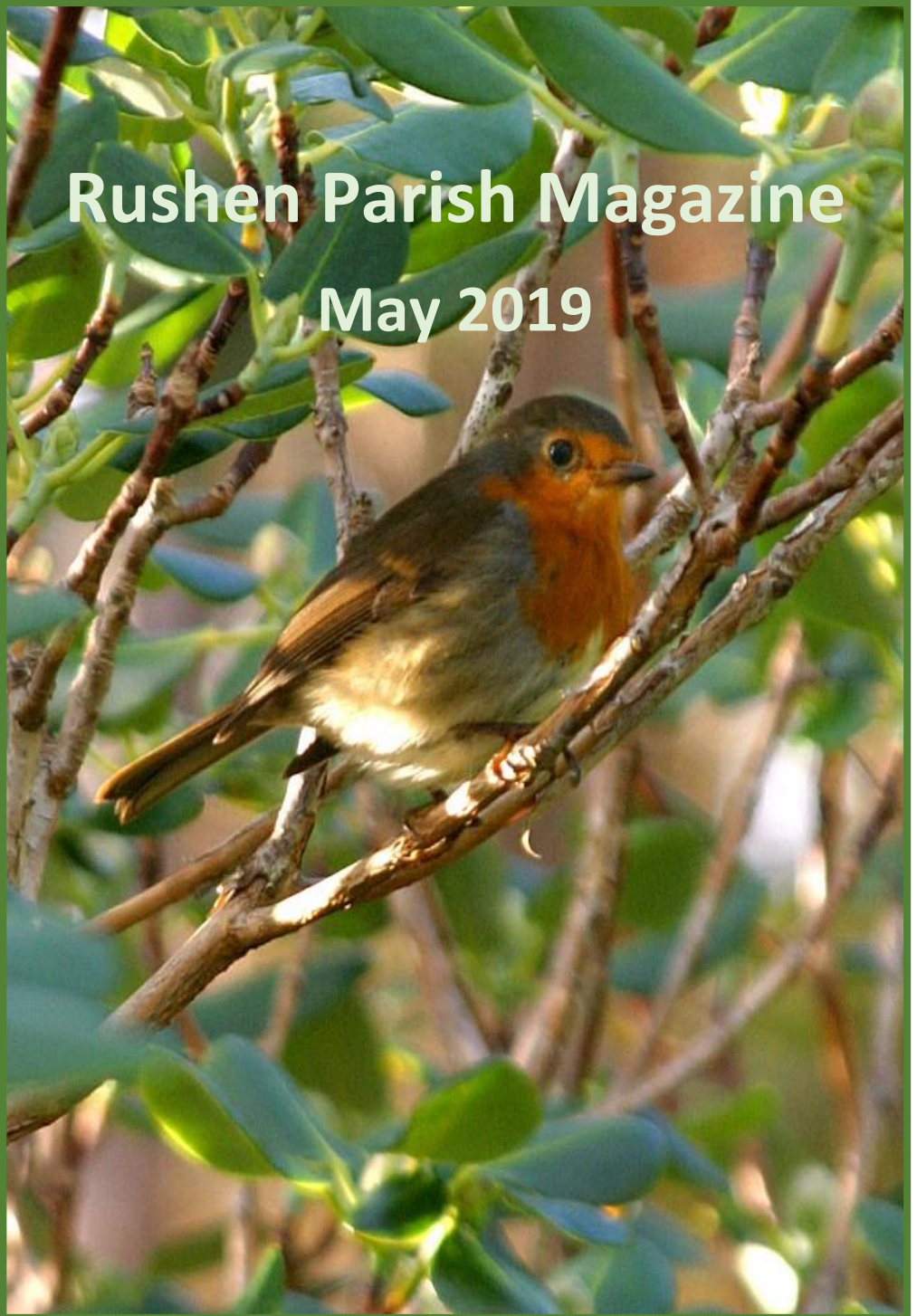


Rushen Parish Magazine

May 2019



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It's no secret that I am a Manchester United fan. Both Pauline and I have supported this team through thick and thin and have had the privilege of attending some of its most prestigious games. We were even at Wembley in 1968 when the team won the European Cup. We, like the majority of United fans, are not particularly fond of Manchester City, 'our noisy neighbours' as Sir Alex Ferguson once quoted. To now see City rising to glory is quite difficult for us to take, especially as United had the lion's share of excellence for almost twenty years. The rivalry between United and City has been there long before I was a boy of three years old who used to sit on my dad's shoulders on the terraces at Old Trafford. Television pundits call it 'bragging rights' and right now City have those. The same sort of support is nationwide in both England and Scotland, with Liverpool and Everton, Celtic and Rangers, Sheffield Wednesday and Sheffield United to name but a few. As long as it is healthy competition I don't really see anything wrong with it.

When Pauline and I came to live on the island eleven years ago, we chose St Catherine's Church for our worship. Surprisingly we found a similar situation amongst our four churches. Each had its own identity within the parish, its own finances and its own local church council. In fact, each LCC carried out its own affairs within the parish as a whole. The first decision we had to make, as members of St Catherine's congregation, was whether or not to help St Peter's Church by giving it funds so that the maintenance issues it was experiencing could be undertaken. We couldn't vote as we didn't know anything about the situation. Regardless of this, the funds were not made available. It seemed as if we had come to a parish that was split, and that pleas for help from each other often went unheeded. Local Church Council meetings were held so that matters relating to the financing of projects at each of the churches could be dealt with as long as funds were available. The PCC was made up of many members from each of the four churches, and business at a parish level extremely difficult to achieve. Whilst this might not be quite the same scenario as the one I have painted above, there are similarities, as each church seemed to have its own identity and its own 'bragging rights'.

The situation as it was then is now beginning to improve, and whilst there are still some who would far rather treat their own church as being the best, there is cohesion amongst the four congregations. Finances at a local level are no longer an issue, and where there is a need the money is usually found by the PCC. The four churches have been made structurally sound, redecorated and/or refurbished. St Peter's Church has had its problems rectified, and services, where all four congregations meet, joyful occasions. The parish is solvent and fundraising events enjoyable to be part of. Of course there will be some who aren't so happy, after all it's human nature, but the ecclesiastical parish as a whole is a contented place to be part of, and the so called 'bragging rights' not quite so noticeable.

I hope that as we progress as a parish, more of us will want to work together for it as a whole. The next big event is the flower festival, a perfect platform for everyone in the parish to come together. Nevertheless there will still be people who would prefer only to work for their own church. Similarly there will football supporters like me, who despite marvelling at seeing the impressive and brilliant football that Manchester City produce, and am willing to admit it, would far rather see Manchester United try to knock them down to size! Strangely enough, when you read this the two teams will have played each other on 24th April. I wonder who will have the bragging rights then?

David Bowman



Rogation Sunday Blessing the Crops

26th May - Rogation Sunday (Sunday before Ascension)

Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

About 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century, and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation is said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds' - still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?)

(Editor – The Mission and Outreach Committee of the PCC have been considering a Farm Service during May. Hopefully this event will take place so keep looking in Rushen News for further information)

A new pulpit had been installed in the Baptist church, and the young pastor and his elders were testing the acoustics. "We'll stand way at the back and see how you sound," said an elder.

"What shall I say?" faltered the pastor.

"Say the first thing that comes to your mind."

He blurted: "I've not had a pay rise in two years. How does that sound?"



Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

As I write this, the sun is shining, temperatures are rising, gardens are coming back to life and we are very grateful to Eddie for ensuring that the church grounds look so well maintained. We are meeting soon to fill vases and decorate the church for Easter, and our plans for the May Time coffee morning on 10th May from 10-11.30am in the church hall, in aid of Friends of Chernobyl's Children (IOM), are well in hand. We shall have stalls and raffles

and do hope that, with your support, we can achieve a good result for this worthwhile cause. We are pleased to report that following our open afternoon on 26th February, we have received a thank you letter and receipt from Mr Paul Moores of the Leprosy Mission for the sum of £310.06 and we wish to thank everyone who gave so generously.

Graham McFarlane came to a recent meeting with a gift to thank the ladies for all their support, and to kindly invite us to a service in Wyn's memory on 27th April, in St Mary's R C church, Castletown, followed by refreshments.

Our weekly meetings on Tuesday afternoons continue to be well attended, and although we miss Pauline, we are glad to hear that she has settled into Abbotswood where we hope she will soon feel very much at home. As we do at the start of each of our meetings, we pray for those who are in poor health, in hospital, and perhaps nervously awaiting operations or the results of tests.

With love and very best wishes from all the ladies.

Pat Thomson

1st May - Philip, the apostle with common sense

Is there someone in church whom you respect for their spirituality and common sense combined – someone you feel easy about approaching to ask questions? That person's patron saint should be Philip.

Philip came from Bethsaida, and was a disciple of Jesus from early on. He knew how to lead others to Jesus – he brought Nathanael (or Bartholomew) to Him in a calm, kindly way. He knew how to do some financial forecasting: at the feeding of the 5,000 it was he who pointed out that without divine help, even 200 pennyworth of bread wasn't going to feed that crowd. He was the one whom the Greeks approached when they wanted to ask Jesus to show them the Father, but didn't quite have the nerve to approach Jesus directly. People had confidence in Philip's spirituality, common sense and kindness. Such a person is a gift to any church! In art, the Apostle Philip has been represented either with a cross, or with loaves of bread.



Signs & Symbols: Kneeling with body, mind and soul

*The **Rev Dr Jo White** continues her series on 'Why do they do that?' which looks at things that happen in churches which may seem mysterious. This series will run until December (Editor)*

Some of us prefer to kneel for just about everything in church. People around us might sit - but we are kneelers!

Time may have taken its toll though, and sadly the knees may not be what they were. But if you visit different churches, you will find that not all of them have furniture designed to help you kneel.

Some have the wooden support so close to the pew back that you are 'forced' to perch your rear on the seat in order to physically fit. Others have the gap so wide you cannot reach the seat, so you have to kneel with a straight back. Some don't have anything to kneel on at all.

But why do we kneel in church? In church we're continuing the actions of those in the Bible - both at worship and when addressing Jesus. Just think of all those who knelt before Him to ask forgiveness or healing, or, like the single leper, to give thanksgiving.

In the conscious presence of Almighty God, as we come before Him in worship and supplication, what can we do but we kneel with our body, mind and soul?

Kentraugh Mill

National Mills Weekend is the second weekend in May. Kentraugh Mill will be open on Saturday 11th May from 3.30pm – 6.30pm., and Sunday 12th May from 11am – 5pm.

The Mill is the first building up the road from the Shore Hotel. Gansey. Guided tours will be given of the Mill, Chapel Garden and the Mill Dam.

Refreshments are available. No charge is made, but donations are invited for The United Society, Partners in Gospel. This is an ancient building and the machinery will be running. Visitors come at their own risk.

Enquiries to Elizabeth and John Sheen (832406)

St Mary's Junior Church News



On 24th March we looked at John 11 verses 1-44 the story of Lazarus "death to life". We talked about how in Jesus' time bodies were wrapped in cloths before being entombed. We then played the "mummy game" - Lukas and Hannah wrapped up Alfie and Thomas. Hannah had a great technique in wrapping up Thomas, but Lukas created a better "mummy" shape (see pictures)!! We read the story which had the response, "Everyone who believes in me will live, even though they die".

We performed the Life Rap – Jesus having the power over life and death. The children then each wrapped a model in bandages and made a shoebox cave to put them in. When we shouted, "Lazarus come out!" they took their models out – shook them – and the bandages fell off.

On 30th March a large band of helpers assembled to make the posies for Mothering Sunday. There were a large number of daffodils which had been picked earlier in the week. A production line was formed, and we had soon made over 100 posies. Thank you to everyone who picked and provided the daffodils and greenery and to everyone who helped on the morning. The following day we all gathered together at Kirk Christ for the Mothering Sunday service. Lukas and Hannah took part in the communion service and Hannah, Grace and Laura took part in the prayers. The children then helped in the distribution of the posies.

On 7th April we began our preparations for the Palm Sunday service. We ran through our song, the dramatised reading and had fun waving our palms for the triumphal entry. Margaret Galloway led the service on the 14th April along with Liz Hull. At the start of the service Liz blessed the palm crosses. Due to the Easter holidays we had less children than usual, but it was also good to welcome some visitors. The dramatised reading focussed on the disciples fetching the donkey for Jesus. Hannah was the narrator, Lukas was Jesus, Rebecca and Claudia the disciples and Peter was the owner of the donkey. In the Learning Together section Margaret introduced everyone to Jack the donkey and we thought about the characteristics of donkeys. The main one being "stubborn as a mule", however, maybe they are just cautious – with such big ears they can hear danger from a long way off. Everyone felt sorry for Jack having to carry a grown man – but Margaret explained that Jesus was fulfilling Zechariah's prophecy that the King would ride on the colt of a donkey.. Margaret then retold the story of Palm Sunday as Jack paraded up and down the aisle which was strewn with coats and everyone waved palms. The Junior church then led the singing of "We have a King who rides a donkey". Liz led the prayers whilst everyone held their palm crosses. It was a joyful service, and everyone enjoyed the refreshments in the hall after the service.

We are now looking forward to our service on Easter Day as we celebrate the Risen Christ. We also look forward to our Easter Egg hunt after the service! We hope that everyone had a blessed and peaceful Eastertide.

With love from St. Mary's Junior Church

Carole Coole



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



On the last day of March, Mothering Sunday, Kirk Christ hosted a joint All-Age Holy Communion service. It was a joyous occasion. Stanley and Pam Clucas provided the flowers for the posies which were handed out during the service. The flowers were picked, and posies put together by volunteers from all four congregations.

By the time you read this report the Easter services at all of our churches will have been and gone, and now that the weather is improving we can look forward to a warm summer.

The next Soup Inn is on 2nd May in St Catherine's Hall. There is also a concert in St Catherine's Church on 9th May when the Manx Children's Choir and Scoill Phurt le Moirrey will be performing.

Gerry Callister

Christian Aid Week (12 – 18 May): 'All mums should live'

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.

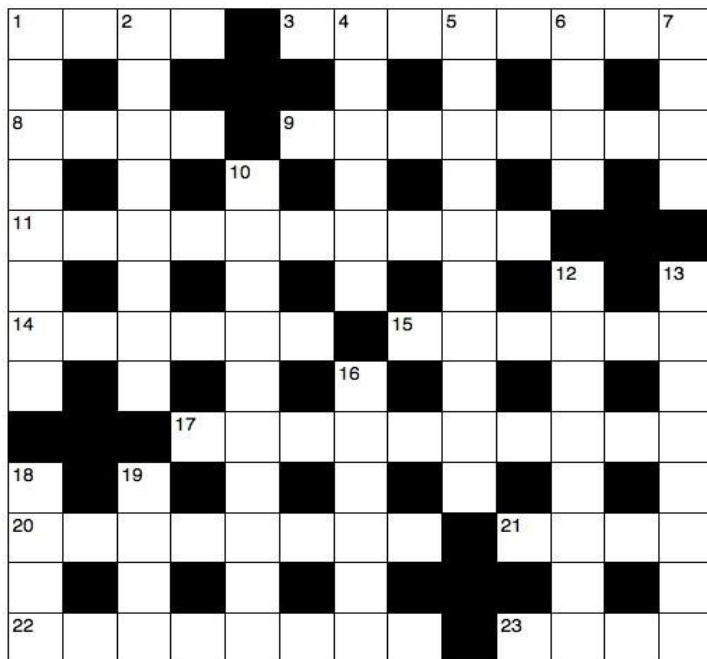


Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

Christian Aid Week is 12-18 May. If we in our parish could raise £300, it could help provide a new delivery bed so that more mums like Jebbeh can deliver their babies safely. If you can, please put what you can afford in one of the envelopes that is pushed through your door, or if not, pick one up from the back of one of our churches.

May Crossword



Across

- 1** Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3** Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8** What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9** 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11** Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14** 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like —' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15** Ministers of religion (6)
- 17** Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20** Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21** The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22** Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23** '[Jesus] said to them, "— here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

Down

- 1** Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2** One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4** Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5** Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6** 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7** 'And how can they preach unless they are —?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10** Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12** Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13** End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16** 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18** He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
- 19** 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

April Crossword Solution

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

The winner of the March sudoku competition was Kathleen Trustrum. Her entry was drawn by Elizabeth Sheen who was visiting John at Abbotswood Nursing Home. She received her £5 prize money through the post. She has said that when she wins she would like her prize money to be directed to the Rushen Branch of the Mothers' Union.

April Sudoku Solutions

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

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

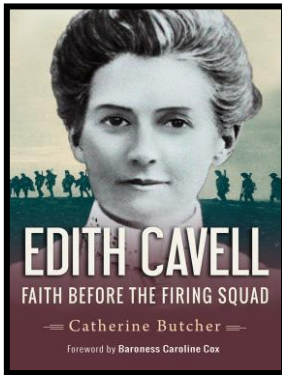
A prayer at Ascension

To complete your seamless robe, and so to complete our faith, you ascended through the air into the heavens, before the very eyes of the apostles. In this way you showed that you are Lord of all, and are the fulfilment of all Creation. Thus, from that moment every human and every living creature should bow at your name. And, in the eyes of faith, we can see that all creation proclaims your greatness.

A prayer of Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 – 1153). He was the main inspiration of the Cistercian Order of Monks.



The procession had taken the scenic route



Edith Cavell faith before the firing squad

This May is the Centenary of the funeral in Westminster Abbey of Edith Cavell, the British nurse widely celebrated for saving the lives of soldiers from both sides during the First World War (Editor)

Nurse Edith Cavell gave her life to others – and was executed as a result. This year is the centenary of her state funeral at Westminster Abbey.

The daughter of a Norfolk vicar, Edith trained as a nurse, and because she could speak French fluently, she was invited to start a nurses' training school in Belgium. When war was declared in 1914 she was in England on holiday but went straight back to Brussels where she cared for Belgians and invading German troops alike.

When English soldiers were trying to escape back to England, she gave them shelter – and when she was betrayed, her only defence was that if she had not helped them to escape, they would have been shot. She had confessed to the crime of 'conducting soldiers to the enemy' – helping soldiers escape who could potentially return to the battlefield. Guilty, she was sentenced to death in a German military court in occupied Belgium.

But Edith's last words were not of revenge or recrimination. On the night before she was executed, she met with her local priest Revd H. Stirling Gahan. She told him, *"I thank God for this ten weeks' quiet before the end...Life has always been hurried and full of difficulty...This time of rest has been a great mercy...."* She then said words that have become her memorial around the world: *"But this I would say, standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."*

Edith knew that people who had been close to her had played a part in her betrayal. She knew patriotism was not enough for these final hours. She knew that to enter into God's presence she needed to be forgiven for her own shortcomings. And just as Jesus' death had bought her forgiveness, she needed to forgive any and all who had wronged her. After celebrating Holy Communion, the Rev Stirling Gahan began to say the words of the hymn 'Abide with me' and Edith joined him in repeating *'...When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me...'*

She then gave the priest the letters she had written to friends and family and when they came to say 'Goodbye' she smiled at him and said, *"We shall meet again."* She was confident that death was not the end and they would meet again in God's presence. She was 49 years old.

....continued

Edith was executed in Brussels on 12th October 1915 and at the end of World War 1 her body was repatriated. After a state funeral at Westminster Abbey, her body was reburied outside Norwich Cathedral on 19th May 1919. Her body was returned to England on the same ship that carried the body of the Unknown Soldier in 1919.

In the biography *Edith Cavell – Faith Before the Firing Squad*, Catherine Butcher explores Edith's life and faith, in particular considering how she could be so confident in the face of death.

May: a great time to fill your hanging baskets and containers.

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The sight and scent of a tumbling cascade of summer colour, dangling in the air, is a joy to behold. The best thing about a hanging basket is the fact that you can accommodate one in just about every type of garden or courtyard. All you need is a sunny wall or a strong fence post together with a hanging hook or bracket, a basket, liner, compost – oh, and plants, of course.

So, what's the secret of a great display?

- Firstly, choose the largest basket you can accommodate – space is probably the greatest gift you can give your plants. These are annuals that will be tiny when you plant them but will grow into flowering beauties if they have enough space, warmth, feed, water and a sunny spot.
- Secondly, use an adequate number of plants. Hanging baskets that are scantily filled just don't cut the mustard.
- The compost is an important factor. There are cheap brands and slightly more expensive types. Generally, the more you pay, the better it should be for your plants because it will contain more nutrients. But provided you are willing to give them some regular feed, it might not matter too much. You can add some water-retaining granules if you like. This makes your job of regularly hydrating your

baskets a little easier.

And now for the plants. The easiest way to arrange your basket is to remember the rhyming words. Thriller, fillers and spillers:

Thriller (or pillar)

This occupies the centre spot. It's a plant that will grow taller than the rest and will thrill with its summer show. It is a bold focal point, chosen for its flowers, its form or its foliage. You might choose an upright geranium, Salvia, small Dahlia, Argyranthemum, bush Fuchsia or Osteospermum, for example. Or you could select a non-flowering, architectural plant such as Phormium, ornamental grass or Cordyline.

Spillers

So these are the hanging, trailing plants that one normally associates with hanging baskets. There are many different opportunities to play around with colour. What you need are plants that will look great from late spring right through to autumn, given the right conditions. Those looking for a subtle effect might choose foliage plants rather than flowering varieties. The spillers soften the appearance of the basket and cover the edges. They help to create a 'cloud' effect – as, ideally, you don't really want to see too much of the basket. Good spillers include trailing geraniums, trailing Fuchsias, Bacopa, Bidens, Surfinia, creeping zinnia or Sanvitalia, Lobelia, trailing Verbena and the million bells, or Calibrachoa. Non-flowering spillers include ivy, Coleus, trailing Nepeta and Helichrysum. Plant these around the edges of your basket. In fact, the best and quickest way to achieve a full basket effect is to allow your plants to punctuate the sides of an open basket, rather than needing to trail from the top.

Fillers

These are billowy plants that fill spaces between the thriller and the spillers. Often finely textured plants, they weave their way through the left-over spaces. They add mass and fill out the overall composition. Fillers might echo the colour of the thriller, or the shape of the foliage might be used to contrast. For example, a spikey thriller such as Cordyline might benefit from having rounded foliage fillers such as Helichrysum. Fillers also tend to hide the bare stems of other plants, so they are highly useful in creating the cloud effect. Plants such as Bacopia, Verbena, Lobelia, Pelargonium and Begonia make excellent fillers.

Fruiting alternatives

Why not use the hanging space to grow some tomatoes? There are now some superb varieties that react well to planting into a hanging basket. One of the best is 'Tumbling Tom' with its naturally cascading habit, available as a yellow or red tomato. 'Hundreds and Thousands' is another great cropper, with excellent flavour, and 'Tumbler' does exactly as its name suggests. These really do make the most of a small space, but you would be wise to feed them with regular tomato food throughout the growing season.

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

Easter Trivia Quiz

Last month I asked you to consider six questions connected with Easter. Here are the answers:

What was the largest ever Easter egg hunt?

The most-ever entrants for an egg hunt competition was 12,773. It was The Fabergé Big Egg Hunt, as part of World Record London, in London, UK in April 2012.

What was the largest-ever decorated Easter egg?

This was built in March 2008, by Freeport in Alcochete, Portugal. It measured 14.79 m (48 ft 6 in) long and 8.40 m (27 ft 6 in) in diameter.

What was the largest ever chocolate Easter egg?

It was made in Tosca (Italy) and weighed 7,200 kg (15,873 lbs 4.48 oz). It had a circumference of 19.6 m (64 ft 3.65 in) at its widest point. It was exhibited in a shopping centre in Cortenuova, Italy, in April 2011.

What was the largest ever Easter egg tree?

This was set by Zoo Rostock GmbH, Rostock, Germany, who decorated a tree with 76,596 painted hens' eggs in April 2007.

What about the most expensive hot cross bun?

This was baked in 1829 in Stepney, London, UK. It was bought by Bill Foster (UK) for £155 at the Antiques for Everyone show at the NEC in Birmingham, West Midlands, UK, in April 2000. Hot cross buns were originally made to hang in the kitchen to ward off evil spirits.

What was the biggest-ever (real) Easter bunny?

So far, the longest rabbit was Darius, a Flemish giant rabbit owned by Annette Edwards (UK), who was found to be 4 ft 3 in (129 cm) long when measured for an article in the UK's Daily Mail newspaper in April 2010.



March Messy Church saw the children and families partake in activities based on Luke 7:1-10. Children made bookmarks and Roman boardgames all to remind them of the faith that the Roman Centurion had in Jesus. During the celebration children learned the popular song 'Faith as Big as a Mustard Seed' which Messy Church families along with Sunday congregations also enjoyed at the All Age Service at St Catherine's the next day! Children had lots of fun and took away with them the understanding that faith, as the Roman Centurion had, goes beyond social circumstances, race and any other differences there are between us - let us all remind ourselves of that faith today.

Love and blessings from Jenny on behalf of the Messy Church Planning Team x



All in the month of May

500 years ago, on 2nd May 1519, Leonardo Da Vinci, the Italian artist, scientist and inventor, died.

200 years ago, on 24th May 1819, Queen Victoria was born. (She reigned from 1837 to 1901)

175 years ago, on 3rd May 1844, Richard D'Oyly Carte, British theatrical impresario, was born. He built the Savoy Theatre and the Palace Theatre in London, managed some of the most important theatrical stars of the era, and founded

a touring opera company.

125 years ago, on 21st May 1894, the Manchester Ship Canal was officially opened.

100 years ago, on 18th May 1919, Dame Margot Fonteyn, British ballerina, was born. (Died 1991)

90 years ago, on 4th May 1929, Audrey Hepburn, Belgian-born British actress, fashion icon and humanitarian, was born. Her film roles included Roman Holiday, Breakfast at Tiffany's and My Fair Lady.

80 years ago, on 25th May 1939, Sir Frank Dyson, Astronomer Royal of England and Scotland, died. His observations of the 1919 solar eclipse helped prove Einstein's theory of relativity. He also introduced the Greenwich Time Signal ('pips').

70 years ago, on 5th May 1949, the Council of Europe was founded.

65 years ago, on 6th May 1954, British athlete Roger Bannister became the first person to run a mile in under four minutes. (Three minutes, 59.4 seconds in Oxford.) **Also on**

29th May 1954, British athlete Diane Leather became the first woman to run a five

40 years ago, on 3rd May 1979, the British General Election was won by the Conservative Party, and Margaret Thatcher became Britain's first female prime minister. The election was triggered when Mrs Thatcher instigated a no-confidence vote against James Callaghan's Labour government on 28th March.

25 years ago, on 6th May 1994, the Channel Tunnel linking England and France was officially opened. **Also on 10th May 1994**, Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president after many years of white rule.

20 years ago, on 6th May 1999, the first general elections for the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales took place. Donald Dewar became First Minister of Scotland and Alun Michael became First Secretary for Wales.

15 years ago, on 1st May 2004, the following countries joined the European Union: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

From the Registers

Funerals (March 2019)

Friday 1st March 2019

John Henry Evans

Kirk Christ @ 9.30pm

Friday 8th March 2019

Winifred McFarlane

St Mary's Church @ 12.30pm

Friday 22nd March 2019

Christine Bentley

Kirk Christ @ 2.00pm

60 years Priesting

The Rev'd Canon John Sheen and the Rev'd Canon Brian Kelly are both celebrating 60 years Priesting at Peel Cathedral on Sunday 26th May 2019 at 10.30am. Brian will be preaching.

Elizabeth Sheen



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

The Inexperienced Gardener

*A vicar, from Islington way,
Permitted his rose to decay.
His wife, with more vigour
Bought a hose with a trigger
And said to her spouse, "let us spray!"*

Nigel Beeton

Hearing is not believing

A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school: 'If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home.'

Rushen Mothers' Union



The Isle of Man Family History Society was formed in January 1979 with the aim of encouraging the study of genealogy and family history, particularly within the Isle of Man. We were fortunate to have a committee member, Mrs Priscilla Lewthwaite, come to speak to us on Monday 8th April, and what an interesting talk she gave.

Our meeting was led by Mrs Jane Gunn, and after an apt reading, "Ancestors", by Mrs Sue Maddrell, prayers led by Jane, and hymns chosen and played by Mrs Margaret Couper, our speaker was introduced. She explained that she had become interested in genealogy more than 35 years ago, when a chance request in a local newspaper from a man across, led to her discovering his relationship to her own husband, a member of the Christian family, not one of the "easier" Manx surnames to research! Her fascinating tales of working thereafter in fundraising for Hospice, in researching wills, land records, military records and gravestones, to mention but a few of her sources, included some advice too: should you find this a subject that interests you, start with yourself and go back one generation at a time.

Mrs Elsie Faragher reported that the MU Festival, held in the Cathedral on 25th March, was a lovely service, at which Mrs Margaret Galloway carried our banner and Elsie received a long service certificate for 35 years. Mrs Elizabeth Sheen advised that the Mill Weekend, at Kentraugh, will be 11th and 12th May, donations going to USPG. Jane distributed the MU Spring 2019 Manx News, produced by Miss Judith Ley, to all members.

After an appreciative vote of thanks from Mrs Peta Mills, Jane closed the meeting with the Grace, Mrs Sue Bould served refreshments, and much conversation took place with Mrs Lewthwaite.

Our next meeting will be in St Mary's Hall, on Monday May 13th, at 2pm, when we shall plan our programme for 2019 -2020.

With love and very best wishes to everyone, from all our members.

Pat Thomson

For those on the roads - a few hymns

30 mph - Pass me not, O gentle Saviour

50 mph - God Will Take Care of You

70 mph - Nearer My God to Thee

85 mph - This World Is Not My Home

95 mph - Lord, I'm Coming Home

100 mph - Precious Memories



God in the Arts

Still Life with Strawberries Gooseberries and Asparagus Adriaen Coorte

The National Gallery at Trafalgar Square in London houses one of the finest collections of European paintings in the world, with some 2,300 works spanning the centuries. During this year we are journeying through the gallery to explore one of those treasures each month. (Editor)

The 6th Sunday of Easter is traditionally Rogation Sunday, when we give thanks for the fruits of the earth and pray for all who work on the land. Rural churches often celebrate nature's cycle from seeds sown to crops harvested with Plough Sunday, Rogationtide, Lammas and Harvest.

Jesus in His teaching pointed out the miracle of that cycle in the seed – sown in the soil, but springing up to new life; a small beginning that becomes a great plant; a single seed that is multiplied. This month of May marks two seasons in that growth: the harvesting of asparagus and the gathering of strawberries.

They are two signs of the fruitfulness of nature depicted in this beautiful, intimate painting that was given to the National Gallery two years ago by the Dutch collector, Willem van Dedem. It was painted in 1703 by Adriaen Coorte. We know little about him apart from the fact that he lived in Holland and has left us a garland of canvases, all displaying what has been called 'a wondrous tenderness.'

This painting is an ordinary, unpretentious scene. There is no moral lesson here, no symbolism: simply a depiction of the beauty of creation in miniature. The bowl of strawberries and the bunch of asparagus lie on a stone ledge with some gooseberries and a plum. Each a gift of nature to enjoy and share, and to find there a token of God, the giver of all good things.

'For everything there is a season,' and in this month of May with Adriaen Coorte, we give thanks for this bounty of the earth and we pray for farmers and agricultural workers. But more than that – as the hymn tells us, 'we thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good.'

Rev'd Michael Burgess

Children's Page

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
John chapter 5 verses 1-18

Jesus was in Jerusalem for a festival, and he visited the pool of Bethesda. People said that an angel sometimes made the water ripple.

Sick people waited for the water to ripple, because they thought that the first person in would be healed.



Jesus went up to a man who had been sick for 38 years.



Do you want to be healed?

I've got no-one to put me in the pool, so I can never get in first.



Pick up your mat and walk!



He was healed! The man picked up his mat and walked around. But it was the Sabbath.

God had given the Law that the Sabbath day was a rest day (Ex 20: 8-11)... but to make sure it was kept, the Jewish leaders had made up rules, and then more rules so that anything that even might be work was banned.

The Jewish leaders saw the healed man.



It's the Sabbath! You can't carry a mat, that's 'work'!

The man who healed me told me to carry it.



Which man?

I don't know.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple.



You are healed now, but don't sin any more, or something worse might happen to you.

Now the man knew who Jesus was...



he went straight back to the Jewish leaders to tell them.

and they went to Jesus



You were working on the Sabbath!

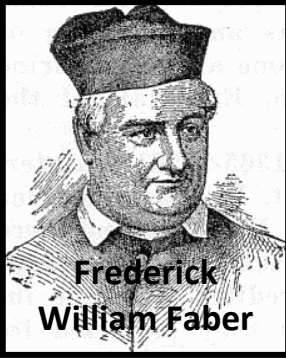
My father, God, doesn't stop working on the Sabbath so I keep on working as well.

Not only does he disobey our Sabbath rules, but he says he is equal to God!



We definitely have to kill him.

The Story Behind the Hymn



There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

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.

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

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.

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

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

The author of this hymn, Frederick William Faber, was raised as a Huguenot, but went to Oxford and was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1837. He then came to know John Henry Newman, the famous Catholic priest (and later Cardinal). Under Newman's influence, Faber was re-baptised and re-ordained as a Catholic priest.

Faber was an admirer of good poetry, and became good friends with the poet, William Wordsworth. The two of them would often take long walks together in the mountains.

Knowing the power of hymns in the Protestant tradition, Faber wanted to make hymn-singing more important in the Catholic tradition. He wrote a number of hymns, of which this and "Faith of Our Fathers" are the best known today.

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" celebrates the wideness of God's mercy "like the wideness of the sea." It celebrates God's welcome for the sinner and the "good" person alike. It reminds us that "the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind" and therefore encourages us to broaden the measure of our own love so that it might be more like God's love. And, finally, it calls us to "rest upon God's word" so that "our lives (might be) illumined by the presence of our Lord."

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

*Lord Jesus, open our ears and
hearts today to Your message so that
through the power of Your death and
resurrection we may walk in newness of life
in accord with the teachings
of Your Gospel
Amen*

May 2019

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Anyone awaiting a diagnosis from their general practitioner or the hospital
- 2nd Those involved in bringing the news to us on radio, television, or other means
- 3rd The safety of all aid workers in places of unrest
- 4th Our organists who assist us in our worship
- 5th The Archdeacon and staff at the Diocese of Sodor and Man
- 6th Newly elected members of the PCC appointed at the APCM on 9th April
- 7th The work of missionaries and evangelists
- 8th Everyone who is involved in the recruitment and training of clergy
- 9th The life and witness of the Apostles
- 10th Christ's glorious ascension to heaven
- 11th All who are anxious, distressed or discouraged
- 12th All teachers of the Christian Faith
- 13th The Rushen Branch of the Mothers' Union meeting today at 2pm
- 14th Peace and stability in troubled areas of the world
- 15th Children who are hungry, orphaned or homeless throughout the world
- 16th Those who regularly read the lessons and lead our intercessions
- 17th The courage to carry Christ within us and present Him wherever we go
- 18th Events taking place in and around Port Erin and Port St Mary at this time
- 19th Those elected to serve on the Southern Mission Partnership
- 20th Preparations being made for the TT races and those on the Billown course
- 21st The Ladies Working Party and the work it does for others in need
- 22nd Skills given by God to surgeons as they carry out dangerous procedures
- 23rd Students as they revise and prepare for important examinations
- 24th For the unemployed seeking work and finding it hard to do so
- 25th Those who intercede at our services throughout the parish
- 26th For Farmers on Rogation Day as they prepare land for a fruitful harvest
- 27th The housebound and disabled people who live in our parish
- 28th For all those preparing to be married this year
- 29th Those who live rough and who sleep out in cities throughout the United Kingdom
- 30th Preparations being made by families for their annual holiday
- 31st Mary, the Blessed Virgin, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ

Services May 2019

5th May (Easter 3)	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 Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
12th May (Easter 4)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
	6.30pm	Kirk Christ Alternative Service
19th May (Easter 5)	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)
26th May (Rogation Sunday) (Easter 6)	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)
2nd June (Easter 7)	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 Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
5th June	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise
9th June (Pentecost)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
	6.30pm	Kirk Christ Alternative Service

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

May 2019 Sudoku Competition

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

2				7	8	6		
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						2		
8						5		
		2	4	5			8	
		5	8	6				3

Here are the latest puzzles for you to solve. As usual they are not too hard in the hope that more of you will have a go. The usual rules apply which are that you can send your solutions to me through the post (address overleaf), or you can post it through my letter box, or give it to one of the churchwardens who will see that I receive it. There is a £5 prize for the winning solution. This is usually sent through the post during the first week of the month that follows the closing date of this competition which is Friday 24th May. Good luck! (Editor)