

A detailed illustration of a brown, woody branch with several smaller twigs extending from it. The branch is covered with numerous pink cherry blossoms, each with five petals and a dark pink center. The blossoms are in various stages of bloom, some fully open and others as buds. The background is a light, textured grey.

# Rushen Parish Magazine

February 2019

MAY  
THE GOD  
OF ALL HOPE  
FILL YOU WITH ALL  
JOY AND PEACE AS YOU  
TRUST HIM. ROMANS 15:13

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# *A Letter from Liz*



We are coming to the time of year where we see hopeful signs of Spring and yet we know that Winter could still have a sting in its tail. And we may be feeling that about the future too, with uncertainty over Brexit and the global economy, we may be trying to look forward positively and yet not sure if there might be bad news round the corner.

How do we approach life with all its uncertainties? We could take a lead from Celtic Christianity which closely followed the rhythms and seasons of natural life especially the seasonal year. Just as we know that following the harshness of Winter there follows new life of Spring, or even the daily reminder that as one day ends and night draws in, it will be followed by a new dawn and a new day. So much imagery in the Bible draws on these natural cycles of life which remind us that there is the promise of new life and that God is the author and sustainer of all life. What we see here is merely a foreshadow of the eternal life that God has in store for us.

We are also encouraged and admonished by Paul in the Bible to pray for those in authority so that we might 'lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.' (1 Timothy 2: 1-2). So let us remember, in prayer, our own politicians and people in all the services that care for our community in this island. Also let us pray for those in our neighbouring countries for cooperation and peaceful community across the UK, Ireland, Europe and the world. Let us remember before God those who have no home through poverty or persecution in the British Isles and further abroad and pray for the agencies who seek to help them.

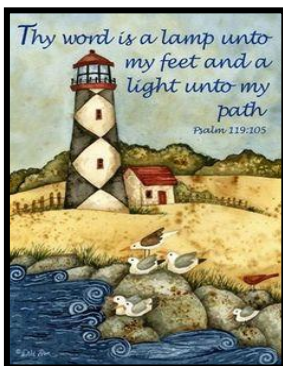
We can also remember the words of the English mystic, Julian of Norwich, 'God loved us before he made us; and his love has never diminished and never shall' and 'all shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.'

So let us look forward with confidence that God never leaves us but accompanies us through all of our life's journey (whether we are aware of God or not). And let this inspire us to encourage and support each other and have a concern for those further afield who need our support and prayers.

I pray God will bless you with His peace and awareness of His Presence.

**Rev Liz Hull**

## Shine, Jesus, Shine



### *Considering darkness and light – Editor*

At the flick of a switch or a press of a button we can illuminate our homes with all kinds of gadgets. City life has street lights everywhere and if we need a light for dark places we can use a torch.

Life for people in Bible days must have been so different. The darkness was something to be feared. Anyone in the open at night was vulnerable to attack, not only by robbers and thieves but also by animals.

The Bible often mentions darkness to be a symbol for evil, whether real or imaginary. The Old Testament records watchmen on the walls of a city or large town who were employed to protect the inhabitants. Watchmen were impatient for the sunrise and a psalmist thinks of his soul waiting on God to deliver him, like the watchman waiting for the dawn. (Psalm 130:6)

The Bible often associates darkness for inappropriate behaviour, problems, difficulties, wrong-doing and malevolence. Darkness can also mean a wrong course of action, wilfulness and stupidity. When the Scriptures speak of *light* this shows up what is amiss with our lives. Light can reveal a problem and show the way to avoid or overcome it.

The prophet Isaiah wrote about people walking in darkness and seeing a great light. This in turn would change their lives for the better. He was describing the coming of Jesus who would be a light for us. He would come to reveal everything that is wrong with us, and to be the means to bring us a new life, a new purpose and a new future. He would break the power of sin and death and make it possible for everyone to be reconciled to God.

In a world that needs to see the healing and saving light of Jesus, we are called to be lights of hope, peace and love. What we do and what we say matters. Our actions and words should point people to our heavenly Father. Sometimes this is difficult and sometimes we fail. But we still should try to be like the psalmist who, while thinking about God, said *Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path*. (Psalm 119:105)

**Lester Amann**

### ***Taxing***

*An exasperated woman, being questioned by a HM Revenue inspector about her tax deductions, was heard to say: 'I wish the government were half as fussy about how it spends money as it is about how I spend it!'*





## **Ladies Working Party – St Mary's**

The ladies resumed weekly meetings on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, after the Christmas and New Year break, and enjoyed the usual catchup and conversation around the table. We always begin with a short service, led by Sue Maddrell, which includes a reading, news of those who may have been ill in order that we may include them in our prayers, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Jude Sille has kindly prepared a new flower rota for 2019 which was discussed and amended to include our very welcome new member Lesley Scott.

We are looking forward to a visit from our Leprosy Mission representative, on 26<sup>th</sup> February, in St Mary's Hall, at 2pm when we shall be able to donate trimmed postage stamps and the contents of our collection boxes. We shall also have a Bring and Buy stall, a Leprosy Mission stall, cakes and refreshments. Visitors will be warmly welcomed to this open meeting for which David Bowman has kindly printed posters, and information will also be found in the pew sheets.

As I write this, the weather has taken a turn for the worse, with a fall in temperatures and the mountain road closed due to snow. Winter is coming -take care, and keep warm!

With love and very best wishes to all,

**Pat Thomson**

## ***World Day of Prayer 2019***

*This year's World Day of Prayer Service will be held on Friday 1st March 2019 at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin.*

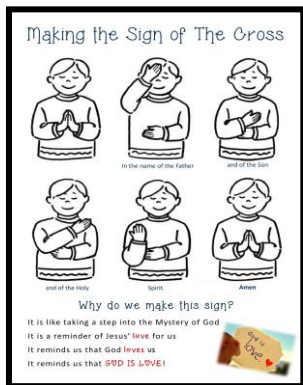
*Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of World War 2 when their country was part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.*

*Tea/coffee will be served in the Church Hall at 10.15am prior to the 11am service.*

*Mrs Bev Cowley will be the speaker and reflect on the theme "Come - Everything is Ready".*

*Please come and join in this ecumenical annual service as everyone is welcome.*

***Sheila Preston***



## Signs & Symbols: Why do we cross ourselves?

*Editor: This is the first of a series on 'Why do they do that?'. It will look at things that happen in churches which don't need to remain mysterious...this series will run until December.*

Do you 'cross' yourself? Do you literally make the sign of the cross over or upon your body?

People do this in different ways: some with certain fingers joined together, some touch their right shoulder before the left, some do small contained crosses on their head, lips and chest whilst others do an exaggerated sign extending as low as they can reach and almost wrapping their arms around themselves.

Keep your eyes open one time and look at your fellow congregation members as the priest extends his or her arm to bless them and you'll see many different responses. From keeping their heads bowed, crossing themselves at the same time, to standing quite informally and just watching.

For me it's not really 'how' you do it but rather 'What's it all about?' If you 'Google' that question you'll get lots of great theologically sound and sometimes deep suggestions.

Let me offer you my personal take on it that has grown to become daily the first thing, last thing and most important prayer of each of my days.

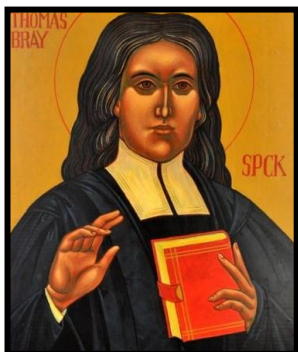
It's an acknowledgement of God's love for me individually and us collectively and how through this we are forgiven and set free to live life to the full – with courage and strength.

As I start at the highest point and descend it reminds me that Jesus, God's own Son came down to earth for love of me and all of us.

As I cover the width of my body, I feel His love wrapped around me, surrounding me, encouraging me, strengthening me, enveloping me and all that will take place in my life and the world today. Not a magic protection layer but a recognition of His presence wherever and whatever takes place.

May you be blessed – In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**The Rev Dr Jo White**



## Thomas Bray: founder of SPCK

Thomas Bray was once called a “Great Small Man”, with good reason. This diminutive 18<sup>th</sup> century English clergyman (1658 – 1730) not only helped to establish the Church of England in Maryland, but he was also founder of the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SPCK) in 1698 and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (USPG) in 1701.

Those are long names for societies whose aim was to get Christian books and resources into the hands of those who desperately needed them. For the early 18<sup>th</sup> century was not an easy time for poor clergymen: books were expensive, and many of them had few, or none to guide them in their ministry. And so Thomas Bray, who had been educated at Oxford, joined with some other clergy friends to help them.

After a trip to assess the needs of the young Episcopal Church in Maryland (he was sent by the Bishop of London), Bray became rector of St Botolph’s, Aldgate in London in 1708. From here he served his parish, and through SPCK eventually established 80 parish libraries in England and a further 39 in the Colonies. SPCK and USPG worked by asking learned authors to donate copies of their books. They also appealed to merchants to the foreign plantations for financial help in establishing the libraries.

Thomas Bray’s life has affected hundreds of thousands of people over three centuries. Not only was his work in America the first major coordinated effort to establish libraries in the New World, but SPCK is still one of our leading UK Christian publishing houses today. As if that was not enough, Bray also worked to help poor debtors emigrate to better lives, and homeless children to get care in England. He helped feed prisoners at Newgate prison in London and joined in the political fight against slavery. He also supported outreaches to Africans and Native Americans in their home countries.

When he died on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1730, thousands mourned him. A great small man indeed!

## Parish Pump

### ***New Electoral Roll***

*A new Electoral Roll is being prepared according to the Church Representation Rules. All persons who wish to have their names entered on the new roll, whether their names are entered on the present roll or not, are requested to apply for enrolment not later than **22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019**. Application forms are available at the back of all four churches, and when completed, given to one of the wardens, or to David Bowman.*



## News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



It seems just like yesterday when the Christmas and New Year services were taking place, but believe it or not, a month has passed, and February 2019 is here.

Once again Soup Inn in January was quite successful at St Catherine's.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> January the wedding of Shona Watterson and Christopher Overs was held at Kirk Christ.

Various minor maintenance jobs have been carried out in both churches. Soon it will be springtime and a sign of this is that snowdrops are already flowering, and that daffodils and crocuses are beginning to show above the soil.

**Gerry Callister**

*Editor: The Rev Paul Hardingham considers the tensions that Brexit has caused.*

### **Love Despite Brexit?**

*'Should I stay, or should I go?' (The Clash). Since the Referendum in June 2016, we have seen families, our nation and Parliament divided by different opinions over Europe. But 'at the heart of the Christian message is Jesus' command to love our neighbour. This includes those with whom we agree and disagree: at home, in Europe and further afield.'* (CofE Bishops, December 2018).

As we celebrate St Valentine's Day this month, how can we conduct this debate in a loving way? The Apostle Peter reminds us: *'Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.'* (1 Peter 2:17).

*Respect everyone:* However much we may disagree with another people's perspective, we should respect them as people. This applies even if they don't respect our views!

*Love the church:* Among the family of believers there should be an even greater respect for each other! The way we treat each other not only reveals the depth of our love; it will also cause people to glorify God and want to be part of the family.

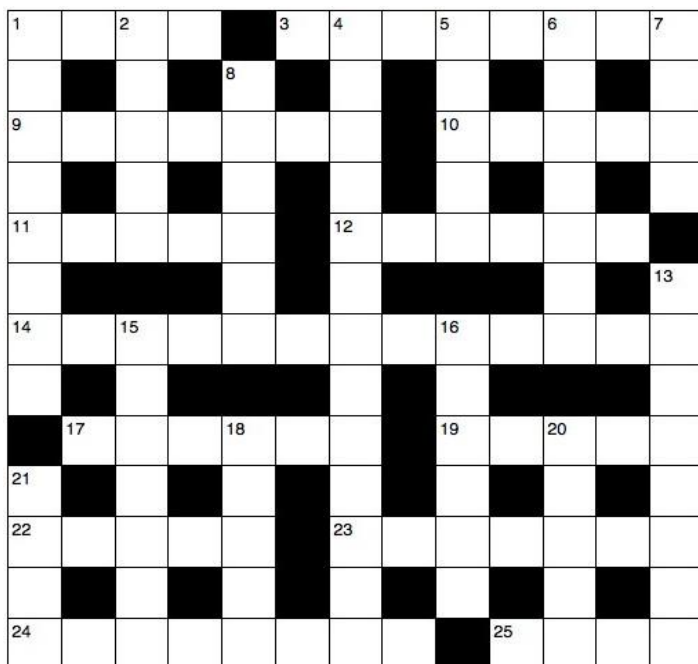
*Fear God:* We must demonstrate our allegiance to God by putting Him first and following His leading. Of course, this doesn't stop Christians from having different opinions to each other.

*Honour those in authority:* We are called to honour those who are in authority over us *'for the Lord's sake'* (13). Even when we disagree with their decisions and actions, we should keep our respect and not speak ill of them.

Peter is calling us to live with the freedom to make up our own mind on Europe, while listening to what others say (16). *'A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.'* (Martin Luther).



## February Crossword



### Across

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)  
 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten —?' (Luke 17:17) (8)  
 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)  
 10 'So you also must be —, because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)  
 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — —, and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)  
 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)  
 14 Not born again (13)  
 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)  
 19 Mails (anag.) (5)  
 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)  
 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)  
 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)  
 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)

### Down

- 1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)  
 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)  
 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)  
 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)  
 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)  
 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty —, being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)  
 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)  
 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)  
 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)  
 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6)  
 18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5)  
 20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)  
 21 For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)

## January Crossword Solution

A	R	M	O	U	R		T	W	E	L	V	E
Q		I		N			R		E		V	
U	L	R	I	C			I	M	I	T	A	T
I		A		L			G		T		V	R
L	E	C	T	E	R	N		T	R	E	E	S
A		L				O		E				O
			E	N	D	U	R	A	N	C	E	
S				A			A				R	O
H	A	R	E	M			N	E	W	B	O	R
A		A		A			C		H		S	W
D	I	V	O	R	C	E		E	R	I	C	A
O		E		I				A		O		R
W	I	S	E	S	T			S	T	O	N	E

*There were 10 entries (20 puzzles that were solved) in the December competition. Thank you to those of you who, despite the hustle and bustle of the Christmas period, had a go. One of the visitors to our home chose the winning entry who was Voirrey Kinley. She has been sent her £5 prize through the post. February's competition can be found on the back page of this magazine.*

### A Prayer for Candlemas

*Lord God, you are the source  
of everlasting light.*

*Your son, our beloved Lord Jesus  
was presented in the temple  
40 days after his birth.*

*He was recognised by Simeon and Anna,  
and welcomed as the promised Messiah.*

*May we like them,*

*behold the glory of the Lord Jesus.*

*Grant that we may stand before you  
with hearts cleansed by your forgiving love.*

*May we serve you all our days  
and make your name known  
as we worship you as our Lord.*

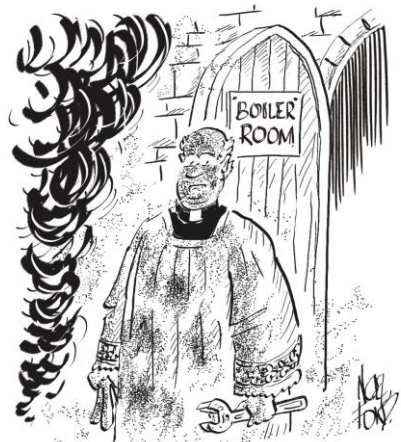
*So may we come by your grace to eternal life*

**Amen**

## January Sudoku Solutions

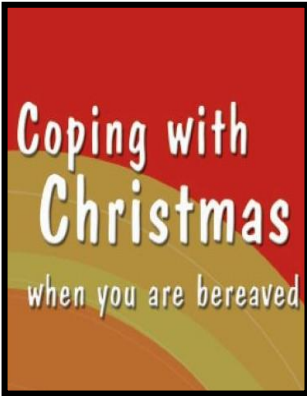
2	4	9	3	6	1	5	8	7
1	3	8	7	5	2	6	4	9
5	6	7	4	8	9	3	1	2
4	9	2	8	3	5	1	7	6
7	5	3	1	9	6	8	2	4
8	1	6	2	4	7	9	3	5
9	2	4	5	1	3	7	6	8
3	7	5	6	2	8	4	9	1
6	8	1	9	7	4	2	5	3

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



The church heating fund could only stretch to buying a copy of 'Boiler Repairs For Dummies'

## My First Christmas in Heaven



*You might ask why I am publishing an article about Christmas in February! Whilst many people enjoyed their Christmas fun in 2018, there will be many who will have lost a loved one, their soul mate, a friend, or even a child, and have had to spend their first Christmas without them. This poem, supplied by Inger Perkins, might just be something to make their grief bearable. It can also help those of us who lose someone this year, and especially at Christmas. She found it on Facebook. (Editor)*

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,  
 With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.  
 The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear.  
 For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,  
 But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.  
 I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,  
 For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your heart,  
 But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.  
 So be happy for me dear ones. You know I hold you dear,  
 And be glad I'm spending Christmas, with Jesus Christ this year.

I send you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above.  
 I send you each a memory of, my undying love.  
 After all, "LOVE" is the gift, more precious than pure gold,  
 It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my father said to do,  
 For I can't count the blessing or love he has for each of you.  
 So, have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear,  
 Remember, I'm spending Christmas, with Jesus Christ this year.

**Author Unknown**

## How many resolutions have you broken?

By [Perfectplants.co.uk](http://Perfectplants.co.uk): an on-line shop offering delivery to your door of plants, gifts and accessories: Tel: 01323 833479



We're all used to writing or typing the correct year now, but how many of you have broken your New Year's Resolutions? Maybe you've even forgotten your goals. Does it matter? No, of course not. But it's good for the soul to have aims and aspirations. Around 88% of the resolution-making-population have failed to achieve theirs by February and most people give up once some have fallen by the wayside.

The wise person knows that they receive what they give out. Therefore, treating people with respect, kindness and friendliness is an excellent recipe for receiving goodwill. It's a great strategy for a boost to emotional welfare. It applies to posting on social media as well as communicating with people in person. Once you adopt this approach to others, it becomes second nature. In other words, you can train yourself to become a nicer person – and what could be better than that?

Gardens, and outdoors in general, are great places in which to connect with others. If you're feeling lonely, potter around the front garden, go for a gentle walk or take a stroll to the shops. If you smile and appear friendly you're bound to strike up a conversation or two. The outdoor world and appreciation of all it represents is a tremendously powerful force that we could all benefit from noticing. It's far too easy to shut the door on nature – but it's not good for the soul. Immerse yourself in greenery, in gardens, parks, house plants, animals and insects. Care about all living things and your life will be enhanced.

Here are 10 tasks for late winter. Get outdoors and see what joy you can generate:

- Sweep the drive, wash down the windowsills and clean the front door step.
- Put up bird boxes as February 14<sup>th</sup> is traditionally the time for birdie pairing and nesting. Need some help? Ask a friendly neighbour!

- Turn the compost heap. It's good to get some air into the pile, but watch out for overwintering frogs, toads, snakes and small mammals.
- Trim hedges: doing this by hand with shears is much more peaceful than using noisy machinery.
- Consider cutting down deciduous ornamental grasses that have been giving you great winter structure. New shoots will soon be appearing.
- Prune Clematis in Groups 2 and 3. Group 2 are climbers that flower in early summer and they prefer to flower on short, new growth which comes from older wood. So start from the top and prune downwards, shortening last year's growth. Group 3 can be treated in just about the opposite manner: start from the ground and prune just above the first or second pair of strong buds.
- Prune vines such as Virginia creeper and Boston ivy, particularly if they are growing against your property. These are vigorous, and you want to tame them early before they romp across your windows.
- Prune roses this month or next, cutting back growth on bush roses by two thirds. This is especially beneficial to smaller stems as pruning encourages vigour.
- Chit potatoes – the main growing season is approaching fast!
- Prepare your vegetable beds and test the soil's pH level. You can add some lime if need be.

**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](http://www.perfectplants.co.uk)**

*Editor: **Tim Lenton** pays tribute to Buddy Holly and friends...*

### **'The day the music died'**

The day the music died – according to Don McLean in his epic song American Pie – was 60 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1959, when rock-and-roll star Buddy Holly died in a plane crash in Iowa. With him were two other singers, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper.

Charles Hardin (Buddy) Holly, who was 22 when he died, was born in Lubbock, Texas, at the heart of America's Bible Belt, and he and his family were closely associated with the Tabernacle Baptist Church there, though he himself was seen as something of a rebel.

His style was initially influenced by gospel and country music, and he formed groups with friends from his high school. After opening for Elvis Presley in 1955, he shifted to rock and roll. With his new band, The Crickets, he achieved international success with songs such as *That'll be the Day*.

Immensely talented, he wrote, recorded and produced his own material and is often thought of as the man who defined the traditional rock-and-roll line-up of two guitars, bass and drums. He was a big influence on such major artistes as Bob Dylan, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton and was one of the first artistes inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.





## Margaret of Cortona: 22<sup>nd</sup> February

*Did you have a miserable childhood? Were your parents more absorbed in themselves than in you? Later, looking for love, did you fall for the wrong man? Perhaps you now have children of your own, and struggle to raise them. If you feel your life has been 'wrong-footed' from the start, and that there is no way of 'putting it right' now, then Margaret of Cortona (c. 1247–97) is a saint for you.*

She was born the daughter of a small farmer in Tuscany way back in 1247. Her mother died in her childhood, and a jealous step-mother moved in, who distanced her from her father's love. Lonely and vulnerable, Margaret was then seduced by a knight of Montepulciano. He did not offer marriage, and so she lived as his mistress for nine years, hanging on to the only affection she had ever known. She even bore him a son. Then one day her knight was murdered by persons unknown. Margaret's life was in crisis.

What happened next seems to indicate that Margaret was desperate to 'put her life right', in the only way she knew how. She gave away the riches that the knight had left her, and returned to her father and step-mother, humbly seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. They, who had let her down in the first place, slammed the door in her face. Margaret then sought out the Franciscans and became a penitent. She was desperate for kindness, forgiveness and peace in her sad life.

What happened next is a tragic example of how the church can let people down. For when Margaret turned to the Franciscans in repentance, they did not tell her the wonderful news: that indeed she could be forgiven, because Jesus had already paid the price to 'redeem' her. Instead, they told her a lie: that she would have to 'earn' forgiveness by on-going acts of abasement and severe mortifications. She was never told the simple truth: that God loved her, and lavished forgiveness on her.

And so the final tragedy of Margaret's life began: for years and years she practised severe acts of self-abasement: starvation, sleeplessness, the daily torment of hair-shirts. She was never told that all this was pointless, that her sins were gladly forgiven her because Jesus had died for them on the cross.

There is nothing so broken in our lives that almighty God cannot fix it. At whatever point we turn to him, he accepts us just as we are. Forgiveness is just the beginning of the good things that God wants to give us. He wants to begin a life-long work of restoration and healing in our lives.

Poor Margaret never found that out in this life. So she must have had the most wonderful, almighty surprise when at 50 she died, and woke up in heaven.



## All in the month of February

**200 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1819**, Christopher Sholes, American inventor was born. He developed one of the first typewriters and invented the QWERTY keyboard.

**150 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1869**, Charles Thomson Rees Wilson, Scottish physicist was born. Winner of the 1927 Nobel Prize in Physics for inventing the cloud chamber.

**100 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 1919**, the Grand Canyon National Park was established in Arizona.

**90 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1929**, Italy and the Vatican signed the Lateran Treaty, which recognised the Vatican City's independence and sovereignty.

**80 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1939**, the German battleship Bismarck was launched. It was sunk by the British in May 1941 during a WW2 battle in the North Atlantic.

**70 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1949**, Israel's parliament (the Knesset) convened for the first time.

**60 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1959** was 'the day music died'. American rock-and-roll performers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash in Iowa.

**50 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1969**, Yasser Arafat was appointed leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

**40 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1979**, Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Iran after more than 14 years in exile. In November, following a referendum, Iran became an Islamic Republic with Khomeini the Supreme Leader.

**30 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1989**, Iranian Ayatollah Khomeini issued a 'fatwa' calling for the death of the British writer Salman Rushdie, whose novel *The Satanic Verses* was condemned as blasphemous against Muslims.

**20 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 1999**, Bryan Mosley, British actor, died. Best known for his role as Alf Roberts in the TV soap *Coronation Street*.

**10 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009**, two satellites collided in orbit for the first time. A defunct Russian Cosmos-2251 military communications satellite and an operational US Iridium 33 communications satellite were both destroyed, creating thousands of fragments of space debris.

## *From the Registers*

### *Funerals (December 2018)*

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December

**Dorothy Ann Grundy**

Kirk Christ @ 2.00pm

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December

**Anthea Adams**

Kirk Christ @ 2.00pm

### *Wedding Blessing (Dec. 2018)*

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December

**Jode Brookfield & Ian Brookfield**

St Mary's Church @ 300pm

### **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](http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion)

### **"HOME GROUPS"**

A welcome awaits in the Parish,  
At groups organised at some homes.  
There's friendship with other Christians,  
Who prefer not to study alone.

"Search Scripture" is the instruction –  
For wonderful things you will find.  
In verses throughout the Bible  
Of transformational kind.

Group work is beneficial,  
Whatever the subject may be;  
It stimulates conversation  
And fresh points of view we may see.

Knowledge abounds in the Parish,  
With creative ideas and wealth:  
Carefully study the Bible,  
And discover more for yourself!

*Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (N.I.V)*

**Margaret Couper**

**HOME GROUPS**  
— GET CONNECTED —

## Rushen Mothers' Union



Our first meeting of 2019 was well attended, with 16 members, 3 visitors, our speaker Rev Brian Shephard and our warden Gerry Callister present. Helen Shephard, in the chair, warmly welcomed everyone and wished us all a Happy New Year. Our short service included hymns played by Valerie Vaughan, prayers led by Helen and a reading given by Maureen Hartley.

Pat Thomson reported on the MU JMP South and West Committee meeting: -

Mrs Gail Eagles and Mrs Danielle Bradshaw will be our new Diocesan President and Secretary respectively. Spring Council meeting – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019. MU Festival - Mon 25<sup>th</sup> March at 11am at the Cathedral followed by a Faith Lunch. Next meeting - Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Feb at Marown Church which Pat will attend. Pat also thanked Jane Gunn for visiting our housebound members with gifts at Christmas, and Jane gave us an update on their health.

We were all looking forward to hearing our speaker, Rev Brian Shephard, and to learning about his trip, with daughter and granddaughters, to China in April last year. It was good to see Brian looking so well, and fascinating to listen to his account of his amazing travels in the Golden Triangle, from Beijing, to Xian and to Shanghai. Chinese Temples, dragons, lions, Hymnbooks, T shirts and hotel slippers all featured in his interesting talk, with excellent photos of the Terracotta Warriors, the Great Wall, Chinese street food and tea ceremonies among the many experiences captured by his granddaughter.

A very appreciative vote of thanks with a gift was given by Sue Maddrell, and after our closing hymn followed by a Blessing and the Grace, we all enjoyed tea and biscuits while examining some of Brian's Chinese memorabilia.

Our next meeting is on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February, at 2pm in St Mary's Hall, where Peta Mills will be in the chair and our speaker Mrs Rosemary Clarke's topic will be "Reflections on Palestine." As always, guests are most welcome.

With love and very best wishes

**Pat Thomson**

### *Sin*

*A young minister, serving his first church, noticed that one of his flock had been absent from services several Sundays in a row, so he decided to see her and ask the reason. The old woman shook her head and looked at him pityingly. "Son," she said, "you can't help me. You are not old enough to have sinned enough to have repented enough to be able to preach about it."*

## God in the Arts



*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. By the **Rev Michael Burgess**. This month the painting reflects **'The Presentation in the Temple' by Guercino**' (Editor)*

This month of February opens with the celebration of Candlemas. On the 2nd we recall that special moment of enlightenment when Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple. They meet Simeon, who represents the waiting people of Israel – a nation looking for a better world now that the holy city was in the hands of Roman invaders.

Simeon clung to the hope that God would come to bring freedom and a new life. When it came, there was no fanfare, no warning. St Luke in his Gospel tells us of an ordinary family from faraway Nazareth who go to Jerusalem to perform the religious duties for the firstborn son. But in their encounter with Simeon we see and hear something extraordinary.

The scene is captured in this beautiful painting of 1623 that hangs in the National Gallery: 'The Presentation in the Temple' by Guercino. The artist Giovanni Barbieri had the curious nickname Guercino which means 'Squinty.' Why squinty, we are not sure, for all is clear and lyrical in this work.

At the base of the canvas we see the turtle doves with two ducks, but the heart of the scene focuses on Mary, Joseph and Simeon linked by the Christ-Child. Notice the gentle hands of Mary, the strong, supportive hands of Joseph, and the outstretched, waiting hands of Simeon. He may be an old man, but he is ready to welcome the babe, who is offered as a sign of hope and light for the future. A candle burns at the right side to emphasise the light shed by this meeting of infancy and old age.

St Luke by tradition was an artist himself, depicting the stories of his gospel with the deft strokes of a painter. In this scene the words of the evangelist and the skill of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Italian artist tell us that, at whatever age we are, we can also find light and hope as we offer our hands and our hearts to welcome the Christ-Child.



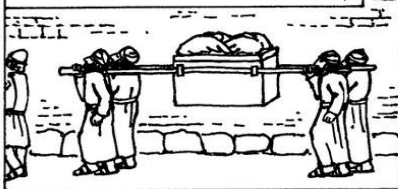
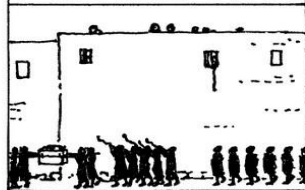
## Children's Page

## Bible Bite

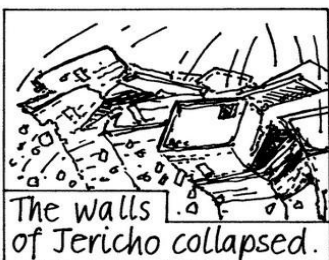
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27Joshua led the Israelites across the  
river Jordan. They camped near the  
town of Jericho and prepared to fight.The people in Jericho  
locked the town gates.

They thought they were safe.

God told Joshua  
what to do.On the first day, the priests  
carried the sacred chest,they blew trumpets,  
and walked round  
Jericho once.The army followed  
not saying a word.They did this  
for 6 days.On the 7th day they  
walked round 7 times.

The army gave a victory shout!

The walls  
of Jericho collapsed.The army rushed into  
the town and  
captured it.

Jericho was destroyed.

## The Story Behind the Hymn



### ***Hail To the Lord's Anointed***

Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
great David's greater son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
To take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains,  
shall peace, the herald, go,  
And righteousness, in fountains,  
from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever;  
that name to us is love.

James Montgomery (1771-1854) followed in the footsteps of Isaac Watts and Charles Wesley. In many hymnals he is well represented, third only to Watts and Wesley for British hymn writers before 1850, with six hymns in the United Methodist Hymnal.

Montgomery's father was a minister, and his parents later served as missionaries to the West Indies. James remained in Yorkshire and was raised from age 6 in a boy's boarding school administered by the Brethren of Fulneck. Montgomery later said, "There, whatever we did was done in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, whom we were taught to regard in the amiable and endearing light of a friend and brother."

He began writing poetry at age 10, inspired by the hymn of the Moravians, the same group that inspired John Wesley. Despite flunking out of school at age 14, Montgomery found a job in 1792 at a radical weekly newspaper, the *Sheffield Register*. He assumed the leadership of the paper not long after, when the previous editor fled the country fearing persecution for his politics.

At this point, Montgomery changed the name of the paper to the *Iris*, and served for 31 years as editor, during which he was a tireless supporter of social justice. He was jailed twice for his radical views, using the time in prison to write poetry. This hymn was originally an eight-verse poem, a paraphrase of Psalm 72 written in 1821 for a Christmas leaflet, "Moravian Ode."

Montgomery's closing line of the final verse, "that name to us is love," is a reminder of Charles Wesley's closing line at the end of his great hymn, "Come, O thou Traveller unknown" a narrative ballad that parallels Jacob's struggle in Genesis 32 with the angel at Peniel.

Wesley concludes his struggle with the revelation that "thy name is love." For Montgomery, the world had been struggling long and hard with sin and oppression, a world that could, and can, only be redeemed by the one whose name is Love.

## Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



*Thank you, that you accept us as we are;  
that you love us as we are. So, may we love  
those around us. By your Spirit may we hold  
hands. May we rejoice with the rejoicing,  
weep with the weeping. And may we offer our  
all to you, together.*

*Then we may be ourselves.*

*Then we may be one.*

**Amen**



## February 2019

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Everyone who gives of their time, money and energy to charitable organisations
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Pets which bring such comfort to the elderly and the lonely
- 4<sup>th</sup> The bereaved and the sense of loss that they feel when loved one's die
- 5<sup>th</sup> Families attending morning services today and the fellowship they derive
- 6<sup>th</sup> The Queen, Lord of Man, as we remember her accession to the throne
- 7<sup>th</sup> The children and parents who attend Play and Praise each month
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grandparents who help their children through challenging times
- 9<sup>th</sup> Stephen Curtis and the work he does maintaining the finances of the parish
- 10<sup>th</sup> Care workers who visit people who are lonely and/or elderly
- 11<sup>th</sup> The Mothers' Union meeting taking place this afternoon
- 12<sup>th</sup> Those preparing for marriage later this year and the excitement they derive
- 13<sup>th</sup> Children enjoying their pancakes and chocolate before Lent begins
- 14<sup>th</sup> St. Valentine, the patron saint of romantic love, remembered today
- 15<sup>th</sup> Those people in hospital awaiting treatment for life threatening diseases
- 16<sup>th</sup> The participants in Messy Church which takes place today
- 17<sup>th</sup> Homegroups in the parish and the fellowship derived from them
- 18<sup>th</sup> Children who attend nursery, primary and secondary schools across the island
- 19<sup>th</sup> All those who intercede during the services in the parish
- 20<sup>th</sup> Farmers as they prepare for springtime and the year ahead
- 21<sup>st</sup> Sidespersons who carry out their duties in our parish week by week
- 22<sup>nd</sup> All those who read the lessons at the services in the parish
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Children who have been baptised in the parish during the past year
- 24<sup>th</sup> Children who attend youth organisations such as brownies, cubs, scouts and guides
- 25<sup>th</sup> The head teachers of our local schools and the successes they bring to all children
- 26<sup>th</sup> The Ladies Working Party and the work it does for charities
- 27<sup>th</sup> PCC committees and the work they do in keeping the parish active
- 28<sup>th</sup> Those who administer communion to the housebound.

## Services February 2019

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b> <b><i>(Epiphany 5)</i></b>	8am	St Catherine's Holy Communion
	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
<b>7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise
<b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b><i>(4 before Lent)</i></b>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	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
<b>17<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b><i>(3 before Lent)</i></b>	8am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)
	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)
<b>24<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b><i>(2 before Lent)</i></b>	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)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> <b><i>(1 before Lent)</i></b>	8am	St Catherine's Holy Communion
	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
<b>7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	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

## Contact Details for Rushen Parish

### St Mary's Sunday School Leader:

Carole Coole, Cronk-NyGreiney, Fisher's Hill, Arbory 827545

### St Mary's Ladies Working Party

Mrs Susan Maddrell, Athol Lodge, Fistard, Port St Mary 833151

### St Mary's Hall Bookings:

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

### St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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

### Web Site/E-mail:

www.rushenparish.org.uk admin@rushenparish.org.uk

### Magazine Editor

Mr David Bowman, The Old Bakery, Qualtroughs Lane, 837117/260539  
Ballafesson, Port Erin. e-mail: dbow43@manx.net

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

### Parish Director of Music:

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

### Churchyard Enquiries:

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



## February Sudoku Competition

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

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

I am so pleased to be receiving entries from you all, some who have been having a go since I introduced this competition, and some who are new. I hope the puzzles provide you all with some enjoyment, as well as the chance of winning the £5 prize. The usual rules apply with the last date for entries being **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February**. You can send your entry through the post, push it through my letter-box, or give it to one of the churchwardens. Good luck! (*Editor*)