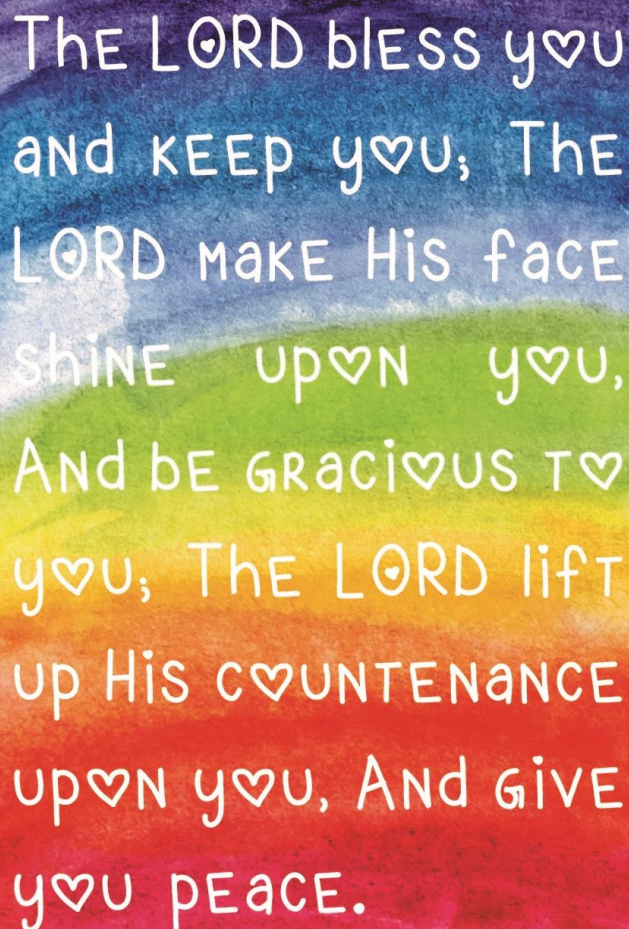


Rushen Parish Magazine

March 2019



THE LORD bless you
and KEEP you; The
LORD make His face
shine upon you,
And be GRACIOUS to
you; The LORD lift
up His COUNTENANCE
upon you, And GIVE
you peace.

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Letter From The Editor

Many of you will know that Pauline has been admitted to Noble's yet again, this time with mobility issues. It seems as though we have been blighted with bad luck over that past 19 months. Firstly with Pauline's stroke and now this, which at present nobody seems to know the answer. Hopefully we will have a solution to this in due course. What with this, and the loss of our son in 2001, it seems as though that all we believe in is being questioned. I could ask why has God let this happen to us when we have spent our lives serving Him and, despite our many failings, He seems to have forsaken us.

It's a question that must have been asked countless times, especially in times of trouble, disaster, and when nothing seems to go right. Over the past few days I have listened to the Muslim girl who went to Syria to join those who seek to terrorise innocent people, and who now wants to return home with her new born child. When asked about the bombing in Manchester, and the death of 22 innocent men, women and children, her reply implied that she condoned such an attack because of the deaths of innocent people in Syria by allied forces. Needless to say this has caused outrage and a British Home Office response of her not being allowed to gain British citizenship. I am sure that those affected by this atrocity have also questioned why God has allowed this to happen, and why should people like the Muslim girl feel the way that she does. This incident isn't the only thing that makes us ask why, we only have to think of the number of natural disasters which seem to be on the increase and causing misery and hardship to thousands.

Despite all these concerns we still believe that the God we love and pray to, day by day, is there to help us in times of trouble. We have proof that our Lord Jesus carried out many miracles which provided relief out of suffering, or changed the lives of the people He met. Despite my present situation I have no doubt that God does help us through our times of trouble. Earlier this week it took me an hour and a half to get Pauline upstairs and ultimately to bed. To prevent me from having to do this again the doctor managed to arrange Pauline to be admitted to Noble's. Unfortunately there were no beds and I had the prospect of another journey up the stairs again which, as you can imagine, was not only going to be hard for me, but embarrassing and frustrating for Pauline. I asked God for help and at about 7pm a phone call from the hospital reassured me that a bed had been found. The effect of that call was immense and provided us both with the reassurance that everything was going to be okay.

Over the years I have learned that prayers are always answered, perhaps not always in the way we expect. Our prayers to save Nicholas, when he was diagnosed with a brain tumour and a life expectancy of 5 years, gave us 29 years of happiness with him. My prayers, and yours, when Pauline had a stroke 19 months ago, when all seemed to be nothing but despair, were answered, Pauline's life was saved, and I now have the joy of looking after her despite the obvious problems that this causes. It's far better than not having her at all. I don't know what the future holds, but what I know for sure is that God is watching over us, and that our prayers, and those of others, will uphold us during this difficult time.

Making Sense of Lent



Editor: **The Rev Paul Hardingham** on how to have a great Lent...

This month sees the start of Lent, the six-week period leading up to Easter. In the early Church, it was a time when new converts were instructed in the faith, ready for their baptism at Easter. Over the years, Lent has become a season of penitence, self-examination and fasting. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught his disciples to fast, *'when you fast..'* (Matthew 6:17).

Fasting might involve missing one or two meals in a day, refraining from TV or alcohol, or whatever gets in the way of us fully focusing on God. What are the reasons for fasting?

- The act of giving up something is a tangible sacrifice to God, reminding us of our desire to put him first in our lives.
- Giving up things I value shows me how depend I can be on other things rather than God.
- Fasting helps me to surrender my *'idols'* to God.
- When fasting I am reminded of a deeper hunger and need for God in my life: *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew 5:6). I learn to be more dependent on God, while releasing the stuff I depend on in my life.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines eg joining a study group, *'random acts of kindness'*, giving more time to prayer and Bible study Whatever you do, have a great Lent!

'Jesus takes it for granted that his disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.' (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

With Mothering Sunday in mind...

I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians of England. *John Wesley.*

Woman takes her being from man, man takes his well-being from woman. *Thomas Adams*



Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

Our Tuesday afternoon meetings continue to be very well attended, with everyone enjoying the fellowship and friendship. As always, we hear up to date reports on those who have not been well, sign cards, and think of them during our prayers. Readings chosen and given by the members are always well chosen, some humorous, some poignant, but all thought provoking. We all said how much we had enjoyed Liz Hull's sermon at the all age

service, and remarked on how well the children had responded. Jan Withey thanked us for our card and prayers after her recent hospital procedure and said she how much she had appreciated our support.

We are grateful to David Bowman for his printing of "reminder" tickets, which are free, and for the posters advertising our open afternoon on Tuesday 26th Feb when we shall welcome and hear from Mr Paul Moores of the Leprosy Mission. We shall be serving refreshments after his talk, and there will be a Bring and Buy, and a Leprosy Mission Stall.

Our thanks to John Day for his cheque for our old tables and chairs, and Jude will continue her efforts to arrange the purchase of ten new chairs.

Although the date is not yet fixed, we are hoping to have a coffee morning in May in aid of the Friends of Chernobyl's Children charity. As before, we are also looking forward to hosting a lunch for the children, in St Mary's Hall, during their visit to the island in the summer.

We send our love and best wishes to all, but particularly to those who are not in good health, and pray for their recovery.

Pat Thomson

Grannie

After church, the mother asked her young son if he had enjoyed Sunday School. "Oh yes," he replied. "My new teacher is pretty cool – she is Jesus' grand-mother." Startled, his mother asked what made him think that. "Obvious, she never stops talking about Jesus," he replied.





Signs & Symbols: the bells, the bells!

The Rev Dr Jo White continues her series on 'Why do they do that?' It looks at things that happen in churches which don't need to remain mysterious...this series began last month and will run until December. (Editor)

Last month we thought about 'crossing ourselves' and in a way I wanted to continue that by asking 'when would you cross yourself?' I can recall people doing it almost

superstitiously at times of danger, seeing an ambulance rushing on the road or even as a sign of gratitude at good news.

Many sign themselves to psychologically draw a line before and after their time of prayer. Marking out that time as 'special'. I continue to do so before I eat a meal as a sign of gratitude for the food I shall consume and a request that God will use it to strengthen me to serve him in my day.

Many times in church I notice people do so when the prayer of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost is mentioned.

Did you know that church bells also were and still are sometimes used to reinforce 'holy points'? In the Church of England, Canon Law still requires every church and chapel to provide at least one bell to ring the people to divine service (Canon F8).

When church services were held in Latin (*not so long ago!*) a bell was usually rung prior to the saying of any and all Trinitarian prayers to forewarn the people so that they could join in with that prayer and specific action. In some churches this continues today even though it is the language of the country being used.

Bells may also be rung at other significant points such as the lifting of the consecrated bread and wine.

Whilst the bells were normally handbells, within rural communities where locals were unable to attend the service due to farming obligations the tower bell may also be rung so they could effectively 'join in as they are able'.

When do you hear church bells this month?

Happy

Never miss an opportunity to make others happy, even if you have to leave them alone in order to do it.

St Mary's Junior Church



We resumed Junior Church on the 20th January and continued with our sessions on Elijah. We learned how God showed himself to be the one, all powerful God when Elijah prayed for fire. We acted out the story with freeze frames which we then photographed and put together in a short video. We also wrote flame prayers which we sent up to heaven on the parachute.

On the 27th we carried on with Elijah – Power to Protect. We each had a map to follow with doors to open for each place Elijah visited. As we went on the journey through the wilderness we looked at pictures on the laptop as we listened to Beethoven's 6th symphony. We then used modelling clay to form something which reminded us of God's power.

On the 3rd February we practised for our All Age service on the 10th. Our focus being The Beatitudes. We practised our song – Blessed are the ones in need – accompanied by Lukas on the mandolin. We then went over the dramatised reading Luke 6 17-26. We read together the beginning of The Sermon on the Mount and discussed what Jesus meant. The children then made a display to sum up the lesson. Bees with attitude!!

The All Age service on the 10th was led by Liz Hull. The children dramatised the gospel reading with Hannah as narrator and Thomas as Jesus and led the congregation in their song. In the Learning Together section some of the children volunteered to help Liz. They were each given two empty glass jars – Liz had a jar full to the brim with money. There was a bowl full of coloured pom poms in the middle and the children were asked to fill their jars with them. In no time all the children's jars were full. Liz told the children she hadn't been able to put any pom poms in her jar as it was already full. She explained that we can't ask Jesus into our lives if we haven't any room for Him – if all we think about are material things. We need to make room in our lives for God and think about others before ourselves.

On 17th February we began a new series of lessons – Jesus shows God's love – John 2 vs. 1-11 Jesus turning water into wine. The children read about Jesus' first miracle and carried out various activities including making a variety of fizzy drinks.

The children are currently enjoying their half-term holiday. Here's hoping they have an enjoyable week and that the mild weather continues. It is still February as I write, but there are signs of spring all around, with daffodils, snowdrops and primroses along with more hours of daylight. It is wonderful to see God's creation awakening after the winter. With love from St. Mary's Junior Church

Carole Coole



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



At the beginning of February a very successful Soup Inn was held at in St Catherine's Church Hall with thirty-four people enjoying a lunch together.

This was followed by a very busy Messy Church with thirty-six children and thirty-four adults enjoying the various activities in the hall. This was followed by a time of prayer and singing in church. The event ended with a meal back in the hall. I would like to thank Alan, Peter and the team members for all their hard work in making this such a successful occasion.

At Kirk Christ, on the second Sunday in the month, the first alternative service of 2019 was held. The service centred around a Celtic theme. Twenty-seven people attended this excellent service. I would also like to thank the music group for its contribution.

Preparations for Lent are now well in hand.

Gerry Callister



Messy Church January 2019

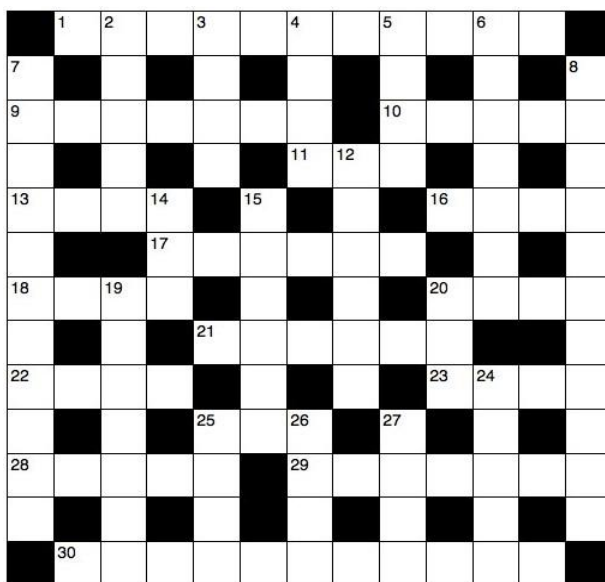
Our January Messy Church was a busy one! Our Messy church families were very happy to be returning for the New Year and we were also very happy to welcome some new families along also. We thought

about Jesus as a 12-year-old boy and how he belonged in his community and therefore us in our communities. Activities included making family shields and Messy Church member badges. Annie provided a fantastic and heartfelt depiction of Jesus' Mother Mary during the celebration in church before we all returned to the hall for a lovely prepared meal.

Jennie Stewart



March Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1** These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
13 Mede (anag.) (4)
16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s. The — of God Incarnate (4)
21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
23 Edit (anag.) (4)
25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been —, he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2** 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — —' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)

February Crossword Solution

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

I received another 20 puzzles for the January competition which was excellent. I hope that in future more of you will try to solve the puzzles which I believe are not too hard. The £5 prize was won by Mrs K Hughes from Colby. One of the nurses at Noble's Hospital kindly chose the number 10 which was the tenth entry I received.

Prayer for help and healing during the Brexit negotiations

Father: You are always loving, always generous, and kind to your children.

Please have mercy on the United Kingdom at this time of turmoil and division.

Help everyone to be tolerant and understanding of those who have different, sincerely-held opinions. Guide those who lead, so that your will be done: in relationships with each other, in Europe, and in the rest of the world. Lord, have mercy on us, forgive us and heal us.

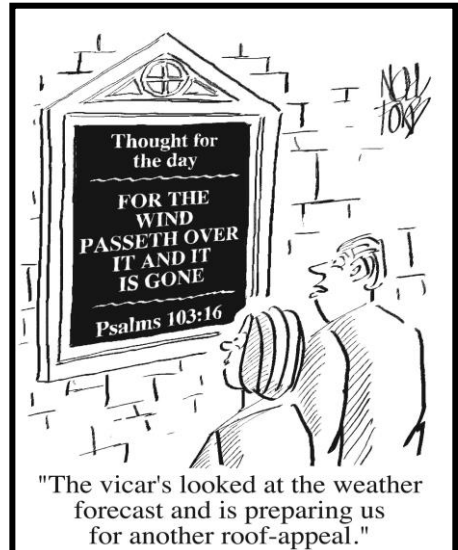
In Jesus name,

Amen.

February Sudoku Solutions

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

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





Who cares for the Vicar?

Editor: Canon David Winter reflects on a recent debate in the General Synod...

The Church of England is looking into ways of giving more support to vicars. You may wonder why, as it looks 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, as church meetings are held in the evenings! 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 pray for the vicar. Show him or her how much you value them and where

Hair-cut

A minister, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man leave during the middle of his message. The man returned as the service concluded. Afterwards the minister asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a hair-cut," was the reply. "But," protested the minister, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

"Because," said the man, "I didn't need one then."

March to the garden, armed with enthusiasm, as spring knocks on the garden gate

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



It's all downhill to warmer climes now that March has arrived. Brave any rogue winds and start sowing, planting, pruning and weeding. You might even manage some mowing if temperatures are warm.

What can you sow in the vegetable garden during March?

- Beetroot, around 2cm deep and 10cm apart.
- Broad beans, at around 5cm deep and 15cm apart.
- Carrots, around 1.5cm deep and around 15cm apart.
- Kale, up to 1cm deep, then thin them to around 20cm apart after around two weeks of growth.
- Leeks, 1cm deep, around 15cm apart.
- Onion sets, plant them around 2cm deep and 12cm apart.
- Parsnips, 15cm apart, around 13mm deep.
- Potatoes: early varieties can be chitted and then planted.
- Salad leaves, sow every two weeks, just 13mm deep and around 30cm apart.

What can you plant in the productive garden?

Apples, blackcurrants, blueberries, plums, raspberries, redcurrants, strawberries.

What should you do to your lawn this month?

The best treat for your lawn is a bit of air. Especially if you've trampled up and down on your grass through the winter. Prod deeply with a garden fork or hollow tine, avoiding frosty weather. It allows air channels to help oxygen reach the roots and reduces compaction of the soil. Compaction and lack of air is one of the main causes of moss in a lawn. You can give the lawn a good raking in order to disperse worm casts and leaves, then perhaps give it a gentle mow on the highest setting.

Improve the edges of lawns with a sharp half-moon hand tool. You'll be surprised what a difference it makes to the overall appearance.

How can I reduce my workload in the garden?

Good news: March is the best month in which to get things in order. This will reduce the number of chores later on. Here's how:

- Weed your borders and mulch the soil when the ground is damp. It will slow the growth of fresh weeds, warm the roots and keep moisture in, which will help if there's a dry season later on. Mulch can be made of natural compost, leaf mould, well-rotted manure, mature wood chippings and bark. Just make sure you leave a gap around plant stems because mulch can damage them.
- Prune deciduous ornamental grasses to make way for the new growth.
- Prune early spring flowering shrubs that have already flowered.
- Prune climbers such as Clematis which are in pruning group 3. These flower from July onwards on new growth.
- Tie in established climbers and create a framework that will enable you to guide them throughout the growing season.
- Erect plant supports such as obelisks in beds so that taller perennials can easily be tied to them as they grow.
- Set up your bird feeders close to your beds. Allow the birds to be your own personal pest-controller.

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

The following poem was submitted by Inger Perkins. If you have any poems, or something which you would like to share with others in the parish, please feel free to do so. Just send it to me and I will do my best to publish it - Editor

It's a la mode – it's Manx!

You drink Manx tays and think Manx ways and tremble past St. Trinian's,
 You curtsy to the Fairy Bridge and bow to Manx opinions,
 The House of Keys, the T.T. race, the smoking smell of kippers
 Are part of your existence, like toastracks and the trippers.
 You celebrate on Tynwald Day, and go to all the scrambles,
 From Point of Ayre to Calf of Man you know the quietest rambles,
 Your cat's curtailed, you 'hunt the wren,' you speak of going 'across',
 And singing Ellan Vannin never finds you at a loss.
 But one more custom added on to all these Manxland rites
 Would really have some value here, and help us reach the heights!
 A habit and a slogan that would earn the Island's thanks –
 "Shop locally! It's all our own! It's a la mode – it's Manx!"

Author Unknown



All in the month of March

400 years ago, on 12th March 1619, Richard Burbage, English actor, died. A major shareholder in the Globe Theatre, and a friend and business partner of William Shakespeare.

200 years ago, on 28th March 1819, Sir Joseph Bazalgette, British civil engineer, was born. He created London's sewer network as well as several notable bridges, embankments and streets.

150 years ago, on 6th March 1869, the first recognisable periodic table of the elements was published by Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev.

100 years ago, on 17th March 1919, Nat King Cole, the American jazz/swing/pop singer and pianist was born. (Died 1965)

80 years ago, on 2nd March 1939, Howard Carter, the British archaeologist and Egyptologist died. He discovered the tomb of the pharaoh Tutankhamen in 1922. Also 80 years ago, the fictional superhero Batman made his first appearance, in *Detective Comics no. 27*.

75 years ago, from 24th to 25th March 1944, World War 2's 'Great Escape' took place. 76 Allied prisoners broke out of the Stalag Luft III prisoner-of-war camp near Sagan, Germany after digging tunnels. 73 were recaptured and 50 executed. The event was dramatised in the classic film *The Great Escape*.

60 years ago, on 9th March 1959, the Barbie doll was launched at the International Toy Fair in New York City, USA.

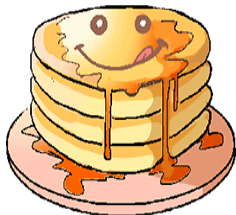
50 years ago, on 4th March 1969, British gangsters Ronald and Reginald Kray (the Kray twins) were found guilty of murdering the criminals Jack McVitie ('Jack the Hat') and George Cornell. They were sentenced to life imprisonment.

40 years ago, on 26th March 1979, The Camp David Peace Accord was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, ending 30 years of war.

30 years ago, on 12th March 1989, Tim Berners-Lee invented the World-Wide Webb while working at CERN.

25 years ago, on 12th March 1994, the first women priests in the Church of England were ordained.

5 March - SHROVE TUESDAY: Pancake Day



Shrove Tuesday

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. . At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

Parish Pump

We Can Count on Him (Billy Graham)

Blessed is the man whose strength is in You (Psalm 84:5)

Someone has written a little verse that goes:



*Said the robin to the sparrow,
I should really like to know,
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so.
Said the sparrow to the robin,
Friend, I think that it must be,
That they have no heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me.*



Jesus used the carefree attitude of the birds to underscore the fact that worrying is unnatural. "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap;... yet your heavenly Father feeds them" (Matt. 6:26) If He cares for tiny birds and frail flowers, why can't we count on Him for every aspect of our lives? After all, He loves us so much that He sent His Son into the world to save us. We are that valuable to Him!

Article supplied by Margaret Moore

From the Registers

Wedding (January 2019)

Saturday 5th January 2019

Shona Watterson & Christopher Overs

Kirk Christ @ 2.30pm

Board meeting

"There will be a meeting of the Board immediately after the service," announced the minister one Sunday morning. So, after the service, the Church Board gathered at the back of the church. To their surprise, there was a stranger in their midst. "My friend," said the minister, "didn't you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?"

"Yes indeed," said the visitor, "but after today's sermon, I'm just as bored as anyone else who has come along..."

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

"Lenten Prep"

Preparation is accepted
As a key-note to success;
Preparation in all aspects
Of life that we possess.

Preparation of the body
Which we feed and dress with care.
Preparation of active minds
And thoughts that linger there.

Emotions may prove difficult.
To control or to prepare –
Guard against rash impulsiveness
With ever constant, prayer.

Throughout the Lenten period
Preparation should prove true
Affecting one's behaviour
In what-so'er we do.

Courtesy, an old-time virtue,
Has a part to play in Lent.
As with glad anticipation
We prepare with good intent:

In our attitude to others
Let courtesy be the key;
And "fruits of the Holy Spirit"
Will blossom naturally.

Incarnate Birth! Resurrection!
God's perfect plan for peace,
As through the glorious gospel
Redemption is released.

Ref. 1 Peter 3-8 (AF)
Be of one mind having compassion
One of another - - - be courteous

Margaret Couper



Rushen Mothers' Union

Mrs Peta Mills chaired a most enjoyable meeting in St Mary's Hall, on Monday 11th March. Our Speaker, Mrs Rosemary Clarke, had chosen the reading, given by Mrs Sue Maddrell with hymns chosen and played by Mrs Margaret Couper, and prayers led by Peta.

Mrs Elsie Faragher reported that posters and tickets (£1) were printed for our Coffee Morning on Friday March 15th, in St Catherine's Hall and it was agreed that there should be a cake stall and raffles. Mrs Pat Thomson will confirm details for the MU Festival and Faith Lunch at the next MU JMP South and West Committee Meeting on 20/2/19.

Peta warmly welcomed our speaker who until her retirement had been Director of the One World Centre. In her fascinating illustrated talk, "Reflections on Palestine", Rosemary shared with us some of her experiences while working as a volunteer with The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel (EAPPI) during Jan – April 2018. As a human rights monitor, based in Yatta, south of Hebron in the West Bank, she was able to witness some of the huge challenges facing Palestinian families in the region and explained that her aim now is to spread an understanding of the very difficult situation that exists there. I think we all felt we had learned a great deal and our grateful appreciation was expressed by Pat. Conversation and discussion followed, over a welcome cup of tea and biscuits – thank you ladies.

Our next meeting will be in St Catherine's Hall, on Monday 11th March at 2pm, when Mrs Sue Maddrell will be in the chair and our speaker will be Mrs Jane Foxon from the Food Bank. Members are invited to bring an item for the food bank on that day. As always, guests will be very welcome.

With love and best wishes

Pat Thomson

Adam & Eve

At Sunday School the children were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Little Josh was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down and looking scared. "Josh, what is the matter?"

Josh whispered "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

God in the Arts

Christ blessing John the Baptist - by Moretto da Brescia



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.

George Herbert wrote a poem entitled 'Lent' which contains these lines:

Who goeth in the way which Christ hath gone,
Is much more sure to meet with Him than one
That travelleth by-ways.

And so each Lent we seek to journey with our Lord through the 40 days of this season. Lent is an Old English word for 'Spring.' It is not a negative, depressing time, but a season full of hope and promise. We begin it on Ash Wednesday when we are encouraged to look at our lives honestly, seeing what we need to turn from and where we need to grow. Jesus always had a soft spot for sinners, and so aware of our own sins, we begin Lent in a positive frame of mind. We rejoice in the welcome and invitation He gives to follow Him.

This month's painting in the National Gallery has a very unusual theme. It shows Christ blessing John the Baptist by Moretto da Brescia, an Italian artist who died in 1554. It is not a scene we find in the Gospels, but it is likely that the artist was thinking of that moment in Matthew's Gospel when John admits that he needs to be baptised by Jesus.

"Let it be so now," Jesus replies, and He is baptised by John. It is the prelude to our Lord's wilderness experience – that time of testing when Jesus emerged with heart and will purified and refined for His ministry. Around Jesus and John in this painting we see the hills and countryside which lead to that wilderness.

As we are drawn into this intimate scene, we can give thanks for our own baptism and pray that Jesus will bless us as we see Him blessing John the Baptist. George Herbert allowed the Christ he loved to transform his life. We pray for the blessing of Jesus to transform us with His grace and mercy as we say with the poet, 'Welcome dear season of Lent.'

Children's Page

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the Law of Moses wanted to test Jesus' knowledge of the laws in the Bible, so he asked Jesus a question.

Teacher, so what must I do to get eternal life?



What does it say in the Bible?



Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and Love your neighbour as yourself.

You've got it right.



But who counts as a 'neighbour'?

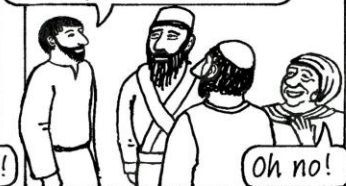
So Jesus told a story -

A man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho



That's a dangerous road!

He was attacked by robbers who left him for dead.



Oh no!

A priest was walking the same way, and after him a lawyer.



Oh, they are good people, they'll help.

They saw the hurt man but they walked past



I bet it's an ordinary person who helps!

Then a man from Samaria came that way...



Oh no! We hate them and they hate us Jews! That hurt man is done for!

He felt sorry for the hurt man, and cleaned and bandaged his cuts.



What? No!

He put him on his donkey, took him to an inn, and paid for him to stay.



So who was a real neighbour to the hurt man?

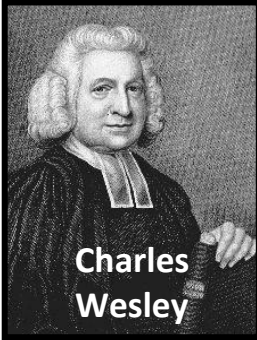


The... the Sss... the one who helped him.

So go and do the same.



The Story Behind the Hymn



Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart,
cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine;
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiance divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

This hymn was written by Charles Wesley, the brother of John Wesley and the author of so many hymns ("Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," and more than six thousand others). This hymn celebrates Christ's glory—glory being a Biblical word usually associated with the splendour of God's presence or the splendour of God's creation.

Jesus Christ shared God's glory—God's magnificent presence. His glory was revealed on the Mount of Transfiguration to three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John. Seeing that glory astonished them—terrified them. My guess is that, if God were to reveal himself to us in all his glory, we might be a bit overwhelmed too. But the disciples didn't have any reason to be afraid. Jesus didn't come to hurt them, but to help them.

In this hymn, Wesley sees Christ's glory filling the skies like the sun—triumphing over the shades of night. I like that vision of Christ's glory, because it helps me to see Christ in every sunrise. Christ's glory floods the world with light and dispels the darkness, just like the sun. The son, S-O-N, is like the sun, S-U-N, bringing light and warmth and life to our world.

Richard Niell Donovan

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



*My dearest Lord,
be thou a bright flame before me,
be thou a guiding star above me,
be thou a smooth path beneath me,
be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
today and for evermore.*



March 2019

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Farmers as they prepare their land for the seasons ahead
- 2nd Families as they begin to spend the weekend together
- 3rd Michal Kewley for organising the summer concerts at St Catherine's Church
- 4th Children returning to school after a busy weekend
- 5th Students in colleges undertaking courses to further their knowledge
- 6th Residents and helpers at care homes on the island preparing for their daily activities
- 7th People who are housebound, unable to enjoy the pleasures of outdoor life
- 8th The prayer group meeting at 15 Close Cam this morning
- 9th The emergency services in their effort to bring relief to those in distress
- 10th Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, whose birthday it is today
- 11th The Mothers' Union and the good work it does in our parish
- 12th Those in financial difficulty
- 13th Those who have been bereaved recently or are remembering the death of loved ones
- 14th The works of agencies such as the Samaritans and Alcoholics Anonymous
- 15th Those responsible for maintaining the highways on the island
- 16th Voluntary helpers in schools who give their time to help the children
- 17th St Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland, who is remembered today
- 18th All saints and martyrs who have remained steadfast in their faith
- 19th The PCC meeting in St Catherine's Church this evening to approve the 2018 accounts
- 20th Actors and Actresses who provide such pleasure to theatregoers
- 21st Headteachers in schools within the Southern Mission Partnership
- 22nd Chaplains in hospitals, prisons and the armed forces, and their ministry
- 23rd IOM Anti-Cancer Association TT Race Night at Port St Mary Golf Pavilion this evening
- 24th All participants in sporting activities taking place today
- 25th Parents and children buying presents for their mothers in preparation for tomorrow
- 26th Shopkeepers in Port Erin and Port St Mary
- 27th Those families preparing for a summer break in July and August
- 28th The safety of children at play now that the lighter evenings are upon them
- 29th The work of the Church Army
- 30th Those who intercede at our services in the parish
- 31st All mothers on Mothering Sunday, and families re-united

Services March 2019

3rd March (1 before Lent)	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)
7th March	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise
10th March (Lent 1)	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
17th March (Lent 2)	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)
24th March (Lent 3)	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)
31st March (Mothering Sunday)	11am	Kirk Christ Parish Holy Communion (CW)
3rd April	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise
7th April (Lent 5)	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)

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

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

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Mr G Callister, 60 Ballamaddrell, Port Erin. IM9 6BA 474924/834627

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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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Churchyard Enquiries:

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

March Sudoku Competition

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

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

I am so pleased to receive your entries for the monthly sudoku puzzles. Last month there were twenty puzzles handed or posted to me, all were correct, and once again the competition was won by someone new. At your request I am presenting easy puzzles for you to solve, but I am quite happy to increase their difficulty. I will leave it in your hands! The rules remain the same with the final date for submission being the last Friday of the month. You can post them to me, put them through my letter-box, or hand them to one of the churchwardens. The winner will receive the £5 prize during the first week of the month. Good luck! *Editor*