouth-to-mouth rescue breaths!) and helps us to love one another, to be kind, gentle, faithful and patient. Referring to the reading from Acts 17:22-31 (read by Thomas), in which Paul tells the people of Athens about the one true God, Joe reminded us of Paul's letter to the Corinthians (chapter 13), where he explained the true meaning of love and its utmost importance. Violet and Margot had great fun hitting the gong and clashing the cymbals to illustrate that if we do not have love, we are only a 'resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.' Everything else will distract people's attention (like a loud noise); only love will point them to Jesus. The Sunday School led the congregation in an upbeat action song called 'Shine from the inside out' and we also led the prayers of intercession. Many thanks to all who helped with the service, especially to the children.

Our last session in May focused on the amazing events of Pentecost, when the disciples received the Holy Spirit, who empowered them to spread the Good News about Jesus far and wide, marking the beginning of the Church. We made Pentecost windmills to help us remember that the Holy Spirit moves like the wind, and we blew up balloons to illustrate that we need the breath of the Holy Spirit to help us be more like Jesus. We also made flame-coloured streamers and flame headbands to remind us that the Holy Spirit came like tongues of fire.

We are now looking forward to our joint Parish Pentecost celebration at St. Mary's, which will be followed by a faith lunch. May the Holy Spirit come in power and set out hearts on fire for Jesus.

Love and blessings, Claudia



What do they teach them in school these days?!

The following excerpts are 10- and 11-year-old answers to history tests and Sunday school quizzes. They were collected over a period of three years by two teachers. Read carefully and enjoy the grammar, misplaced modifiers, and of course, spelling!

Ancient Egypt was old. It was inhabited by gypsies and mummies who all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert. The climate of the Sarah is such that all the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandos. He died before he ever reached Canada but the commandos made it.

Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines. He was an actual hysterical figure as well as being in the bible. It sounds like he was sort of busy too.

The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a young female moth.

Socrates was a famous old Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. He later died from an overdose of wedlock which is apparently poisonous. After his death, his career suffered a Dramatic decline.

In the first Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled biscuits, and threw the java. The games were messier then than they show on TV now.

Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Dying, he gasped out "Same to you, Brutus."

Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak and was canonized by Bernard Shaw for reasons I don't really understand. The English and French still have problems.

It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. **Gutenberg** invented removable type and the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of blood.

Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes and started smoking.

Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper which was very dangerous to all his men.

News from Kirk Christ & St Catherine's Churches



June 2026



At Kirk Christ we are now looking forward to the Flower Festival which takes place from 2nd – 9th July. The Parish Administer, Rhiannon Manning, has reported that most of the window ledges have reserved. Before the event I will be asking for volunteers to man the church throughout the eight days of the festival, and for those of you who will kindly help with providing and serving refreshments to the many visitors who will want to come to this wonderful event.

At St Catherine's Church, Sunday school members have been helping Wendy Heaton to plant flowers in a small garden area, adjacent to the church as you walk from the hall to the South door of the church. On behalf of parishioners and visitors I would like to thank everyone who has been involved. The concert, held in May, with two children's choirs entertaining us was huge success. I would like to thank Mrs Parsons for bringing the choirs, and the accompanist for a lovely evening.

Gerry Callister

A joy and privilege to be received by the Pope, says Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury has praised the Pope for speaking out against injustice and about hope; has commended working together for the common good; and has endorsed the strengthening power of common witness, in an address after a recent private meeting at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican.

She prayed with Pope Leo and said: "It is a joy and a privilege to be received by you, together with this delegation from Lambeth Palace."

She said: "Your Holiness, you have spoken powerfully about the many injustices in our world today, but you have spoken even more powerfully about hope. The world needed this message at this time — thank you. It reminded us that, despite our sufferings, people long for life in all its fullness, and countless people are working each day for this vision of the common good."

She continued: "May we continue to work together in that hope, trusting that the one who has begun this good work among us will bring it to completion. Please be assured of a warm welcome for the Church of England should you honour the United Kingdom with a visit."

Sudoku June 2026

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

Safeguarding

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

http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion

The Parish of Rushen

Thursday Summer Concerts 2026

ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH, Port Erin

July

- 2 Manx Voices
- 9 Ballafesson Brass
- 16 The Mill Ensemble
- 23 Glenfaba Chorale
- 30 Lon Vane Ladies Choir

August

- 6 Musicale
- 13 John & Karen Elliott and Friends
- 20 Rob & Paul – an evening of folk
- 27 Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band

September

- 3 Lon Dhoo Male Voice Choir
- 10 Sheeanyn Millish
- 17 Rushen Silver Band

CONCERTS COMMENCE AT 7.30 PM

ADMISSION FREE - RETIRING COLLECTION

Crossword Solution May 2026



Miracle at the Table

Thy table is set, but no lavish spread
A simple communion of red wine and bread.
Simple yet holy – where heaven bends low
That those knelt before Thee Thy true grace may know.

We follow where firstly our Saviour has led
We listen to words that Jesus first said:
'This is My body, it's broken for you
And this is My blood, shed for you too.'

The bread that is broken, the wine seen outpoured
They tell of the sacrifice made of our Lord.
His body was broken that we might be saved
But death was defeated – He rose from the grave!

So, kneel in the stillness of this holy place
Gladly receiving these tokens of Grace.
Then go from here knowing His Spirit in you
Will help you to do what He'd have you do!

Nigel Beeton



Sudoku Solution 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

Celebrating 160 years of Reader Ministry

Editor: By the Rt Revd Robert Paterson, a former Chair of the Central Readers' Council. The following is taken from an article which he wrote for The Reader magazine.

It is 160 years since the Reader Movement began in the Church of England. It was born out of a need to connect the proclamation of the Word with an increasingly secular world, a world in which the Church had lost direct contact with millions.

The founding archbishops and bishops realised that people were becoming biblically illiterate, and that there was a need to bring the Bible back into the home and the workplace. They founded a ministry to bring the voice of God back into the conversation.

What was so important in this episcopal initiative in 1866, as with the founding of the Mothers' Union nine years later and the Church Army 16 years later, is that they were all lay initiatives in mission. All, of course, were encouraged and supported by the ordained, but proud to be overwhelmingly lay.

To be a Reader is to emphasise the fact that your primary ministry is *not* in holy buildings with coloured-glass windows and pointed arches, but in being a disciple, a member of the dispersed people of God, bringing Him into the conversation.

Farmers, TikTok, and people kissing cows



Here is a story that you couldn't make up. There is a craze on TikTok of influencers interacting with cute cows, and they have attracted thousands of followers.

So now people are wandering onto farms in search of cute cows, to cuddle and kiss for the camera. Highland type cattle, with their 'floofy' adorable thick fringes and shaggy coats are especially targeted.

Except that the cows, however cute, do not know about TikTok. So, they do not welcome complete strangers who want to wrap their arms around their necks, or pull their tails about, to get "good online content".

One Yoga teacher entered a field and did handstands among bewildered cows, to create an interesting backdrop to a video.

A father slung his son up on top of a cow's back, and was surprised when the cow ran off with his son still on board.

30 people cornered one herd at sunset and used flashing cameras to take pictures and videos of the frightened animals.

The farmers are worried. As one said: "these people risk being trampled, charged or attacked. Cows are not domesticated animals. They are highly unpredictable creatures. They can kick *hard*. If you upset one, you will regret it – and you will never out-run it."

Parish Pump

Boasting

Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a poem, they give him £50."

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a song, they give him £100."

The third boy said, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

Reflected Faith Series The Creed Part 2



THE CREED

WE BELIEVE

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

Last month we considered where the Creed is placed within the service. This month let's think about what is in the Creed(s).

It's important to know that the earliest known Creed, which is still substantially used today was first found in a letter from around AD 341. This is known today as the Apostles' Creed because it is widely thought to have been originally written by the Apostles themselves.

Every phrase in it can be noted as derived directly from biblical texts and it is the compilation that has taken so much thought and discussion until we arrive at the versions we use in churches today.

Because the Creed succinctly includes everything Christians believe, it unites us all in those truths; whichever Christian denomination you choose to worship within.

So, establishing wording that expresses the faith of all Christians has been the challenge.

Protestants sometimes wonder at the phrase, 'the holy catholic Church' being included, but the word 'catholic' here has the meaning of 'universal' rather than denominational.

We are ALL united in our basic faith.

This is what makes us Christians and distinguishes us from other 'churches', whether they have the name of Jesus in their title or not.

Only Churches which acknowledge and include one of the recognised creeds can join the international organisation of 'Churches Together'.

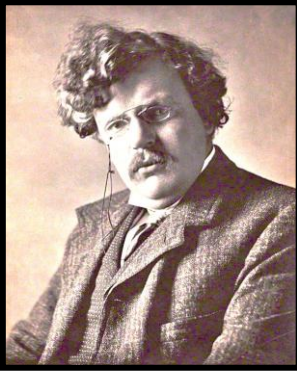
Essentially, this is a sure way to know that you are at a Christian service.

In more recent years the Church has authorised several Affirmations of Faith which contain the key tenants of faith but are shorter and, if you like, simpler to understand.

This month

Because the Creed has to be universally accepted within established churches, deviations from the texts are not permitted. However, just for the joy of thinking ... what would you include in a statement of faith if you were drafting it? Which friends would you want to include on your 'committee'?

The Revd Dr Jo White



Remembering G K Chesterton

Ninety years ago, on 14th June 1936, G K Chesterton died at his home in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. Novelist, short story writer, journalist, essayist, poet, social/literary critic and theologian, he is remembered for his stories about the priest-detective Father Brown.

Gilbert Keith Chesterton was born in Kensington, London, to an estate agent father and a Swiss-French mother. He was educated at St Paul's School before studying art at the Slade School and literature at University College, London. He did not get a degree, and his earliest ambition was to be an artist.

A conspicuous figure in both height and girth, he eventually took to writing, producing in all about 80 books, several hundred poems, 200 short stories, 4000 essays (mostly newspaper columns), and several plays. His literary preoccupations were initially journalism and social commentary, then literary criticism and lastly religion.

He was an apologist who spoke out for orthodox Christianity, initially from an Anglican standpoint, but after 1922 as a Roman Catholic. Using paradox, a sense of wonder and imaginative wit, he described the Christian faith as the one logical answer to life's mysteries. His seminal book, *Orthodoxy*, written when he was an Anglican, was a key factor in the conversion of C S Lewis.

Chesterton married Frances Blogg in 1901, but the couple were unable to have children. A writer herself, Frances encouraged her husband and acted as his personal assistant. He survived a life-threatening illness in 1914 affecting his heart and kidneys and was unconscious for a long period before recovering, though he never regained full vitality.

His most widely known invented character was Father Brown, kindly protagonist of a series of detective novels later televised and recently rerun. Father Brown is an unprepossessing figure with a sharp mind who understands the intricacies of evil through hearing many confessions.

Tim Lenton

A lesson in lies

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

All in the month of June



250 years ago, on 11th June, John Constable, British landscape artist, was born.

150 years ago, on 19th June 1876, Nigel Gresley, railway engineer, was born. He designed some of the best-known steam locomotives in Britain, including the Flying Scotsman.

100 years ago, on 1st June 1926 the American film actress, model and sex symbol Marilyn Monroe was born. Remembered for Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, The Seven Year Itch, and Some Like it Hot, among others.

90 years ago, on 14th June 1936, G K Chesterton died. Novelist, short story writer, journalist, essayist, poet, social/literary critic and theologian, and remembered for his stories about the priest-detective Father Brown.

80 years ago, on 8th June 1946 the London Victory Celebrations following WW2 took place. Allied forces paraded through London, cheered by crowds that stretched from Buckingham Palace to Regent's Park. Countrywide, an estimated 12 million people joined in various celebrations.

65 years ago, from 4th June to 9th November, the Berlin Crisis of 1961 took place. It led to Berlin being partitioned into East Berlin and West Berlin, and the erection of the Berlin Wall on 13th August.

50 years ago, from 23rd June to 27th August, the 1976 British Isles Heat Wave took place. One of the hottest and driest summers on record, it dried up rivers and evaporated reservoirs. September and October both saw very heavy rainfall.

40 years ago, on 22nd June 1986, the 'Hand of God' goal took place during the quarter-final of the 1986 FIFA World Cup in Mexico City. Argentine football player Diego Maradona scored a goal against England using his hand, which the referee mistakenly thought was his head, and allowed the goal. England was knocked out of the World Cup as a result, and Argentina won it.

30 years ago, on 4th June 1996 the Second Severn Crossing was officially opened. The bridge spans the River Severn and links England and Wales via the M4 motorway. **Also on 15th June 1996** that the centre of Manchester was devastated by an IRA bomb. 200 people were injured and the city centre had to be redeveloped because of the immense amount of damage.

10 years ago, on 3rd June 2016 Muhammad Ali, American world heavyweight boxer, died. He was regarded as the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time. **Also on 16th June 2016** that Jo Cox, Labour MP for Batley and Spen, was murdered by a far-right extremist. She was 41. **Also, on 23rd June 2016**, the UK European Union (EU) membership referendum was held. 52 per cent of voters voted to leave the EU, and 48 per cent voted to remain. The UK left the EU on 31st January 2020.



Feed the birds – but thoughtfully

If you enjoy feeding the birds, you are not alone. Up to 60% of all households in the UK regularly feed their wild birds, according to surveys from UK Pet Food. It all adds up to an estimated £250 million in sales annually, with roughly 150,000 tonnes of seed being sold.

When feeding wild birds, here are five mistakes to avoid:

Not keeping the feeders clean. This can spread disease. The RSPB advises cleaning bird feeders once a week with a mild soap such as washing-up liquid. Do it outside, using brushes that you keep for this job alone.

Leaving too much food out. It attracts rodents. Instead, the RSPB advises that little and often is best. But keep an eye on those feeders and keep them topped up. When birds are nest-building and raising broods, they need a lot of energy. Feed peanuts in a rigid mesh feeder, so that large piece of nut cannot choke baby birds. Avoid putting out fat in hot weather – it can go rancid.

Feeding bread. This can lead to malnutrition. Bread is high in carbohydrates, while garden birds require a protein-rich and high-calorie diet. A chick with a stomach full of bread can freeze to death overnight. Ideally, feed a combination of mealworms, seeds, sunflower hearts, dried fruit, peanuts and fat.

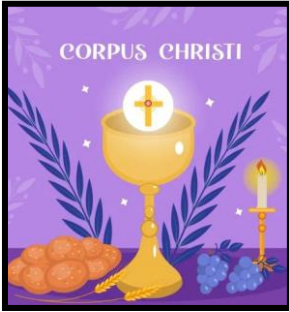
Forgetting to provide water. Birds need to drink and bathe daily, especially in hot weather. Change the water every day and keep the basin clean.

Putting feeders in the wrong place. Place your feeders near to shrubs, trees and bushes, to provide cover. Blackbirds and robins are ground feeders, whereas tits and sparrows prefer to feed from hanging stations. Using an array of feeders will attract a wide range of birds.

Parish Pump

Which Way to Heaven?

The evangelist Billy Graham told of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to post a letter before the service that evening, he asked a young boy in the street where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Dr Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven." The boy replied, "How can you do that? You don't even know your way to the post office."



Corpus Christi Thanks for Holy Communion

The feast of Corpus Christi was proposed by Thomas Aquinas, focused on the Eucharist or Holy Communion. It celebrates the joy of sharing the Body and Blood of Christ with His presence in the Eucharist, and is usually celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

Today, most Protestant denominations don't acknowledge the festival, because of its association with the doctrine of the Real Presence. However, some Anglican churches do observe it, as the Thanksgiving for Holy Communion.

How do we understand the significance of the Eucharist or Holy Communion? Paul in 1 Corinthians 11: 23-32, points us in three directions.

A Past Commemoration:

The Eucharist *looks back* as we remember the Passover meal Jesus shared with His disciples (Luke 22:14–20). Jesus broke the bread and took the cup to signify that His atoning sacrifice on the Cross delivers us from the bondage of sin and death. As we remember His broken body and shed blood, it becomes personal: Christ died for *me*, suffered for *my* sins that *I* might live. It is truly a *eucharist*, a thanksgiving: '*Do this in remembrance of Me*' (1 Corinthians 11: 24,25).

A Present Communion:

The Eucharist speaks of the communion we enjoy with a living Christ, because our sins are forgiven. Paul encourages us to *look in* at the state of our hearts: '*Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.*' (28). We should also *look around* acknowledging the communion we have with other believers. Holy Communion expresses our unity together: '*Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.*' (11:17). Paul is expressing his concerns here about the divisions in the Corinthian Church.

A Future Certainty:

The Eucharist is also a place where we *look forward* to Christ's return: '*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*' (26). It declares that the reign of Christ has already begun, as we look forward to Jesus' return. He will unite earth and heaven under His rule and sin, death and Satan will finally be defeated.

So, when we next take Holy Communion, let's reflect on the past, present and future implications of what this meal means for us.

Rushen Mothers' Union



Our year of meetings has now ended and we have started planning an exciting and varied programme for next year. This will include talks from our own members as Ginny will tell us about the Churches of the Revelation and Gerry and Elisabeth will recount their experiences on receiving the Maundy money and visiting Buckingham Palace. David will choose his topic nearer the time.

The year will start with our Corporate Communion Service at Kirk Christ on Monday 14th September. A reminder and more details will be in the August magazine.

This year the Mothers' Union celebrate its 150th anniversary. As part of the celebrations the Prayer Baton from York spent a week on our Island being photographed in all the beauty spots and having a Manx prayer added at the Festival Service at Braddon Church. Another celebration will be an Afternoon Tea in Port Erin on 22nd September. Save the date and more details will be published in August. Hats and period costumes are optional!

Another important date is 10th June. There will be a live streaming of the Mothers' Union Service from St Pauls Cathedral. This will be in St Catherine's Hall, Port Erin at 5pm. Tea and biscuits will be served from 4.00. Everyone is welcome.

Mothers' Union are manning baby changing tents at the Southern and Royal shows and an MU tent on Tynwald Day. We are looking for volunteers, if you are interested, please contact me.

Dates for Diaries

Wednesday 10th June 5pm Livestream of MU service from St Pauls Cathedral. St Catherine's Hall, Port Erin. Refreshments from 4pm

29th June Victim Support IoM Conference. Nobles Hospital. Volunteers needed as welcomers/refreshments servers.

Monday 6th July MU tent Tynwald Day

25/26th July MU tent Southern Show

7/8th August MU tent Royal Manx Show

Lesley Scott

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 monuments.*

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – Church Monuments

This month as we continue our walk through the church building, we focus on monuments. George Herbert has a poem on this theme which contrasts the body we see represented in marble, but now consigned to dust, with the soul released to perform its eternal devotions. Such monuments are often a reminder of the frailty of life and the certainty of death, symbolised by an hourglass or a skull or classical urns.

In St Cuby’s Church, Duloe in Cornwall there is a fine slate memorial of an Elizabethan lady, Anna Coffyn, depicted in a richly embroidered dress with gloves and a prayer book, ready for church. Underneath are the skull and crossbones, a *memento mori*, a reminder that death has visited even this elegant lady. That sign of death can come as a shock to us when we are committed so much to living and getting the most out of life today. Death intrudes violently into the world we would like.

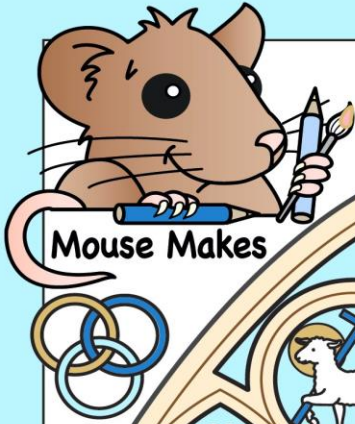
But in St Bartholomew’s Church, Much Marcle in Herefordshire, there is a monument that tells us something of the serenity of death. It is the effigy of Blanche Mortimer, who died in 1347. The church is filled with superb monuments, but this one has its own distinct and moving beauty. The carving of her dress shows buttoned sleeves and a wimple, while one hand holds a rosary. She impresses us with her loveliness, even in the midst of her death.

Leonardo da Vinci wrote, ‘While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die.’ As we dedicate ourselves to God in this life, we can trust with Blanche Mortimer in the 14th century that His will is for us to be with Him forever. This life is not just our preparation for death: it is our schooling for heaven, and life in heaven means life with God.



***St Bartholomew’s Church
Much Marcle***




Children's Page June 2026



"May the grace of the Lord **JESUS CHRIST** and the love of **GOD** and the fellowship of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you all."

2 Corinthians 13:14



		
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JESUS • CHRIST
 SON • SAVIOUR • LORD
 EMMANUEL • MESSIAH
 SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY
 TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR
 BREAD • WORD • HEALER
 VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA

GOD • FATHER
 ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH
 YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY
 HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR
 ETERNAL • CREATOR
 KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE
 SHIELD • ROCK • I AM

HOLY SPIRIT
 GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS
 COMFORTER • GUIDE
 ADVOCATE • WISDOM
 POWER • TRUTH • BREATH
 LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE
 WIND • FIRE • TEACHER



Giving thanks for fathers



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

There is no finer sound in the world than your child calling you 'daddy', or 'dad'. I love it!

And as I look around our neighbourhood, dads today are far more involved in their children's lives than when I was a child. Pushing prams, holding hands while out on a walk, bathing, playing games. Dads are in all these activities and more. I see the dads on either side of our house, and they obviously love their children with all their hearts.

Unfortunately, too many children grow up without a stable and involved male figure in their lives over the whole of their childhood and beyond. And no prizes for guessing the outcome; when they reach fatherhood, their children often grow up without a stable and involved male figure in their lives.

The month of June brings Fathers' Day - this year on the 21st June. May all dads reading this be pampered like never before! If it's a fine day, it may be a case of 'Stand back everyone- dad's going to bar-b-q'. But before we get carried away, let's spare a thought for those who for one reason or another couldn't be dads, or whose dads fell far short of the high expectations we invest in them, or who lost a dad at a crucial time in life and feel a permanent ache where 'Dad' should be.

Our Christian faith teaches us to look at God as 'Father'- we address Him as such in the opening words of the Lord's Prayer, and it was Jesus' custom to talk to God as 'Father'. Maybe, taking into account those who have had a very mixed experience, or a bad experience of fathers, we should qualify what we say of God and call Him 'the Good Father', or 'our Good Father'.

Because that it what the experience of countless Christian would testify to; that God is a good father. I think of the picture Jesus paints in the parable of the Prodigal Son; the father on the look-out for his wayward son day after day, and when he sees him in the distance runs all the way to him to embrace him. Now in Jesus' time, in that culture, fathers did NOT run, least of all to welcome returning no-goods who had wasted half the father's fortune. Fathers were people of dignity. Run? Never!

Jesus has turned that on its head. We can be sure that a welcome awaits us; we turn to God, or return to God, and find that He's already half-way towards us, coming at speed to embrace us.

Happy Father's Day!



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 accordance with
the teachings of the Bible*

Amen

June 2026

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st The country of Ukraine and the people who have been displaced because of war
- 2nd Our families, friends, and neighbours, and those we know living far away from us
- 3rd Technology and how it has helps to keep families communicating with each other
- 4th All who seek to relieve hunger and suffering
- 5th The TT and the safety of those taking part, and the work of the marshals.
- 6th The works of agencies such as the Samaritans and Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7th People who are homeless, poor, and starving and in need of help
- 8th Everyone living in Port Erin and Port St Mary
- 9th All volunteers prepared to work with young people as they grow up
- 10th The police on the Isle of Man and the work they do to maintain law and order
- 11th Those in financial difficulty because of the rising costs of energy
- 12th Doctors, nurses and all people helping to look after people who are ill
- 13th The work of the Church Army
- 14th Children having to take examinations and the preparations leading up to them
- 15th Those who minister within the Southern Mission Partnership
- 16th The five PCC committees working to enhance God's work within Rushen Parish
- 17th Those responsible for maintaining the highways on the island
- 18th Our Government and its responsibilities in keeping law and order on the island
- 19th Being gracious and loving in our relationships with each other
- 20th Children's and Youth Ministry as it grows throughout the parish
- 21st Places in the world where lives have been lost and communities destroyed
- 22nd People who are lonely and rarely see or talk to anyone
- 23rd For good weather so that everyone can get out and enjoy our wonderful island
- 24th Young single mothers having to bring up their children in difficult circumstances
- 25th Guidance for leaders in industry and commerce
- 26th Those who look after the environment within the parish
- 27th The Isle of Man Foodbank and the help it gives to families short of money and food
- 28th Those living daily with domestic violence and the people who try to help them
- 29th All who work in dangerous and poor conditions
- 30th Volunteers prepared to work with young people as they grow up

Services June/July 2026

7th June <i>(Trinity 1)</i>	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)
14th June <i>(Trinity 2)</i>	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)
21st June <i>(Trinity 3)</i>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Pryer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
28th June <i>(Trinity 4)</i>	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
5th July <i>(Trinity 5)</i>	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)
12th July <i>(Trinity 6)</i>	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)
19th July <i>(Trinity 7)</i>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Pryer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
26th July <i>(Trinity 8)</i>	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
2nd August <i>(Trinity 9)</i>	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)

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St Mary's Ladies Working Party:

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*Articles for the magazine should be submitted to the editor no later than **20th of each month.***

This arrangement is subject to change.

Parish Director of Music:

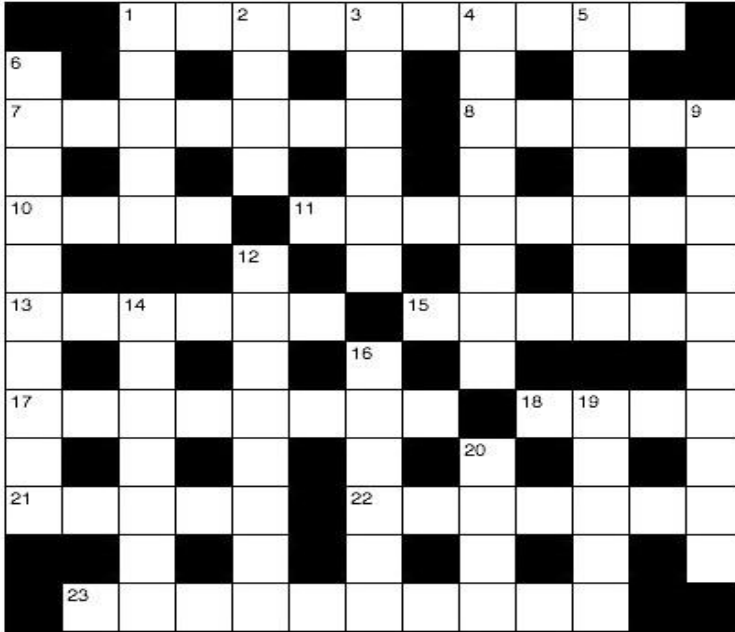
Mr M D Porter, 10 Fairway Drive, Rowany, Port Erin 832143

Churchyard Enquiries:

Please contact Mr Harry Dawson: 478050/835770

or Mr G Callister: 474924/834627

Crossword June 2026



Across

- 1 Evil (**Genesis 6:5**) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (**2 Kings 3:15**) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (**Luke 11:1**) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every' (**2 Corinthians 4:8**) (4)
- 11 Fraud (**2 Corinthians 6:8**) (8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (**Job 19:12**) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (**Genesis 31:34**) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be —' (**1 Corinthians 12:1**) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling (**Genesis 26:25**) (4)
- 21 'As for man, his days are like—, he flourishes like a flower of the field' (**Psalms 103:15**) (5)
- 22 Or I live (**anag.**) (7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1Across (**Romans 13:4**) (10)

Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (**John 3:16**) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (**anag.**) (6)
- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (**2 Kings 17:29**) (8)
- 5 Began (**Luke 9:46**) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (**John 7:32**) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (**Ruth 2:3**) (10)
- 12 Put in jail (**Acts 22:19**) (8)
- 14 Aceturn (**anag.**) (7)
- 16 Discharge (**Acts 21:3**) (6)
- 19 'All these— come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (**Mark 7:23**) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!' (**Revelation 19:7**) (4)