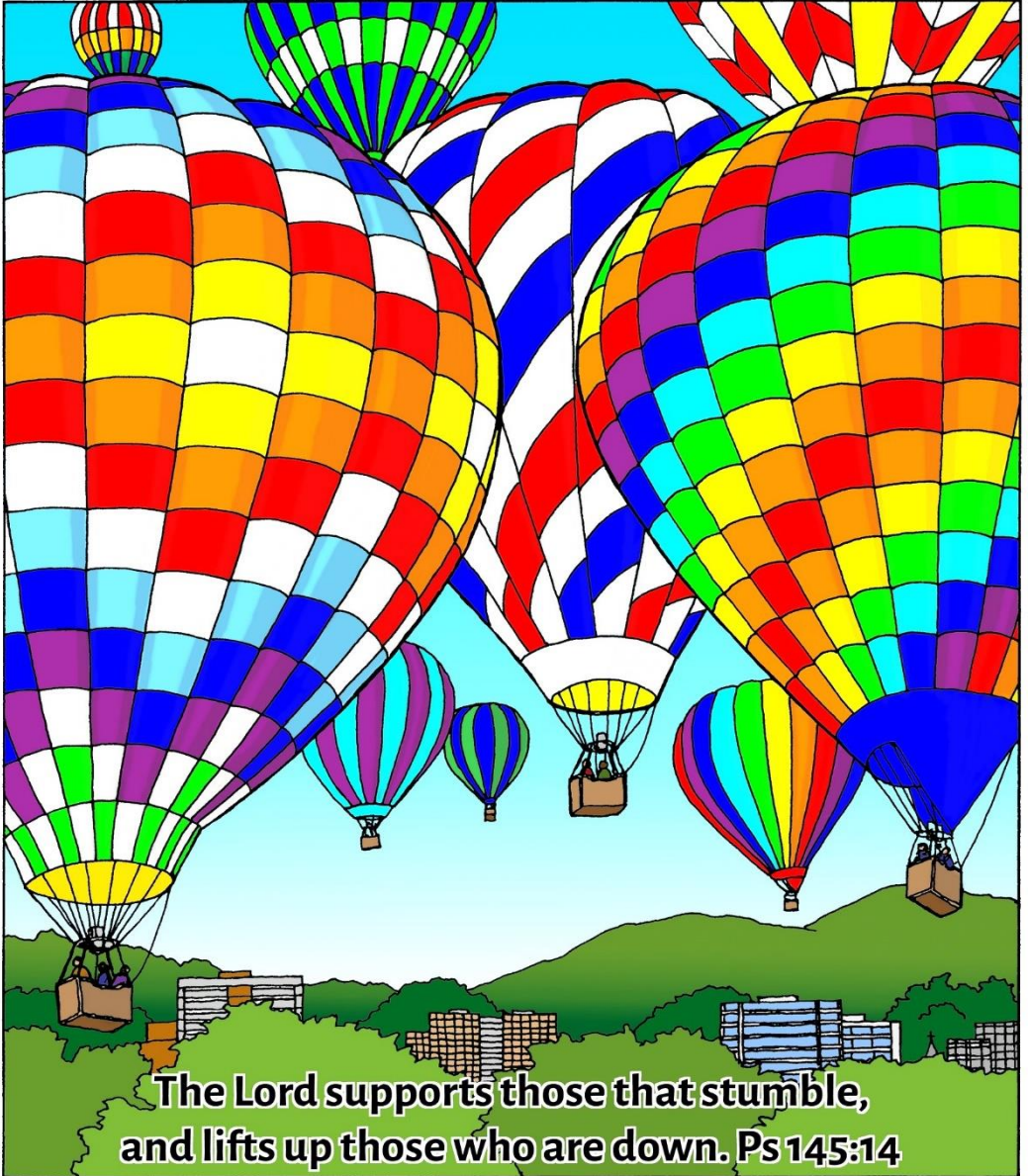


August
2026

Rushen Parish Magazine



**The Lord supports those that stumble,
and lifts up those who are down. Ps 145:14**

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From the Editor

I suspect that many of you are glad that the recent football tournament, known as the world cup, has ended, and that our lives have returned to normality. I, like many others, was hooked on to some of the football matches that were played, even though I didn't necessarily support the teams that were playing. We now have approximately two weeks before the new season commences, and the banter between opposing teams can continue for the next nine months. It's a mouth-watering prospect! It's likely that teams are busy looking for new players to strengthen their squads, and that some players, who have had their day, will join the many others destined for the scrap heap, or to play for one of the lesser known teams. It's a cruel sport which takes no prisoners and leaves some players destined to spend the rest of their lives being football pundits, if they are lucky, or stacking shelves at the local supermarket. On the other hand, players with huge egos, are sold at ridiculous sums of money, receive astronomical wages, and then don't know what to do with it all.

When Pauline and I married in 1968 we had all sorts of plans for our future together. We both loved children which I guess is obvious as we chose the teaching profession as our route to happiness. The pay was atrocious and by the time we had paid the mortgage, and the regular outgoings, we had very little to spend on our leisure time. We were both 26 years of age and had agreed to have two or three children, and that once we had reached the age of 30 we would have no more. We stuck to the plan and on 31st October 1972 our third child was born. However, what we hadn't planned for was that he was born with a congenital brain tumour. Throughout this period I was the only one bringing home a salary and life was tough. Frequent trips to the Walton Centre in Liverpool took its toll. I rode my bike to work, eight miles to Timperley and back every day in all sorts of weather. The lack of money began to affect us both and there didn't seem to be a way out of our predicament. It took years before we began to see a light on the horizon which glowed a little more as each day passed us by.

Two stories about those with money, and those without. The first about footballers, and others, who have so much, they tend to squander it, often in the wrong direction, and the second story about my family struggling to make ends meet. They are stories that are enacted every day, and to some extent are the downfall of many marriages or relationships. I can't really comment on those who have so much that they don't know what to do with it because I have never crossed that pathway. However, I can mention the route that Pauline and I took. Our course of action was straightforward and is available to all who have problems. We chose our local church and Jesus for the support we needed. We prayed every day that the burden that was on our shoulders would gradually ease, and it did.

Hebrews 13:5 states "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you', and he's certainly kept His promise. May anyone with a burden that needs to be eased follow the same route as we did. It really works.

David

Just Listen!



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

Techno-dinosaur and curmudgeon that I am, I have clung to my old plug-in satnav for far too long. It has finally given up the ghost, and I have listened to the superior wisdom of Madame-my-wife, and started to use my smartphone, held in place via a holder on the car's dash, to navigate around areas I'm not familiar with.

Except of course, this morning, I thought I knew better than the info on the phone which advised an unusual route as I set off in the direction of my hydrotherapy session. (Techno-dinosaur, curmudgeon AND falling to bits- what a combination!). And ran into a long traffic queue at the new and extensive road works in the next village. Serves me right.

There's value in listening to someone who knows. The data on the phone had already taken into account the fact that the traffic queue would make me late, and had re-routed me away from the bottleneck. But curmudgeonly dinosaurs often think they know better- to their cost.

The art is, of course, in knowing who knows best. There are many false guides in this world, but it is the witness of Christians throughout time and throughout the world that listening to God- in prayer, or through His word- is a trusted way of navigating our way through today's world where many voices clamour for our attention, not all of which are trustworthy.

That great Welsh hymn 'Guide me O thou great Jehovah' is one of many which sings of our trust in God to guide us. It talks of being pilgrims through a land without waymarks, and it asks God to 'hold me with Thy powerful hand'. Here is Someone who knows and who is worth listening to. God Himself has said 'I will never leave you nor forsake you' (Hebrews 13:5) we can trust the One who will not leave us to guide us down good paths. It's a life-time's work to learn to trust in God, but we can improve, we can know the One who says 'My sheep know My voice' more clearly.

Nearly omnipotent

The curate was giving his young daughter a cuddle before she went to bed. As he picked her up and hugged her tight, she said: "Daddy, you're so strong! I really think you'll be God one day!"



Women's Fellowship

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

One thing has dominated the last two months for LWP and that has been preparations for the Flower Festival. The members once again threw themselves into the organising the LWP display, and the hospitality. It is fun to work together on such an agreeable project.

We have posted two more large envelopes full of trimmed and used postage stamps to the 'Bone Marrow Cancer Research Trust'. Please keep the stamps coming in, it's a great help if they are neatly trimmed with a border of half an inch all round, Thank you.

We have had a sad time recently in the group losing two of our wonderful members, Inger and Gloria. Two very popular, always joyful ladies, who we are really going to miss into the future. We did what we could for Gloria, by ensuring that the church was beautifully decorated with numerous arrangements of pink flowers, and each of us wearing pink outfits as requested. Inger's husband Eddie arranged everything for her funeral at Mount Tabor and it was so beautifully done. A wonderful curtain call for this former ballerina.

Our Prayer ministry is very important to us. We pray by name for all who are in need of healing or comfort at the beginning of each meeting.

The Coffee and Chat Monday Mornings are still going strong and attracting new visitors. The sessions will be suspended during the Beach Mission from 26th July to 7th August.

The next major event will be a Musical Evening which is to be held in St Catherine's Hall on Friday 18th September at 7pm. It will be a fun journey around the world in music and song. That's all I'm going to say, lots of surprises with tables of six. Bring your own drinks, glasses, food of choice, and friends and family members. Tickets at £5.00 per person will be available soon. Stop me and buy some! Donations of prizes for the raffle will be welcome. These can be handed to Gerry Callister. The proceeds of the evening will be used by LWP for current projects.

The Ladies Working Party is currently having its summer break after having enjoyed a wonderful end of season 'Afternoon Tea' at The Golfer's Rest in Port St. Mary on 14th July.

Tuesday meetings are now suspended until Tuesday 1st September.

New members from our parish family will be welcome to join us.

Blessings Rev. Ginny



St Mary's Sunday School Report

By the time you read this article, we will have started our summer holiday break and some of us will be at Port St Mary Beach Mission but let me update you on how we finished a very enjoyable Sunday School year. At the end of June, we had a fun morning at Silverdale for our annual Sunday School picnic. The weather was lovely, the children enjoyed playing games on the field as well as spending time in the play park, the adults had a good catch-up, and we all shared a delicious picnic full of tasty treats!

In early July we met to prepare for our anniversary all-age service focusing on the parable of the Sower (Matthew 13). We started by playing a card matching (memory) game to help us think about how people, animals and plants grow and what they need to live. We all agreed that as well as water and sunshine, plants need good fertile soil which allows their roots to go deep and helps them to grow strong. With the help of a Bible story book and a video, the children heard the story of the farmer who sowed seed which fell on different types of soil, but only the seed that fell on good soil produced fruit. We learnt that the seed represents the Word of God and the soil represents our hearts. God wants our hearts to be like the good soil, so that His Word can take root in our hearts and help us grow in faith as well as in the fruits of the Spirit, eg love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and gentleness. To help us remember the story and its meaning, we planted cress seeds in decorated paper cups filled with good soil! The children also enjoyed a flower craft activity, reminding us that in order for our faith to grow, the planted seeds of faith also need watering, eg by reading the Bible and talking to God in prayer.

The following week was our Sunday School Anniversary service, and although some children were unable to attend, those who were able to join us did the Sunday School proud. Accompanied by Mike Porter on the organ, they led the congregation in joyfully singing 'Read your Bible, pray every day, and you'll grow, grow, grow' (to the tune 'Fishers of Men'), and they enthusiastically acted out the first part of the parable of the Sower. Our vicar Joe had come well prepared to illustrate an important aspect of the parable in a memorable way! Having asked two of the children to plant seeds in a tray filled with fertile soil, and having watered the soil, he told us that the Sower in the story would not have planted seeds like that. Joe then surprised the whole congregation by throwing handfuls of seed all over the church to demonstrate how generously the Sower would have scattered the seed everywhere, in the hope that at least some of it would land on fertile soil and bear fruit. Joe explained that God wants us to spread the gospel of his love far and wide (in our families, with friends, at work, at school, on the bus etc.), not worrying about whether others are receptive to the message or not, and leaving it up to God where the seed takes root and grows to bear fruit. The more generously we sow, the more fruit there will be!

The Sunday School also led the prayers of intercession, before Joe presented the children with their well-deserved prizes at the end of the service. A big Thankyou to the children and their parents for all their contributions to our all-age services throughout the year!

We are now having our summer holiday break and are hoping to see those families staying on Island at Port St Mary Beach Mission!

Wishing you all a very blessed and restful summer,

Claudia

A Transient Darkness

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: On 12th August there will be an eclipse of the sun, partial for most of us but total for some in Spain and Iceland and on the Atlantic Ocean.

A shadow steals across the land;
A darkness in the summer sky.
The sunlight thieved by silent hand -
No robins sing, no blackbirds fly.

Celestial spheres align in space
A band of shadow on the earth;
Reminding mortals of our place
The fragile nature of our birth.

The sun once turned its face away
And hid dread scenes from human eye;
The brightness turned to sombre grey
As Christ our Saviour hung to die.

And then! A flash of diamond light!
The King regains His rightful crown!
The gloom is but a fleeting sprite -
The King returns! The shadows drown!

The cross is bare as empty tomb,
Their victim broke their hellish bond.
For Christ is Risen! Gone the gloom!
He calls us to the light beyond!

The evil powers that cause us pain,
That lead us from the rightful way,
How very transient is their reign!
How soon we'll know eternal day!

Observe with joy the lunar shade
Mourn not the passing of the sun,
The light returns! The debt is paid!
Christ is alive! The battle's won!

150 years on, Mothers' Union is a "powerhouse" - Archbishop of Canterbury

The Mother's Union is celebrating its 150th anniversary. At a recent service in St Paul's Cathedral, the Archbishop of Canterbury said she had seen first-hand the profound impact" of its work in communities around the world, "in family life, healthcare, education, social projects — challenging poverty, injustice and violence. . . In fact, I often say, if I need something doing, ask the Mothers' Union to do it."

Her sermon on Ephesians had asked: "How do we sustain ourselves as we serve? How do we nourish our own spiritual, mental, and physical well-being, whilst we are tending to the needs of others?"

The answer, she suggested, lay in St Paul's words: "I pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

She continued. "May *you* know the depth of God's love in the grass-roots work that you do throughout the world. May *you* know the breadth of God's love as you strive to serve this global movement.

"You are salt to our world, in the ordinary, everyday ways you make such a difference to the people you serve, and in the fellowship that you offer to one another."



News from St Catherine's and Kirk Christ



Kirk Christ

During July we hosted a very well attended flower festival at Kirk Christ. The windows in the church were filled with beautiful flowers. On behalf of Rushen Parochial Church Council I would like to thank all who helped and contributed in any way. For those of you who displayed their flowers so beautifully around the church, as well as the windows, I would like to give a special vote of thanks. How you designed the flowers and foliage in such a way as to depict a connection with the Manx language, was brilliantly done, and many visitors were often in awe of your creativity. Can I also thank the stewards, who gave of their own time to discuss displays with visitors, serve refreshments, and/or provide refreshments, especially when there was a lull in the footfall. You have been amazing. Altogether there were 425 visitors and their generous donations amounted to over £700.

On 16th July we witnessed a beautiful wedding when Elizabeth Sheen's grandson, Peter Stanley married Jemima Forley-Rose. The weather couldn't have been better in glorious sunshine.

St Catherine's

Many visitors came into the church in July to look at the silk paintings depicting 'The Great Escape' and in some cases a church that has been modernised from the last time they saw it.

On 19th July a baptism was held at the church when Dominic Roger Gear was baptised by our Vicar. It was a very happy service.

On 17th July we had the first of two quizzes in St Catherine's Church Hall. As usual the hall was filled with nine tables eager to outwit the other eight. It was a lovely occasion which raised approximately £340 for church funds. The second quiz will be held on 20th November, so if you missed the first one and would like to outwit other competitors on other tables, please make a note of the date. It commences at 7.15pm and will conclude with a raffle at approximately 9.45pm. Each table can have a maximum of six competitors, although you can have less. You have plenty of time to think about it and book a table. We can only accommodate nine tables as space is at a premium. If you want to book a table as early as now please contact me on 474924.

Gerry Callister

Sudoku August 2026

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

Sky fright

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around in the sky. One very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. "Can't you do something?" she demanded.

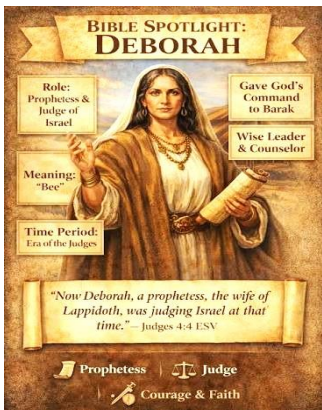
"I'm sorry ma'am," said the reverend gently. "I'm in sales, not management."

Sudoku Solution July 2026

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

Crossword Solution July 2026

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



Deborah Woman of Faith and Courage

*Editor: **Lester Amann** considers the woman who told the truth to Israel....*

Some people are good working behind the scenes. They don't make a fuss or want to grab your attention. Instead, they quietly do a job which always gets done, and it is only when they are missing for some reason do we realise the important work that they do!

Deborah was a bit like that. Her name may not be familiar to us, but her story is recorded in the Old Testament Book of Judges. She lived many years after Joshua had taken the former Egyptian captives into the Promised Land. After Joshua's death the Israelites disregarded God's laws. They intermarried with the heathen nations around them, practised all kinds of wickedness and worshipped at pagan shrines.

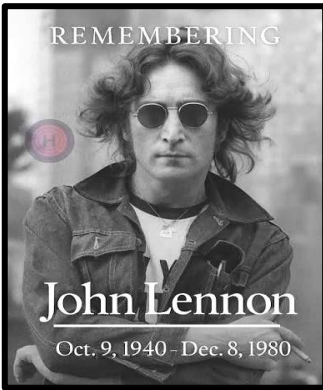
So, God responded by punishing His people. He allowed them to fall into the hands of their enemies which resulted in a period of oppression during which the Israelites pleaded to God for mercy. God answered their cries with a judge to deliver them, and Deborah appeared.

A judge in those days was a compelling figure who rallied the nation at times of defeat and called them back to God's laws and standards. These judges delivered the people from danger and out of sin and rebellion. Into this male dominated society God gave them Deborah, a kind of mother figure. As far as spiritual things were concerned, they were like children and needed mothering!

God revealed to Deborah His plan to save Israel from their enemy. She rallied Barak, to muster the tribes of Israel and lead them into battle against the Canaanites. In an act of great faith, Barak agreed to do this, and Israel entered a period of peace which lasted 40 years.

The Book of Judges demonstrates God's grace in using unlikely people for His work. At a time when women were regarded of low status and expected to be silent, Deborah responded to God's call and became an unlikely hero. Deborah's great achievement was to inspire faith in others. Do we know a Deborah? Someone who encourages and supports us or helps another Christian in some vital way?

Deborah was decisive, determined and dauntless in bringing deliverance to her people. Once God had spoken to Deborah, she knew Israel would be victorious. We need the faith of Deborah. She believed that God was on her side, and He would not fail her. So must we.



When John Lennon said the Beatles were 'more popular than Jesus'

It was 60 years ago, on 4th and 5th August 1966 that US newspapers and radio stations quoted John Lennon as saying his Beatles band was "more popular than Jesus." It provoked widespread protests across America.

The story had really begun some months earlier, when in March Lennon's comment was originally published in the London Evening Standard, as part of an interview that he had given at his home in Weybridge. He had told the reporter: "Christianity will go. It will vanish and shrink. I needn't argue about that; I'm right and I will be proved right. We're more popular than Jesus now. I don't know which will go first, rock 'n' roll or Christianity. Jesus was all right, but His disciples were thick and ordinary. It's them twisting it that ruins it for me."

Lennon's views passed without much comment in London, but five months later, when his comment was reprinted in the American teen magazine *Datebook*, he sparked an enormous wave of fury across America, especially in the Bible Belt.

Many radio stations refused to play Beatle's records, and protestors held public burnings of Beatles records.

Lennon apologised on 12th August, at the start of the Beatles final tour of the USA, saying that he had not meant to say that he was divine, but only that his band was now more popular than Jesus was.

Such a claim did not soothe American sensibilities. Throughout the tour, the band faced pickets and protests and even death threats.

By the end of the American tour, the controversy had driven the band to a big decision. There would be no more live tours, but only studio recordings. Just over three years later, in September 1969, John Lennon left the Beatles for solo work, and the following Spring, Paul McCartney followed him out. The Beatles had reached the end of the road.

Parish Pump

Won't go far

The curate went to the building society about his investments, adding: "We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday." Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: "Have you got a field at the back of your garden, sir?"



The Old Brush

Years ago, I was a sign writer and used specialist brushes for my work; designed for purpose. More recently I had been using one of them for watercolour work because it fit so well in my hand and I loved the marks it made. But it was getting old and the hairs had lost their spring so I thought I would buy a new one from the same company.

So, I chose a new brush, thinking it was the same as my old brush, but it wasn't right, so I chose again. Eventually after much discussion they made me a brush fashioned after my own requirements. And there isn't another like it! As an artist, I have many brushes and they all fulfil a different role; I reach for them all in turn.

How do we compare?

In life, it is very tempting to look around at people and see how grand they are, and how large their purpose is. And it's tempting to think that they are more favoured by God or more important to Him.

When I'm painting, if I want to paint a large dramatic sky, I will reach for a grand brush – and with sweeping confident strokes, will make a bold statement. But if I want to work on some less obvious but vital part, then I reach for a small seemingly insignificant brush. Because – every part is important and each brush is designed for its part.

When I lovingly clean my brushes I often wonder if I have a special one? Yes I do. Every last one of them is special to me. Each one in turn is my favourite! I take great pleasure in them all - every last one of my cranky brushes!

We too are each unique and God takes great delight in us.

'For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.' **Ephesians 2:10**

Being Renewed

When my brush arrived, it was like having my old brush back – but renewed.

Colossians 3:10

'Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.'

cont'd.....

We too need to be renewed and made righteous to reflect the image of God our creator. Then we will be ready to be picked up like a brush and be a delight in the Father's hand.

That said, we do not have to be perfect for the Father to use us....

On Sunday, I arrived at church for the music run through and my violin case wouldn't open. So I dashed home and grabbed the old broken violin. It hadn't been played in a while and sounded cranky. I was nervous but decided I was just going to worship God with it regardless. At the end, a lady came up to me and said she'd been moved to tears when she heard the violin! I was rather taken aback.

This was God - not me! I was just willing to worship Him with what I had.

As an end note, when I was an art student learning the skill of painting, I once bleated to a tutor that I couldn't paint, and would he give me a few tips? He told me to stop crying – I could cry at 70 if I still couldn't paint! I remembered this and have applied myself ever since and I'm still learning. But he also told me how to trim a brush to make it the right shape! He proceeded to take out a blade and he cut away all those beautifully shaped hair ends and reshaped it into something else, and my spirit cringed within me. I remember this well but never applied it because why would one abuse what a craftsman had already made so perfectly for its purpose? Far better to select a suitable brush.

As Christians we often commit to doing things that we are not designed for, either out of pressure from others, eagerness to serve, or because we simply don't know what we are designed for. And we force ourselves into a different shape. This can distract us or wear us out and render us invaluable for our true calling.

I believe there is so much freedom in knowing our purpose in Christ and to be content in what it is. In that there is great joy.

For consideration

- What kind of brush am I?
- What are my spiritual giftings and my natural abilities? What do I have to offer? And why has God placed me here?
- How am I going to prayerfully move forward with God in who he has made me to be for his purposes?

Petrina Kent

All in the month of August



250 years ago, on 2nd August 1776 the formal signing of the US Declaration of Independence took place.

175 years ago, on 12th August 1851 the American inventor Isaac Singer was granted a US Patent for his sewing machine. Since then, well over 100 million various models of Singer sewing machines have been sold worldwide.

125 years ago, on 4th August 1901 Louis Armstrong, American jazz trumpeter and singer, was born.

100 years ago, on 17th August 1926 George Melly, British jazz/blues singer, critic and writer on art history, especially Pop Art and Surrealism, was born.

90 years ago, on 1st August 1936 Yves Saint-Laurent, Algerian-born French fashion designer, was born. (Died 2008)

80 years ago, on 13th August 1946 H G Wells, British science fiction novelist (*War of the Worlds*, *The Time Machine*, etc) died.

70 years ago, on 27th August 1956 Britain's first nuclear power station, Calder Hall in Cumbria, began operating. It was the first nuclear power station in the world to generate power on an industrial scale and formed part of the Sellafield complex. Closed in 2003.

65 years ago, on 13th August 1961 East Germany sealed the border between East and West Berlin with barbed wire to prevent an exodus of refugees to the West. Construction on the Berlin Wall began on 15th August. The border reopened in 1989.

60 years ago, on 4th and 5th August 1966 US newspapers and radio stations quoted John Lennon as saying his Beatles band was "more popular than Jesus." He provoked widespread protests, and many radio stations refused to play Beatles' records. Lennon apologised on 12th August, at the start of the Beatles final tour of the USA.

50 years ago, on 7th August 1976 NASA's Viking 2 spacecraft went into orbit around Mars. In two years it orbited Mars about 700 times and sent back 16,000 images.

40 years ago, on 9th August 1986 the rock band Queen performed its final live concert at Knebworth Park before the death of singer Freddie Mercury. (Pneumonia, late 1991.)

Also on 31st August 1986 Henry Moore, British sculptor, died. His monumental, semi-abstract bronze sculptures are displayed in public spaces around the world.

30 years ago, on 28th August 1996 Prince Charles and Princess Diana were divorced after 15 years of marriage.

15 years ago, on 21st August 2011 Hurricane Irene hit the Caribbean and then North Carolina. 49 people were killed and more than \$14 billion worth of damage was done.

10 years ago, on 29th August 2016 Gene Wilder, American film actor, died. (Films include *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* and *Blazing Saddle*.)



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.*

Parable: The Strength of a Seed

At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leaved campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the Sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.

What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of stretch to draw out of the parable of the Sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.



9th August - Mary Sumner - founder of the Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union was founded in 1876. Since then, it has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle.

By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.



C of E apologises for historical adoption

The Church of England has recently apologised for its role in historical adoption practices, particularly in mother and baby homes.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, said: "We are profoundly sorry for the pain, trauma and stigma experienced, and still carried, by many people because of historical adoption practices in homes affiliated to the Church of England.

"We have heard first-hand the accounts of mothers who were separated from their babies in circumstances where they had very few meaningful choices.

"We know that many women and girls were at times made to carry out menial and manual work as a form of 'correction'. We also recognise where prejudice - including on the grounds of race and disability - shaped and defined experiences and outcomes.

"We are listening to the people affected. We are deeply ashamed that this happened to people in the care of Christian communities.

"These practices are in the past and must never happen again. We will not condone or repeat them. Our commitment now is to listen, to lament and to learn, to ensure that this leads to change

Parish Pump

Safeguarding

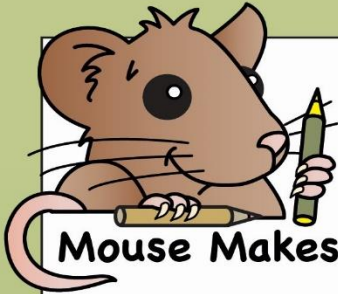
The Parish of Rushen is committed to the safeguarding, nurture and care of **everyone** within our church community. If you, or someone you know, are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk or has been harmed, or are concerned about the behaviour of someone towards children or vulnerable 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



"...and once you've done the flower arrangements, polished the pews, scrubbed the floor, shined the silver and taken a look at the problem with the boiler we wondered, well, you have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday at the same time and..."

Children's Page August



Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 15:29

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

B I B L E

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



EGYPT



JERUSALEM

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

J O U R N E Y S



JUDEA

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5



11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

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 roof and ceiling.*

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – the church roof and ceiling

Each month we have been making our way through the church building and pausing to ponder different areas. This month we look up to the roof and ceiling of the church. In Gothic buildings our hearts are lifted high as the architecture soars upwards, trying to touch the very skirts of heaven. Norman churches in an earlier age by contrast seem weighed down by the stonework with heavy pillars and simpler windows.

This August we travel to a church consecrated much later – at the beginning of the 20th century. It is a wonderful monument to the Arts and Crafts Movement: St Andrew’s Church at Roker, near Sunderland. It was commissioned by a shipyard millionaire, and there is a vivid sense of an upturned boat as we enter the nave. The building abounds with riches: a font with its cover by Mouseman Thompson of Kilburn, lettering by Eric Gill on plaques around the walls, and a beautiful lectern by Ernest Gimson. But our eyes are drawn to the east end – to the reredos tapestry of Burne-Jones, and then above, a ceiling by Eric Gill’s brother, MacDonald, that proclaims the glory of creation.

The sky is studded with stars and the moon, and then surrounded by trees and undulating lines of water. In the centre the sun is a brilliant light, fitting for the east end. And from the clouds we see the creative hand of God raised in blessing. It is the opening chapter of Genesis portrayed in colour and shape above us. There we read that God rested on the seventh day. As we give thanks for that glory we see in St Andrew’s Church and in our world around, we can hear George Herbert’s hymn telling us how a life of work and rest should always be permeated by praise:

‘Sev’n whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee.’

Photograph by Phil Beard Article written by Rev’d Michael Burgess



Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

Dear Lord, we give you thanks for the month of August. As each day of the month dawns, we thank you for bringing us out of the shadow of night and into the light of morning. We also thank you for the joy of spending each day in your service, so that when the evening comes, we can once more give you the thanks that you deserve, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen



Rushen Parish Prayer Diary August 2026

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Those who have lost loved ones because of conflict
- 2nd The work of aid agencies throughout the world
- 3rd Families enjoying a welcome break whilst on holiday on the island
- 4th Those who work in financial institutions
- 5th Peace throughout the world
- 6th Families in debt, unable to find a solution, and in despair
- 7th The Port St Mary Beach Mission now entering its final week of the 2026 season
- 8th All sportsmen and women who enjoy partaking in sport rather than winning
- 9th Joe and his ministry in the Parish of Rushen
- 10th All grandparents and their grandchildren
- 11th The Mothers' Union and its tireless work throughout the Isle of Man
- 12th All Christians to serve Jesus faithfully and to behave like He did throughout His life
- 13th The Salvation Army and its work with the homeless
- 14th Those receiving treatment in hospital
- 15th All parents and their children
- 16th Authors and the books they write which give such enjoyment to their readers
- 17th One parent families and the work of agencies which help them
- 18th The people who kindly buy and arrange flowers in our four churches
- 19th The coastguards who ensure the safety of all who venture on our beaches
- 20th The Royal Family and all it does for everyone living in the Commonwealth
- 21st Farmers preparing their crops for harvest time
- 22nd Teachers preparing for the new term in September
- 23rd The Southern Mission Partnership and its work in integrating parishes in the south
- 24th The work of the National Royal Lifeboat Institution in saving lives
- 25th The beauty of music in all of its forms
- 26th Those who entertain through the media of radio and television
- 27th The work of doctors and nurses throughout the world
- 28th Children preparing for the new term ahead
- 29th Those couples who have been married in the Parish of Rushen this year
- 30th The disabled and the work of those who try to help them
- 31st The success of Acts 29 and Wild Sparks and for volunteers who help to run them



The infamous Berlin Wall

It was 65 years ago, on 13th August 1961 that East Germany first sealed the border between East and West Berlin with barbed wire. Construction on the Berlin Wall itself began two days later, on 15th August.

The Wall grew rapidly to become a 96-mile (155km) concrete barrier. It became the physical embodiment of the Iron Curtain for the next 28 years. It was built to stop the 'brain drain' of East German skilled professionals. From 1949 to 1961, more than two million had fled the East.

The Wall entirely surrounded West Berlin, stranding it as an isolated island of capitalism within communist East Germany.

It was actually two walls, separated by a heavily fortified 'death strip' 160 yards wide. It housed watchtowers, guard dog runs and anti-vehicle trenches.

The Wall was a surprise. East German residents woke up one morning to find barbed wire, armed guards and blocks on subways, streets and train lines. The East German border guards had the 'Order to Shoot' – the legal authority to kill anyone attempting to cross. About 140 people died this way.

Yet still thousands escaped. More than 5,000, in fact. They fled by tunnelling, hot air balloons, ziplines, and ramming armoured vehicles through border gates.

When in June of 1963 US President John F Kennedy visited the Wall, he made the famous declaration "*Ich bin ein Berliner*" (I am a Berliner) to demonstrate American solidarity with West Germany.

The Wall was unexpectedly opened on 9th November 1989, due to an awkward, unscripted announcement by an East German official, who mistakenly told a press conference that private travel to West Germany was permitted immediately.

Following demolition, large chunks of the Wall were sold. Today, original segments are exhibited in over 100 locations worldwide, including the Imperial War Museum in London.

Services August/September 2026

2nd August (Trinity 9)	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)
9th August (Trinity 10)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
16th August (Trinity 11)	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)
23rd August (Trinity 12)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
30th August (Trinity 13)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Morning Prayer(CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
6th Sept. (Trinity 14)	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)
13th Sept. (Trinity 15)	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)
20th Sept. Trinity 16)	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)
27th Sept. (Trinity 17)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)

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

This arrangement is subject to change.

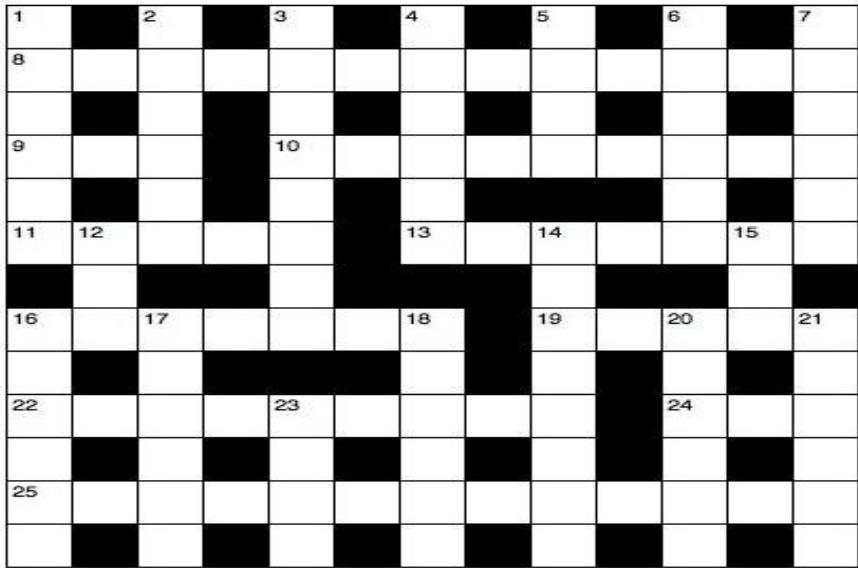
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Crossword August 2026



Across

- 8** One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)
- 9** International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)
- 10** Single (1Corinthians7:27)(9)
- 11** Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The — Archipelago (5)
- 13** Treachery(2Kings11:14) (7)
- 16** Of India(anag.) (2,3,2)
- 19** 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the — ' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)
- 22** Follower of a theological system characterised by a strong belief in predestination (9)
- 24** 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to— the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)
- 25** They brought together all the elders of Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)

Down

- 1** The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)

- 2** Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a — man' (Luke 5:8) (6)
- 3** Beaten with whips (1 Kings12:11) (8)
- 4** 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)
- 5** Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)
- 6** Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)
- 7** 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)
- 12** Run(anag.)(3)
- 14** Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)
- 15** 'We will triumph with our tongues; we—our lips'(Psalm12:4) (3)
- 16** Earnings(1Corinthians16:2)(6)
- 17** 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that—you have renewed your concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)
- 18** How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1)(6)
- 20** Multiple territories under the rule of a single state (Daniel11:4)(6)
- 21** 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women,—to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)
- 23** This month (abbrev.)(4)