



Rushen Parish Magazine

January 2019

NEW YEAR

New Life

WITH JESUS

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More contact details on the inside of the back cover



A Letter from Joe



Dear Friends,

A new year is upon us and I'm left wondering how the old year passed so quickly. I remember the Parish Walk in June, the particularly long hot summer, a family wedding, the very successful Soiree at the Parish Church in early September, but there were large parts of the year that seemed to have whizzed by in a blur. I am sure that you too will have had particular days that will have stood out.

On the 6 January each year the Church celebrates the Epiphany where three learned men from far-off lands visited the Christ-child. I am sure that for Joseph and Mary it must have been a day that stood out in glorious technicolour. It may well have started like any other day – ordinary and perhaps even a little mundane. But I'm sure that by the close of the day Joseph and Mary will have had much to ponder upon. *'Who were they?', 'How did they know where we would be?', and 'What does it all mean?'*

Shortly after this encounter with the three visitors Mary and Joseph and their young child are travelling themselves to distant lands in fear for their safety; with much in common with present-day refugees fleeing from tyrants that would wreak havoc on their own people.

For me, it reveals that God works in the ordinary and the mundane – whether it be a family in dire need or a visitation from far off lands with people bringing costly gifts. Time and time again, God chooses to work with us and through us. May we have eyes to see God at work in our midst.

My prayer for 2019 is that we might be continually be surprised by a God who seeks us out and chooses to be among us.

Richest Blessings for this New Year.

Rev. Joe Heaton

Caring for the Vicar



In February General Synod is going to debate a report on Care of the Clergy. The draft document sets out some ways of changing the culture of the Church to enable the care and well-being of its clergy to be more fully addressed. (Editor)

The Church of England is looking into ways of giving more support to vicars. You may think here's a nice life: house provided, regular salary, job security – and only one day's work a week! But from my own personal experience I can assure you it's not like that.

In my working life I've had four jobs: teacher, then journalist, then BBC producer and finally vicar. The last was by some distance the most satisfying and rewarding, but also by far the most demanding. Your home is also the office seven days a week. It's true Sunday is the 'public' bit of your work, but while you may be free to pick up the kids from school forget about cosy evenings with the family. The bit of the vicar's work that is public is on Sundays, true. But the really defining part of the job is largely unseen and takes place all through the week.

It was funny coming from an ordinary job to parish ministry. Previously, I had known what I was expected to do, the hours I was required to work and to whom I was answerable. Well vicars are technically 'self-employed', though they are licenced by the bishop and paid by the Church Commissioners. In practice, their work is determined by the local church – its needs, potential, aspirations. The churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council also help to shape the work-load. If all that sounds a bit confusing, yes, it is. Possibly the Church's current research may look into that.

What won't change, I'm sure, is the priestly vocation. It is not a job, even if I've used the word, but a vocation – like nursing, teaching or care-work. It is always hopeless to treat a vocation as a job! Mind you, that is all the more reason for those who shape the work patterns of those 'called' with sensitivity and care. Clergy burn-out is not unknown, and nor is depression which stems from a feeling of failure. So, don't only just *pray* for the vicar. *Show* him or her how much you value them and, where possible, share their burden.

Canon David Winter

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.



Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

Our grateful thanks to Cynthia Gelling for organising our Christmas lunch at Port St Mary Golf Pavilion, on Tuesday 11th December and to the staff there for opening especially for our party and for providing us with such a delicious meal.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th January, at 2.15pm in St Mary's Hall.

We hope that everyone has enjoyed a lovely Christmas with family and friends and wish a Happy and Healthy New Year to you all.

**With love,
Pat Thomson**

His grace really is sufficient

Can we make suffering into anything positive? Editor

'To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."' 2Corinthians 12:7-9

We cannot identify for certain the nature of Paul's 'thorn in the flesh'. It may have been a physical illness like malaria or problems with his eyesight. It could refer to the constant opposition to his ministry from those Jews who hated what he was doing. What we do know is that whilst Satan used it to give Paul a rough time, God used it to keep him humble in the midst of the wonderful revelations that had been granted to him.

Paul's instinctive response to the thorn is to ask God that it be removed. He persisted in prayer too, showing that he really expected God to deliver him. Prayer should also be our first response to crisis. Our belief is that God is able and willing to rescue us from any attack of the devil. However, in this case God in His wisdom chose not to deliver Paul from the thorn, but instead to pour His grace into his life in such a way that he could cope with the situation and continue to minister effectively.

Grace has been defined as 'God's strength in our weakness.' Whether or not God chooses to answer our prayers for healing or deliverance, we can always count on the daily supply of His empowering and enabling grace. There is no situation outside of His protective care, no need too big for His resources to match. Let your weakness be the opportunity for God's all-sufficient grace to sustain you. His power is waiting to strengthen you.

A Prayer – Lord, today I choose to lean on you, and to receive again your grace into my life.

Tony Horsfall

2019: Is it even possible to make a new start?

Hopefully this magazine plays a valuable support role in our church's ministry, by providing simple information about what Christianity teaches. This year I hope to publish a monthly article about this topic written by the Christian Enquiry Agency. This is the first.... (Editor)

The Christian faith teaches that a new start is endlessly possible. It is provided by a personal encounter with the risen and living Jesus Christ. He offers us the opportunity and the resources to make a new start, despite all our circumstances or failings.

The Bible records many encouraging examples of people who were able to start again after encountering Jesus. These include a woman caught in adultery who was facing execution by an outraged community, a hated tax collector named Zacchaeus who had been collaborating with the enemy, and Peter, the close friend of Jesus who publicly disowned him.

God's provision of a new start liberates people from the powerful hold that guilt, fear and memories of failure can have over a human. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus have made a way for humans to find God's forgiveness. A Christian is someone who has accepted God's forgiveness and now has the freedom to reject the old habits of bitterness, anger or revenge, like disposing of a 'shabby old coat'. Many Christians experience this as such a new beginning that they describe it as feeling like a different kind of life.

Forgiveness, however, is not the same as perfection. Although many Christians can look back to a specific time at which they made a decision to make a new start as a follower of the way of Jesus Christ, living up to a new way of being is an ongoing struggle. There is a frequent need to revisit and remember the new start. Church services almost always include a point at which worshippers are encouraged to think about recent failures, confess them, and ask for the mercy of God in absolute certainty that He will forgive.

The Bible describes God's promises of mercy as 'new every morning'. It is in the gracious nature of God that mistakes and failures are not a stick to be beaten with, but an opportunity to change into something better.

Christian Enquiry Agency

Every New Year's Day I ask myself the same unanswerable question: 'How did I get home last night?'

St Mary's Sunday School & Junior Church



We ended November with our All Age service on the 25th – Christ the King – led by Margaret Galloway. Claudia read the first lesson and the children dramatised the reading from John 18 with Fynlo as Jesus, Thomas as Pilate and Lilee-Mae as narrator. In the Learning Together section Margaret explained that as well as the 25th being Christ the King it was also known as “Stir up” Sunday. The children helped Margaret to make a Christmas pudding, adding all the ingredients and giving it a good stir!! We look forward to hearing how the pudding turns out.

Margaret then asked any members in the congregation who were wearing hats to come to the front. There were hats from Australia, Turkey and Nepal, party hats, cowboy hats and many more. Steven was wearing a crown. Margaret then introduced us to someone else wearing a crown – Roary – the King of the Beasts. Margaret then called on our “roving reporter”, Lukas, to interview the two kings. He asked them several questions, one of them being what they thought made them a good king. Steven said he felt a good king should be honest and just and have compassion for all his subjects. Roary thought a good king should be fierce and strong like him and enjoy having power over his subjects. There are many rulers in the world like Roary who are greedy and power mad. Our King Jesus loves us all and tells us to love one another and treat everyone as we would wish to be treated.

The children then sang their song – King of Kings – accompanied by Lukas on the mandolin, they then led the prayers. Our final hymn was “Make Way” and the children paraded up and down the aisle with the banner and flags which they had made. During refreshments in the hall everyone said how much they had enjoyed the service.

On Sundays 2nd and 9th December we carried out several activities to do with Advent. We first watched a short video explaining what Advent means, waiting patiently as we prepare to welcome Jesus at Christmas. We gave each of the children an Advent calendar which told the story of the Nativity day by day. We made an advent ring and talked about what each candle represents – hope, joy, peace and love with the final white candle representing Christ – the light of the world. We also wrote prayers on star magnets to take home.

On Saturday 8th a small number of us came together to make the Christingles for our service the following day. Thank you to all those who helped make the 100 Christingles!! The following day the service was held at St. Catherine's, the church was beautifully decorated, and a large congregation enjoyed this special service. The collection taken was, as always, for The Children's' Society, who help so many vulnerable children all year round.

At the time of writing our Junior Church party is still to come on the 16th. We have a fun morning planned with games and refreshments. We are looking forward to our Crib service at St. Mary's on Christmas Eve.

We wish everyone a blessed and peaceful Christmas and health and happiness in 2019.

Carole Coole



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



A very happy new year to you all in Rushen Parish.

Starting on 2nd December there was a very busy time with events leading up to Christmas.

The Advent Meal was a time of prayer supplemented by food cooked by Alan and Angela Grace. We are very grateful to them for providing this.

Following this in the same week was the monthly Soup Inn, carol singing round the Christmas tree at St Mary's Church, the M.E. Concert at Kirk Christ and on Sunday 9th December the Christingle Service at St Catherine's Church.

On Sunday 16th December the Meadowside Choir hosted the annual Advent Carol Service at St Mary's Church and following this on Wednesday 19th December 'Carols and Candles and Cake' was held at St Peter's Church. The following evening the Port Erin Commissioner's Carol Service was held at St Catherine's Church. The Christmas services commenced with the Parish Carol Service at Kirk Christ on 23rd December. On behalf of both churches I would like to thank everyone who decorated the churches in preparation for the Christmas season.

All of the events and services were well attended, and we look forward to 2019. Let us pray for a peaceful year.

Gerry Callister

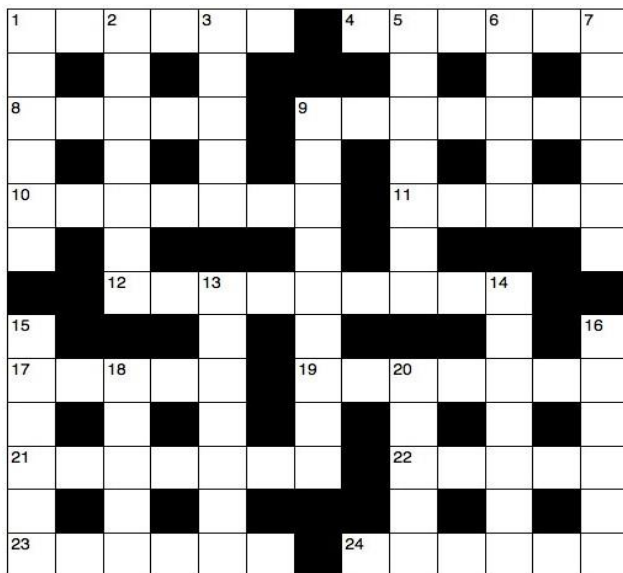
Mother Teresa - 90 years since her work began

Sister Mary Teresa – the future Mother Teresa – arrived in Calcutta 90 years ago this month, on 6th January 1929, to begin working with the poor and the sick. Born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Macedonia, in 1910, she was of Albanian heritage but had moved to Ireland in 1928 to join the Sisters of Loreto – formally known as the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her father had died suddenly when she was about eight, but her mother was a firm and loving influence on her. She received the name Sister Mary Teresa after St. Thérèse of Lisieux. After making her first profession of vows in May 1931, she taught at St. Mary's School for girls. Six years later she made her final profession, after which she was called Mother Teresa.

As soon as she arrived in Calcutta she was exposed to the extreme poverty there, and this made a deep impression on her, eventually leading her to start a new order called The Missionaries of Charity, prompted by what she termed a 'call within a call' that she received in 1946, on a train journey from Calcutta to Darjeeling. Her main objective was to look after people who nobody else was prepared to look after.

Tim Lenton

January Crossword



Across

- 1 Protective covering recommended to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:11) (6)
 4 The number of apostles (Matthew 10:2) (6)
 8 Tenth-century Bishop of Augsburg for 48 years, who became the first saint to be canonized by a pope (5)
 9 'Do not — what is evil but what is good' (3 John 11) (7)
 10 Reading desk in a church (7)
 11 'He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like — walking around"' (Mark 8:24) (5)
 12 One of the qualities that Paul exhorted Timothy to pursue (1 Timothy 6:11) (9)
 17 One of the meaningless pleasures acquired by the Teacher (Ecclesiastes 2:8) (5)
 19 'Like — babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation' (1 Peter 2:2) (7)
 21 Jesus said that Moses allowed this only because men's hearts were hard (Matthew 19:8) (7)
 22 Girl's name (5)
 23 Most sagacious (Judges 5:29) (6)
 24 How Stephen, the first Christian martyr, died: after being — (Acts 7:59) (6)

Down

- 1 A Jew whom Paul met in Corinth, whose wife was Priscilla (Acts 18:2) (6)
 2 For example, turning water into wine, feeding the five thousand, walking on water (John 7:21) (7)
 3 Abram's relationship to Lot (Genesis 14:12) (5)
 5 'Jesus answered, "It is —: 'Man does not live by bread alone.'"' (Matthew 4:4) (7)
 6 'Peace I — with you; my peace I give you' (John 14:27) (5)
 7 'May the Lord deal with me, be it — severely, if anything but death separates you and me' (Ruth 1:17) (4,2)
 9 Lack of knowledge (Acts 17:30) (9)
 13 This woman 'followed Paul and believed' after his words to the Areopagus in Athens (Acts 17:34) (7)
 14 Or noise (anag.) (7)
 15 'Even though I walk through the valley of the — of death, I will fear no evil' (Psalm 23:4) (6)
 16 '— Christian soldiers, marching as to war' (6)
 18 Saver (anag.) (5)
 20 'Unless a grain of — falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed' (John 12:24) (5)

December Crossword Solution

10

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

There were 18 puzzles from nine entries for me to check in November's competition. The draw took place at my home with a visitor choosing the winning entry. It was Kath Wells who won the £5 prize. Believe it or not, this was her first attempt at solving the sudoku puzzles, so well done! If you haven't yet submitted an entry why not try to solve one or both of the puzzles on the back page? You too could win at your first attempt. (Editor)

Prayer for wisdom and light

Father of all,

You gave Jesus to be the light of the whole world. Help us to receive His light and to reflect it. Help us not to limit the extent of your love by the restrictions of our own understanding. Give us wisdom to look upwards and outwards and to allow your Holy Spirit to transform us day by day as we serve you. Thank you for the gift of wisdom and for those who respond to your prompting to find Jesus.

In His name,

Amen.

December Sudoku Solutions

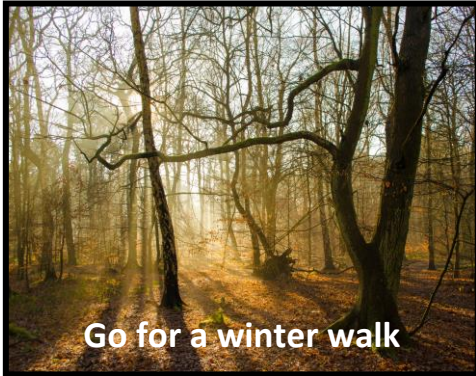
3	7	9	6	5	4	2	1	8
8	4	6	3	1	2	7	9	5
1	2	5	7	9	8	4	3	6
7	6	1	4	2	9	8	5	3
4	8	2	5	6	3	9	7	1
9	5	3	1	8	7	6	2	4
5	1	4	9	7	6	3	8	2
2	3	7	8	4	5	1	6	9
6	9	8	2	3	1	5	4	7

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



Suffering from S.A.D.? Tips for a happy new gardening year.

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Are you sighing with relief as you put away your Christmas decorations; find homes for the gifts; eat the last of the festive food and commence the dawning of a brand-new year? It's certainly a good time for new beginnings and a fresh approach to life...

It's no surprise that the most popular New Year's Resolution is to lose weight. And to exercise more. For many people, this involves signing up to a gym and pounding the treadmill. For January, at least, these temporarily-dedicated keep-fit enthusiasts will head straight to the gym in any spare time slot. Indoor exercise during a time of darkness is better than no exercise at all, but it doesn't help those suffering from the lack of natural light. This affects all of us to a greater or lesser degree, and Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is very well named. You might not even know that you are experiencing SAD, merely accepting that your low mood and rather gloomy outlook is a result of the end of celebrations and a reaction to everyday life in winter.

What can you do in order to feel better? Firstly, get outside during daylight as much as humanly possible. If you are working, just half an hour at lunchtime has a highly beneficial effect. Walk briskly to the park or the countryside and put away your digital devices to allow your eyes to feast on greenery. Being outdoors has been shown to improve both physical and mental health.

Scientists have found that walking in nature helps to promote better memory. It also lowers the production of cortisol, which is a stress hormone marker. In addition, being outdoors in the countryside relieves mental fatigue and can give a psychological boost which manifests itself as a physical improvement in wellbeing. 'Green exercise', as it is

known, is now prescribed alongside formal treatment for major depression and can often be used in place of chemical remedies for those suffering from milder problems.

Gardens are great places for those dealing with SAD. There are jobs to be done, despite the season. Spend an hour or so immersed in your plot and see how you feel – the proof of the pudding is in the eating, as they say. Here's some January tasks in which to immerse the soul:

- Prune apple and pear trees.
- Prune blackcurrant, redcurrant and gooseberry bushes.
- Plant trees and shrubs – bareroot plants are generally available until the main growing season commences.
- Look at Hellebores and remove any faded, old or damaged leaves that will hide the emerging winter flowers (garden hybrid varieties). After flowering, remove the faded flower stems in order to encourage next year's development.
- Feed the birds and remember to enjoy watching them visit the feast that you have provided.
- Scrub your patios and paths in order to remove potentially slippery patches. You could use a jet washer but beware of blasting out the mortar between the paving.
- Look at the winter structure of your garden. Does it fill you with joy? You might want to add some shapely evergreens and shrubs with vibrant winter stem colour. The shrubby Cornus (dogwood), rather than the flowering type, provides one of the best winter experiences. Prune back every March/April in order to achieve the best stem colour.

Perfect Plants Ltd is an on-line supplier of garden plants, house plants, garden equipment, furniture and gifts for all seasons www.perfectplants.co.uk

Delivery across the whole of the UK.

Play & Praise

Please note that the next meeting will be held on 9th January and not on the usual first Wednesday in the month. Meetings for the rest of the year remain unchanged.

Let Sleeping Dogs Lie

An old, tired-looking dog wandered into my house. Slowly he walked into the sitting room and fell asleep on the rug for an hour. The next day he was back for another nap. This daily visit and snooze continued for several weeks. Curious, I finally pinned a note to his collar: 'Are you aware that your sweet dog comes to my house each day for a nap?'

The next day he arrived with a different note pinned to his collar: "He lives in a home with six children - he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"

For I am the Lord
your God who takes
hold of your right
hand and says to
you, Do not fear; I
will help you.
Isaiah 41:13 NIV

Ten things God won't ask you when you die

God won't ask what kind of car you drove;

He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house,

He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet,

He'll ask how many people you helped to clothe.

God won't ask which diet you were on;

He'll ask how many hungry people you helped to feed.

God won't ask what your highest salary was;

He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was;

He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had on Facebook;

He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived;

He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.

God won't ask about the colour of your skin;

He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Him;

He'll lovingly take you into his Kingdom, not leave you at the gates of Hell.



Men who have pierced ears are better prepared for marriage. They've experienced pain for fashion's sake, and also bought jewellery.



All in the month of January

100 years ago, on 5th Jan 1919, the German Workers' Party was founded by Anton Drexler. In February 1920 it was renamed the National Socialist German Workers' party - better known as the Nazi Party.

90 years ago, on 6th Jan 1929 Mother Teresa arrived in Calcutta, India to begin working with the poor and sick.

80 years ago, on 26th Jan 1939 General Franco's forces captured Barcelona as part of the Spanish Civil War.

70 years ago, on 1st Jan 1949 the British Nationality Act came into effect. It established the status of 'Citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies' and granted those citizens the right to enter and live in the United Kingdom.

60 years ago, on 8th Jan 1959 Charles De Gaulle was inaugurated as President of France.

50 years ago, on 30th Jan 1969 the Beatles gave their last public performance, on the roof of Apple Studios in London.

40 years ago, on 7th Jan 1979 Vietnamese troops captured the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh and overthrew Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge government.

30 years ago, on 8th Jan 1989 the Kegworth air disaster took place. A British Midland Boeing 737 crashed onto the M1 motorway in Leicestershire while attempting an emergency landing at East Midlands Airport. 47 people were killed and 74 injured.

20 years ago, on 1st Jan 1999 the Euro officially became the new currency in 11 European countries. (Coins and banknotes entered circulation in Jan 2002.)

10 years ago, on 20th Jan 2009 Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the USA.

New Year Resolution

I always make the same resolution and I have never once broken it: every year I resolve to give something up for Lent and then when Lent comes, I give up my New Year's resolution.

Celebrating Thenadays

Canon David Winter considers Auld Lang Syne

'Auld Lang Syne' was sung over the New Year, especially in Scotland. It should, we are told, 'never be forgotten'. But what is it?

The words actually mean something like 'long time ago' and it is the 'acquaintances' of long ago that we should not forget. In other words, and somewhat to contradict the usual New Year greetings, it calls us to look back. The past, it says, is precious, as are the people who have been part of it for us.

At my age people often use the word 'nowadays'. Usually negatively – 'nowadays there's nothing good on the TV' or 'nowadays people never say thank you'. It's a mind-set that is shaped by the memory of a golden age that probably never existed. Yet there is a truth in there somewhere. If we find 'nowadays' unsettling, why not remember 'Thenadays'? Our past is who we are. Its people have shaped our lives. There is nothing wrong sometimes in looking back and remembering. As the song says, it should be 'brought to mind' – the 'old acquaintances' of our lives.

For me, for instance, that is my father taking me as a six-year-old to watch the steam trains go by. It's my grandparents in their Welsh village. It's old friends and colleagues, some from as long as 70 years ago, with all the laughter and tears we shared. And it's not just happy things like my own family but also the sad loss of loved ones and the feeling of helpless deprivation that follows. All of this is part of my 'Thenadays'.

As we wish people a 'Happy New Year' it's not a bad idea to pick up that strange Scots saying and invite them not to forget a human heritage which is ours – people, events, experience. 'Auld Lang Syne' is the totality of our lives as we have lived them. Looking back is often the best way of looking forward...

"Follow Me"

In fellowship with Jesus,
Like the "wise men," resolute be,
And pay heed to words of scripture:
"Be still, be calm, follow me."

"Follow me," in to home life,
Where the family knows us best,
And daily chores are addressed;
Thus character is assessed.

"Follow me," outside the home,
Around cafes, shops and clubs;
At the community food bank,
Or down at the local pub!

"Follow me," – into Church life;
Through worship and witness proclaim
Along with other believers,
The saving grace of His name.

Be on your guard, is the caution,
Be alert wherever we go,
Resolve to trust in the Saviour,
And fresh strength constantly know.

Ref: The 4 gospels

Margaret Couper



From the Registers

Funerals (November 2018)

Thursday 22nd November

Jean Marie Murtath

Kirk Christ @ 11.30am

Friday 30th November

Maureen Pearl Marie Guedre

St Mary's Church @ 12.45pm

Kirstie Taylor

St Catherine's Church @ 2.15pm

Baptism (November 2018)

Sunday 18th November

Madison Grace Tiernan

St Catherine's Church @ 11.00am

Parking

A man was driving down the street in a panic because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me somewhere to park, I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life." Miraculously, a parking place appeared. The man looked up again and said, 'Never mind. I found one.'

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, Claire Jennings (Tel. 830850)

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





Rushen Mothers' Union

The Christmas Party was held on Monday 10th December, in St Mary's hall, and as in the previous two years, involved our members in delivering their own choice of readings, some serious and some humorous, and in providing a small plate of food to share. As usual, the table was laden with a delicious variety of savoury and sweet items.

Our thanks to Mrs Valerie Vaughan for playing the piano for our carol singing. There was a very happy atmosphere and an attendance of 18. It was good to see Elsie looking and moving so well after her hip operation. Our thanks to Gerry for helping with the setting up of the hall.

The MU Advent service on Tuesday 4th December at Marown Church had been very well attended with Elizabeth Sheen, Jane and Peter representing Rushen. Our gifts for Graih were received and much appreciated, and refreshments provided by each branch.

Our next branch meeting will be on Monday 14th Jan at 2pm in St Catherine's hall, where Mrs Helen Shephard will be in the chair and Rev Brian Shephard will speak on the theme "China". Guests will be very welcome.

All members send love and very best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy 2019.

Pat Thomson

Morning Tea

A vicar in a small country church was looking forward to an important visit from his bishop, which would involve the bishop staying overnight at the vicarage after the service. His young son became very excited, as he had never spoken to a bishop before.

The vicar decided that his young son should be allowed to knock on the bishop's door in the morning and take him in his morning tea. His father gave him instructions: "First, knock on the door of the bishop's room and then say loud and clear: "It's the boy, my Lord, it's time to get up."

The young son was very excited and rehearsed his lines, repeating them over and over. Finally, the bishop came and spent the night. Next morning the young lad went to the door and knocked. He cried loudly: "It's the Lord, my boy, and your time is up!"

God in the Arts

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: ‘The Adoration of the Kings’ by Botticelli



*For 2019 **Michael Burgess** will consider great works of art in the National Gallery in London, reflecting, where possible, any major theme of the month. (Editor)*

The National Gallery at Trafalgar Square in London houses one of the finest collections of European paintings in the world. Built in the style of an ancient Greek temple, it is home to 2,300 works spanning the centuries of artistic creation. During this year we shall be journeying through the gallery to explore one of those treasures each month. We begin in this month of January as we celebrate another journey: the three kings or wise men travelling from afar to offer their gifts to the Christ Child.

Botticelli painted this scene of ‘The Adoration of the Kings’ in 1470-75. It is one of five depictions he made of the Epiphany, for he belonged to a city, Florence, which had a great devotion to the wise men. Their feast was celebrated each year with spectacular processions.

Having entered the temple of the National Gallery, our eyes notice first of all that the temple in this painting is a ruin. It harks back to a legend that the classical temple of peace would only stand secure until a virgin gave birth to a child. In the centre of the *tondo* we see the Holy Family with Mary holding her new-born son: a sign of the new church that will grow and flourish out of the pagan ruins.

That still centre of new life is surrounded by the three kings and a large crowd. We can see horses as well, and a peacock, a Christian symbol of immortality. Amid that panoply of animals and people, we might even see ourselves coming with the kings to offer our gifts, and to find, like them, hope and light in the birth of Mary’s child. Around the scene a new day dawns – it is the light of God’s glory that can shine on us and on our world in this new year of His good grace.

Children's Page

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

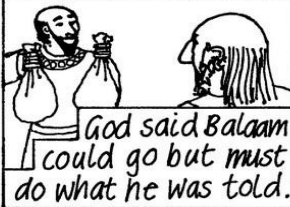
It can be read in the Bible in
Numbers 22:2 to 24:25

The Israelites camped across the river Jordan from the kingdom of Moab. King Balak was sure they were going to invade.

Balak told Balaam he would pay him to curse the Israelites, but...



Balak asked him again.



On the way, Balaam's donkey saw an angel and wouldn't move.



The donkey was stopped by the angel again, and then a third time.



God let the donkey speak.



Then Balaam saw the angel...



King Balak was ready to pay Balaam.



Look, there they are. Now curse them.



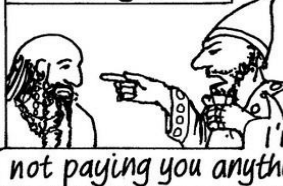
Balaam tried to curse the Israelites but he could only say a blessing.



Again, Balaam could only bless, not curse.



A third time, Balaam could only bless.



I told you I had to say what God wanted me to say.



The Story Behind the Hymn

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice,
Which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in Heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

There is welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Saviour;
There is healing in His blood.

There is grace enough for thousands
Of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations
In that upper home of bliss.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
It is something more than all;
Greater good because of evil,
Larger mercy through the fall.

If our love were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word;
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.

Souls of men! why will ye scatter
Like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts! why will ye wander
From a love so true and deep?

It is God: His love looks mighty,
But is mightier than it seems;
'Tis our Father: and His fondness
Goes far out beyond our dreams.

But we make His love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify His strictness
With a zeal He will not own.

Was there ever kinder shepherd
Half so gentle, half so sweet,
As the Saviour who would have us
Come and gather at His feet?

There's a wideness in God's mercy

Frederick Faber (1814-1863), born in Yorkshire, England, was one of a number of English clergy who converted from the Anglican Church to Roman Catholicism in the Romantic era of hymnody in the 19th century.

Faber was born an Anglican and reared a strict Calvinist. After attending Oxford, he took orders as an Anglican priest and began his ministry as a rector. Influenced by his friend John Henry Newman (1801-1890) who converted from Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism in 1845, Faber also converted to Catholicism that same year.

Both Newman and Faber were influenced by the rituals and tradition of Rome. Faber formed a community in Birmingham called "Brothers of the Will of God." Newman joined the Oratory, an order of secular priests established in 1564 by St. Philip Neri in Rome, and Faber eventually followed him there. Hymnologist Albert Bailey noted, "Father Faber was the moving and guiding spirit as long as he lived, a great preacher and a man of charming personality."

Drawing inspiration from the hymns of John Newton, William Cowper and the Wesleys during his Anglican youth, he recognised that Roman Catholics lacked a tradition of more recent metrical hymnody in English. He took it upon himself to remedy this. By the time he died, he had contributed 150 hymns, all composed after his conversion to Roman Catholicism.

"There's a wideness in God's mercy" originally had eight verses and appeared under the title "Come to Jesus" in Faber's *Oratory Hymns* (1854). In a later collection, the hymn expanded to 13 verses, beginning with "Souls of men, why will ye scatter/ Like a crowd of frightened sheep?" That version was included in a posthumous collection, *Hymns Selected from F. W. Faber* (1867).

I find echoes of William Cowper in this hymn. Cowper (1731-1800), one of the hymn writers that influenced Faber during his Anglican youth, was an ardent Calvinist. His most famous hymn "God moves in a mysterious way" also has the sense that God's sovereign power and understanding are far beyond human capabilities. Faber expresses this in verse four: "For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind."

Cowper concludes his hymn with a similar idea. After exploring the immeasurable and incomprehensible nature of God's acts, he concludes: "God is his own interpreter, and he will make it plain."

The ultimate theme of this hymn is based on the premise and paradox that a sovereign God, unlike earthly rulers, demonstrates welcome, kindness, grace and mercy. All we need to do is have a simple faith that "rests upon God's word."

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



Dear Father, as we stand together on the threshold of a new year, we ask that you watch over us in the year ahead; guide us when we falter; and re-direct us when we lose our way. But above all, pour down on the whole world Your Love and Peace, so that all may know that you are our Father, and Lord of all. Amen



January 2019

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st A happy and peaceful year ahead
- 2nd Preparations being made for the return to work and school
- 3rd The work of the Royal Lifeboat Institution
- 4th People in residential care homes across the island
- 5th People awaiting treatment in our hospital
- 6th Wildlife throughout the island as it seeks food and shelter during the winter
- 7th Those who enjoy watching and/or partaking in sporting activities
- 8th Travellers having to drive on sometime treacherous roads during the wintertime
- 9th Play and Praise which takes place today in St Mary's Church at 2pm
- 10th People who live in isolation with little contact with the outside world
- 11th Noble's Hospital and the doctors and nurses dedicated to making people well
- 12th All people who are expected to work outside in adverse weather conditions
- 13th Those who entertain whether on the stage or on television
- 14th People who are suffering financial hardship after the Christmas season
- 15th The Ladies Working Party and its charitable work in the parish
- 16th People mourning the loss of loved ones
- 17th New mothers and fathers looking after their children
- 18th The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 'Justice' which commences today
- 19th Messy Church and its continued success in bringing Jesus into people's lives
- 20th Music and the part it plays in everyone's life whether it is modern or classical
- 21st The beauty of this wonderful island on which we live
- 22nd The PCC meeting taking place at 7.00pm in St Catherine's Church Hall this evening
- 23rd All the Home Groups which meet each week throughout the parish
- 24th The Diocese of Sodor and Man and the work undertaken by all employees
- 25th The Headteacher and staff of Rushen Primary School
- 26th The weekly prayer group which meet on Fridays throughout the year
- 27th The Headteacher and staff of Scoill-Phurt-le-Moirrey
- 28th Those parishioners who read the lessons or intercede at services in the parish
- 29th The work of aid organisations at home and overseas
- 30th Ourselves and our quest to serve God in as many ways possible
- 31st Everybody who has celebrated a birthday in January

Services January 2019

2 nd January	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
6 th January	8am	St Catherine's Holy Communion
(Epiphany 1)	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)
9 th January	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise
13 th January	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
(Epiphany 2)	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
	6.30pm	Kirk Christ Alternative Service
20 th January	8am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)
(Epiphany 3)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's All-Age Service (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
27 th January	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
(Epiphany 4)	11am	St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
3 rd February	8am	St Catherine's Holy Communion
(Epiphany 5)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
7 th February	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise

(Dates and times of services correct at time of publication)

(CW) Common Worship (BCP) Book of Common Prayer

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January 2019 Sudoku Competition

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

I wonder what your new year resolution is? Whatever you may have decided is, of course, your secret, unless you want to divulge it to others around you. Could I make a suggestion that you decide to have a go at solving the two sudoku puzzles provided for you in each of the next twelve issues of this magazine. The rules are simple: complete the puzzle(s), get them to me before the last Friday of the month, and then wait to see if you have won the £5 prize. My address is overleaf so you can either deliver it personally, or by post, or by giving it to one of the churchwardens who will get it to me. Please have a go if you can, it's a good way of having fun. Best of Luck! (Editor)