



Rushen Parish Magazine

March 2020

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More contact details on the inside of the back cover



A Letter from Liz



‘Come and See’ is what Jesus said to his disciples as they followed him after they first encountered him. When Jesus saw them following him he asked them what they were looking for. They responded with an innocuous question of Jesus ‘Teacher where are you staying?’ Jesus’s response was an open invitation to ‘come and see’ what Jesus was doing, an invitation to follow and an invitation to life itself. ‘Come and See’... (John 1:39)

Over a few days in March I will be joining Bishop Peter and Rev Alex Brown as we travel over to the Diocese of York to join in with the Northern Bishops’ Mission ‘Come and See’ within the Diocese of York.

We will be telling the story of Jesus and inviting communities into churches within the Diocese to see the transformations that Jesus makes in ordinary lives as Christians work together to make a difference. Bishop Peter, Rev Alex Brown and I will be based in Harthill Deanery where we will be staying with local clergy and visiting schools, residential homes, farmer’s concerts, men’s groups, cadets and scouts as well as preaching in different churches on Sunday. The mission is entitled ‘Come and See’ and will be an exciting venture to be involved in. I look forward to writing about my experiences when I come back to share with you in next month’s Parish magazine.

As we enter Lent it’s an opportunity for us too, to ‘come and see’ joining with the congregations in our four churches across the Parish as we see where our Bible readings and worship lead us throughout the season of Lent beginning as we gather together to start our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday.

One of the joy of the Anglican Church is the Lectionary which takes us through the Christian year and means that we experience different Christian seasons which give us opportunities to explore and reflect on the life, death and resurrection of Christ and his teachings. The way the lectionary year is put together gives opportunity to reflect on the nature of salvation and the importance of the work and teachings of Christ as well as key moments; incarnation (Christmas), sacrifice and atonement (Good Friday) and victory over death and sin (Easter) as well as the Church and the Holy Spirit (Pentecost).

So I invite you to ‘come and see’ what God has done for us all and how God continues to invite us to ‘Come and See’.

Rev Liz Hull

What If?

What if, Moses ignored the bush that burned,
And away from the Holy ground had turned?

What if, Samuel had not warned Eli,
That his two wayward sons would surely die?

What if, Ruth and Boaz had never met,
And David's ancestral line was upset?

What if, Mary chose no mother to be,
Exposed to local shame and ignominy?

What if, Jesus Christ had refused to die,
On a harsh, lonely cross for you and I?

What if, Saul remained in the street called 'Straight',
Left all alone in a confused blind state?

What if, believers, reject God's call,
Perhaps unaware of it all?

Recognise His plan from the start;
Follow it up with all your heart.

"Speak Lord for your servant is listening"
1 Samuel 3 v 9.

Margaret Couper



Sunday 22nd March 2020
Come and join us

The Beatitudes "Blessed are the pure in heart"

*Editor: The Rev Paul Hardingham
completes his series on the Beatitudes.*

***'Blessed are the pure in heart, for
they will see God' (Matthew 5:8).***

Simon Stylites was a Christian, living in Syria around 400 AD, who wanted to be totally pure in his devotion to God. In order to avoid distractions, he lived in the desert on top of a pillar for 37 years. Now is this what Jesus intended for the *pure in heart*?

Does being single-minded for God mean that our lives should be dominated by 'Christian' activities, like Bible reading and prayer, and that God isn't really interested in the rest of our lives? To be pure in heart is to *make God the number one priority* in our lives. When this happens everything else in our lives, including work, leisure, relationships, time, money etc., will fall into place. When our overall aim is pleasing and serving God, we'll find many ways of working this out in practice.

To be pure in heart also means we aim to be *completely sincere in all our relationships*. In a culture where the pressure to conform is very great, it means living life in an open and honest way, with nothing to hide. This is the way God intends us to live, as we operate from a pure heart before Him. The challenge is relating to others without any hidden agendas, so that *'what you see is what you get'*!

Jesus promises that God will reveal Himself to the pure in heart and that one day they will see God face to face. Deception blinds us, while purity opens our eyes to see God.



Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

Despite recent high winds, storms, and heavy rain, our Tuesday afternoon meetings continue to be well attended, with everyone enjoying the friendship and fellowship around the table. We hear up to date reports on those who have moved away and those who have been ill, in hospital or awaiting results from tests. We sign cards and remember them all in our prayers. Members choose readings from a variety of sources, each one meaningful

and thought provoking. Recently we have been enjoying some from Margaret Couper's lovely book of poetry.

By the time you read this, the visit and presentation from Mr Paul Moores, our regional manager for the Leprosy Mission will have taken place on March 3rd, in St Mary's Hall and we do hope that everyone will have enjoyed refreshments and a wonderful afternoon of fellowship. The used stamps, collecting boxes, Bring and Buy, and Goods stalls all contribute to our annual fundraising for this worthwhile charity. We extend our thanks to Mr David Bowman for once again printing posters and free "reminder" tickets for us.

We have received a letter from Mr and Mrs Rivers of the Friends of Chernobyl's Children charity (IOM Branch) enquiring if the ladies would be able to provide lunch for the 18 children and helpers on Thursday 30th July, as this date would tie in nicely with an art session which has been arranged for them at the art club in Port St Mary. This annual visit is a wonderful opportunity for the ladies to meet up with the children, some of whom we met last year, and to hear up to date news from the organisers.

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

Prayer for help and healing

Father,

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

Please have mercy on us in these times of turmoil and division.

Help us to be tolerant and understanding of those who have different, sincerely-held opinions.

And guide our leaders so that your will be done in our country and in our relationships with each other and with Europe and the rest of the world.

Lord, have mercy on us, forgive us and heal us. In Jesus name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching



What Psalm 23 is really all about

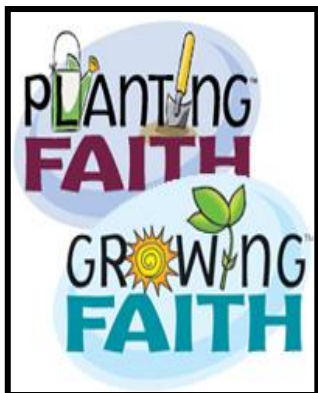
Sometimes during Lent people meditate on a passage of scripture. Here is a favourite Psalm, looked at with light-hearted modern Christian eyes.... (Editor)

- The Lord is my Shepherd - ***That's Relationship!***
- I shall not want - ***That's Supply!***
- He maketh me to lie down in green pastures - ***That's Rest!***
- He leadeth me beside still waters - ***That's Refreshment!***
- He restoreth my soul - ***That's Healing!***
- He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness - ***THAT'S GUIDANCE!***
- For his name sake - ***That's Purpose!***
- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death - ***That's Testing!***
- I will fear no evil - ***That's Protection!***
- For thou art with me - ***That's Faithfulness!***
- Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me - ***That's Discipline!***
- Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies - ***That's Hope!***
- Thou anointest my head with oil - ***That's Consecration!***
- My cup runneth over - ***That's Abundance!***

Prayers

When my daughter was young, she was glad to say her prayers, but she always worried whether God would know which little girl she was. One night after the usual 'Amen', she dropped her head upon her pillow and closed her eyes. After a moment she said, "Lord! This prayer comes from 203 Seldon Ave. I'll get you the postcode tomorrow."

St Mary's Sunday School



We have recently started a new series of lessons about Jesus's parables (from our Scripture Union materials), starting with the parable of the talents. The young people had a great time showing everybody their huge range of talents and gifts: throwing a ball into the air and catching it again, being able to cheer people up with a lovely smile, imaginative self-taught dance routines, a talent for drawing and painting, a gift for speaking 4 different languages and a talent for playing the piano. What a lot of talent we have

in our Sunday School (and we didn't even show all of them)! As Jesus taught his listeners that God wants us to be "good and faithful servants," i.e. to use what we have been given to good effect, we also thought about how we might use our talents to help others and to give glory to God.

The following week, in preparation for our February all-age service, we explored the idea of us being salt and light, and how we can let our light shine for others. As well as having fun with torches in a den and tasting the difference between salt and sugar, we came up with some good ideas for our display and were well-prepared for Rev Liz Hull's questions at the all-age service. Liz got the congregation to think about the various uses of salt and how a small quantity of salt can make a big difference in flavour (although too much salt isn't good for us). She also asked why we needed light and how we could each let our light shine. The children's answers included: smile to cheer somebody up, be nice and considerate to others, give a compliment, forgive those who are mean to you, and tell others about the love of Jesus, who is the light of the world.

Liz had prepared pieces of paper for people to write down one specific way they could be salt and light and do something beautiful in the coming week, and the children gave out a tealight with the words 'Let your light shine' to each member of the congregation. Accompanied by Lukas on the mandolin, the Sunday School taught the congregation the song 'Let your light shine' while waving glow sticks to the music. As always, the young people did very well reading the lessons and leading the prayers. A special thanks to Alfie who rang the church bell for us that morning! Following the service, we enjoyed refreshments in the hall – many thanks to all the helpers.

We now look forward to continuing the series on Jesus's parables after the Half Term break, as well as preparing for our Mothering Sunday service. We wish all the young people (and their families) a restful and refreshing week off school, and we look forward to enjoying the beginning of spring with hopefully warmer and less windy weather.

Many blessings, Claudia König and Sam Bowman



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



On Sunday 9th February Kirk Christ was very busy with a baptism service for James O'Connor. It was good to see so many family and friends supporting James at his baptism and joining the normal congregation. Preparations for the forthcoming Flower Festival in July are coming along well.

At St Catherine's, on 19th January 19th a lovely service was held for the baptism of Lucy Daykin which was also well supported by family and friends. The PCC Social Committee have been planning a Murder Mystery Evening on the 24th April. Tickets will be on sale from early March. Please ask for more details if interested.

Gerry Callister



22 March - Mothering Sunday: 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Sudoku March 2020

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

Sudoku Solution Feb. 2019

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

Crossword Solution Feb. 2019

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



Real Easter Eggs celebrate their 10th birthday!

The Real Easter Egg campaign has been running since 2010 and involves thousands of churches, schools and groups. It crosses all denominations and offers individuals a simple way to share the Easter Story while supporting Fairtrade and charitable projects.

The idea began in 2008 when I was given a chocolate Easter Egg. On the side of the box it read: 'Easter is the festival of chocolate and loveliness'. I began to wonder -

was it right for the manufacturer of an Easter egg to change the meaning of a religious festival in this way? Imagine the outcry if this had been done to Christmas.

I searched for an Easter egg which mentioned the Christian story of Easter. It became clear that out of the 80 million eggs on sale there was not a single manufacturer who was willing to mention the religious aspects of the festival. So, I started The Meaningful Chocolate Company to manufacture the UK's first 'Real Easter Egg'.

For it to be a 'Real Easter Egg', it had to reflect the Easter themes of hope and new life and do three things – have a copy of the Easter story in the box, be made from Fairtrade chocolate and support charitable causes.

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010. It was a struggle, as the supermarkets turned down the idea. It was left to churches and schools to place orders and fund the making of The Real Easter Egg.

Ten years on, more than a million eggs have been sold, with over 750,000 eggs sent through the post directly to customers. The rest have been sold through retailers and supermarkets.

Nearly £275,000 has been donated to charitable projects with Fairtrade Premium fees paid to farmers allowing them to buy everything from school-books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

For Easter 2020, there are five types of Real Easter Eggs available, all with new content. Each egg has an edition of the Easter story included. There is a new 24-page version in the Original and Dark eggs with activities, biblical text and a prize competition worth £200. There is a poster activity version of the Easter story in the Sharing Box and Fun Pack and a simple guide version in the Special Edition. Both the Original and Dark 2020 eggs are plastic-free, and all our chocolate is Palm Oil free.

This year churches are encouraged to read more or order at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

David Marshall, founding director of the Meaningful Chocolate Company

Reflected Faith: The Altar



*Editor: **The Rev Dr Jo White** begins a new series on symbols in our churches. This will run for the rest of 2020.*

The long list of television programmes concerned with renovating, moving home, and celebrity homes shows how interested we are in other people's homes, and how they live. The style and furnishings of the buildings vary considerably, and you can find out a great deal about the person by looking at what they have on display or indeed the lack of items.

In my house the only books on show are related to walking and gardening, and the wall pictures are either old and family heirlooms or show the natural world. Yet in every house there are some things that are pretty much a given: they're always there in one form or another.

It's the same in churches. No matter how old the building is, or how many times it has been re-ordered, there are some items which are constant.

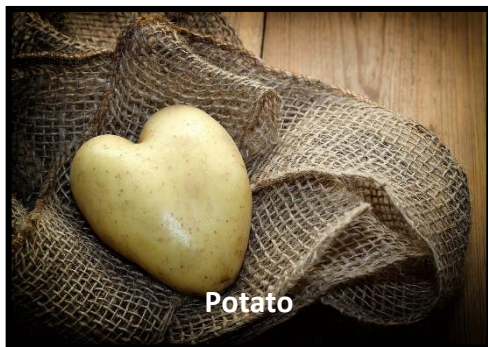
The first of these essential items is the 'Altar' or 'Table'. In the majority of churches this is the place of most 'holiness' and where 'reverence' is given. The place where 'Bread is broken, and wine outpoured' in remembrance of Christ's last meal with His disciples.

As a retired parish priest, I now conduct services wherever I am invited and am aware of the variations of design and constituents of the altar everywhere I go.

This month: Ask to have a look at the actual altar at your own church or a place you visit. What size is it and what is it made from? Are there any special marks carved into it? What can you find out about the history of it? Has it always been standing in that same place?

Spring is in the Air

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



Potato



Early Daffodils

There are plenty of signs of spring now that March is here. Have you looked at your shrubs and trees lately? They will be budding up nicely, all ready to romp away very soon. The snowdrops are nearly over and hopefully your eyes have feasted upon some blue or pink Chionodoxa, yellow Lesser Celandine, early purple and blue Iris, yellow daffodils and a multitude of colourful crocus flowers.

And how about the dawn chorus? Birds are now singing us into spring. This morning song is largely absent during winter months when birds are concentrating on survival and finding enough food and drink. Once the weather warms and the daylight extends, however, they commence their mission to attract partners and defend their territories. The earliest morning twitterers tend to be song thrushes, robins and blackbirds, closely followed by wrens, warblers and sparrows as the sky lightens.

You should also be able to see and hear bumblebees going about their business if the weather is warm enough. They need nectar once the sun has galvanised them into action. This can be a problem in early spring when flowers are scarce. Some sugar water or honey is often gratefully received during times of scarcity. Queen bees will soon be hunting for a new place to start their colonies. They make a heap of pollen, bind it together with wax and then set about laying their first eggs of the spring.

Jobs for the March Garden

Don't put off your garden tasks any longer – if you get yourself organised now you will sail through spring with your garden looking the way you want it to. So what can you be getting on with this month?

- Prune Wisteria, before the new whippy growth starts waving around in the wind. You can leave this climber to ramble if you wish but be aware that it needs a lot of space. It will also flower more readily if it has been correctly pruned. The idea is to cut back to two or three buds during very early spring and this will encourage good flower development – also giving you the best view of flowers.
- Prune Clematis that fall in the 'Group 3' type. These include late-flowering forms such as Clematis viticella varieties. They will flower on stems that grow this year. Cut down to about 30cms from the ground, above a strong pair of buds. Then make sure they have a suitable support system to which the stems can be tied.
- Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished their show.
- You can also prune evergreen and deciduous hedges, if you've not already done so.
- Deciduous grasses can now be cut down, ready to make way for the new spring growth.
- Everything is ready for you in the kitchen garden. You need to prepare vegetable seed beds and sow some vegetable seeds if you have somewhere to keep them warm.
- Potatoes can be chitted now too. Basically, this means sprouting the tubers. You can put them (eyes to the top) upright in a light but cool place. Your potatoes should produce green or pink shoots within just a few weeks. If your shoots are white, the potatoes have been kept in a position that is too dark. Rub off all but around three shoots before planting. This will ensure that your crop is maximised.
- If you are lucky enough to have exotic fruit trees such as apricots, peaches or nectarines, you will need to keep an eye on the weather. Frosts will kill off any early blossom, and this, in turn, will spoil your fruit crop. Be prepared to cover your trees with fleece once blossom appears and the temperatures plummet.
- You might also want to protect your soft fruit bushes from rabbits and birds by netting your crop in readiness.

Kentraugh Mill – A Date for your Diary

*National Mills Weekend is the second weekend of May. Kentraugh Mill will be open on **Saturday 9th May from 10am – 5pm.**, and **Sunday 10th May from 11am – 5pm.***

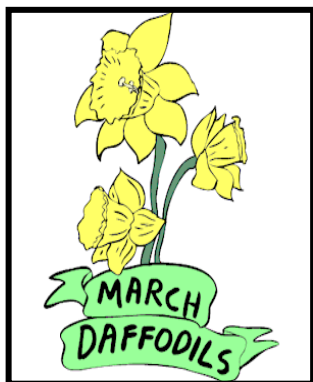
The Mill is the first building up the road from the Shore Hotel, Gansey. Guided tours will be given of the Mill, Chapel Garden and the Mill Dam.

Refreshments are available. No charge is made, but donations are invited for the United Society, Partners in the Gospel (U.S.P.G.).

This is an ancient building and the machinery will be running. Visitors come at their own risk.

Enquiries: 832406

All in the Month of March



200 years ago, on 10th March 1820, the Royal Astronomical Society was founded in Britain.

175 years ago, on 17th March 1845, one Henry Jones, a baker from Bristol, was granted a patent for his invention of self-raising flour.

100 years ago, on 25th March 1920, the British special constables known as the 'Black and Tans' arrived in Ireland to suppress revolution and target the IRA.

90 years ago, on 12th March 1930, Indian political spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi led 78 activists and followers on a 23-day 'salt march' to protest against a British tax on salt and British rule in India. On 5th April he reached the sea and made salt, breaking British law. On 4th May he was arrested and imprisoned.

80 years ago, on 18th March 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met at Brenner Pass in the Alps. The Italian dictator agreed to join Germany's war against France and Britain.

75 years ago, on 22nd March 1945, the Arab League was founded (as the League of Arab States).

70 years ago, on 8th March 1950, Volkswagen launched the Type 2/Transporter van – also known as the Camper, Bus, microbus or Kombi. It became the best-selling van in history, and early versions remain much-loved icons of the counterculture/hippie movement.

60 years ago, on 21st March 1960, the Sharpeville Massacre, South Africa, took place. Police opened fire on a group of black anti-apartheid demonstrators, killing 69 and wounding 180.

50 years ago, on 5th March 1970, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons came into effect.

40 years ago, on 21st March 1980, in the TV soap opera Dallas, the character J R Ewing was shot by an unseen assailant. This led to the famous catchphrase 'Who shot J.R.?' The answer (Kristin Shepard) was revealed that November. **Also on 24th March 1980**, Oscar Romero, the Archbishop of San Salvador, was shot dead by a lone gunman as he celebrated Mass.

30 years ago, on 31st March 1990, poll tax riots in London broke out. 200,000 protestors took to the streets and clashed with police. Violence and looting erupted, leading to the worst riots in the city for a century.

25 years ago, on 20th March 1995, a terrorist group released sarin nerve gas on the Tokyo underground, killing 12 people and injuring over 5,000.

15 years ago, on 11th March 2005, the Nintendo DS portable video games console was released in Europe. **Also, on 26th March 2005**, the science fiction TV series *Doctor Who* returned after a 16-year break.

God in the Sciences



A Bucket of Tadpoles: Springtime, Curiosity, and the Theology of Science

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done

done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are then swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, that we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a theology of science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two year-old comes and knocks them over.

Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz

Ruth is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.(Editor)

From the Registers

Funerals (January 2020)

Monday 27th January

Harold Pease

Kirk Christ @ 1pm

Friday 31st January

Norman Bond

Kirk Christ @ 1am

Memorial Service (January 2020)

Monday 27th January

John Colin Davies

St Catherine's @ 11.15am

Baptism (January 2020)

Sunday 19th January

Lucy Eve Daykin

St Catherine's Church @ 11am

Colourful writing

The foreign student, writing a letter to the superintendent of the mission society, desired to end with the words: 'May Heaven preserve you.' Not being quite confident of the meaning of 'preserve', he looked it up in a dictionary. When the letter reached the director, it ended with the words: 'And may Heaven pickle you.'

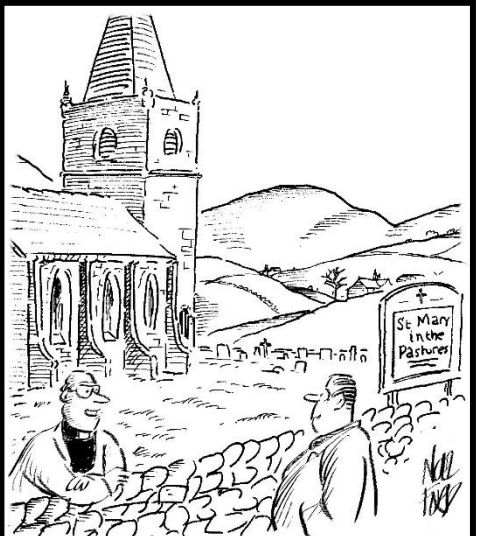
Safeguarding

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



"I think I've finally become fully accepted here. After 25 years, the villagers have stopped calling me, The new incumbent !"

Rushen Mothers' Union



It was yet another wet and windy day on Monday 10th February when we met in St Mary's Hall to hear Dr Andrew Foxon talk about his "Favourite Manx Walks". Mrs Peta Mills led our meeting and she warmly welcomed Mrs Gail Eagles our President, our speaker Dr Foxon, our members and guests. Our service included hymns chosen and played by Mrs Margaret Couper, prayers led by Peta and a lovely reading from Mrs Lesley Scott.

After giving us some insight into his background in archaeology, Manx National Heritage and Go-Mann Adventures, Dr Foxon treated us to a beautifully illustrated talk on two of his favourite walks in the south of the island, taking us, without our getting cold and wet, from Port St Mary, via the chasms and Spanish Head, to the Sound, then on to Fleshwick via Port Erin and Bradda, finishing at the summit of South Barrule. We all were fascinated and informed by his great knowledge of the area and delighted that his bright sunny pictures made us forget the weather outside. A perfect talk for a miserable day!

After the vote of thanks given by Mrs Pat Thomson, we all enjoyed refreshments provided by Mrs Elsie Faragher, before closing with a hymn and the Grace.

Our next branch meeting will be on Monday 9th March, at 2pm in St Catherine's Hall, when Mrs Margaret Couper will be in the chair and our speaker will be Rev Roger Harper, on the theme "Walsingham".

Some dates for Diaries:

JMP meeting on Wed 19th Feb at 10am – Pat will attend.

The Spring Council Meeting on Monday 9th March at 7pm in St George's Church.

The Festival on Wed 25th March at 2pm in the Cathedral. Rev Jeanette Hamer will preach.

With love and very best wishes to all.

Pat Thomson

Mini

Driver on a tight budget: "I need three litres of petrol and a cup of oil, please."

Garage: "And shall I cough into the tyres, sir?"

And then....

Teacher: "What is the difference between results and consequences?"

Bright pupil: "Results are what you expect; consequences are what you get."

God in the Arts

*Editor: **The Rev Michael Burgess** continues his series on animals and birds as seen in art and scripture... this is the third in the series which will run throughout 2020.*

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Woodcut from Cologne Bible of 1478



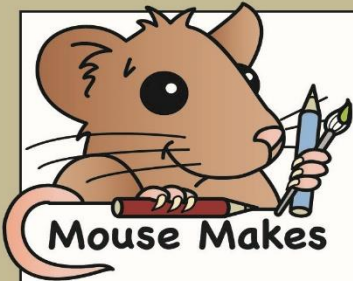
The RSPCA was the first national animal welfare society in the world and was founded in 1824 by an Anglican priest, the Revd Arthur Broome. He asked the question, ‘Can the infliction of cruelty on any being which the Almighty has endued with feelings of pain and pleasure consist with genuine and true benevolence?’

This month we focus on the story of Balaam and his donkey in Numbers 22. Balaam has not heeded God’s will, and as he journeys, an angel bars his way. Balaam cannot see the angel, but his donkey can. Three times the animal turns away. Three times he is beaten by his owner, and eventually the donkey asks, ‘Why are you beating me when I have served you faithfully?’ Balaam’s eyes are opened: he sees the angel and his heart repents.

This story is captured in a vivid woodcut from the Cologne Bible of 1478. It was a translation into Low German and enhanced by colourful illustrations. We can see Balaam on his donkey in the countryside. He has raised his hand to strike, unaware that the donkey has seen the angel of God. As we look and ponder this story, we can remember that cruelty and abuse mark out life today with children, vulnerable adults, and all creatures great and small. The donkey calls us to think of how we treat creation around us.

Donkeys can be stubborn, but they are also signs of humility, patience and hard work. It might be Dapple with Sancho Panza in the story of Don Quixote, or Tim Moore travelling the Camino with his donkey in ‘Spanish Steps.’ And in the Gospels, we recall the donkey in the Christmas story and the donkey that bore Jesus into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. We celebrate that day next month: the humble donkey sharing in the triumph of that entry, just as he shares with all animals in the wonder of creation. G K Chesterton’s poem reminds us that the donkey may be starved, scourged and derided, but he had that special hour of glory. ‘There was a shout about my ears and palms before my feet.’

Children's Page



Mouse Makes

Jesus, his disciples and his mother Mary had been invited to a wedding. The wedding was to last a week, but too soon the wine had all been drunk.

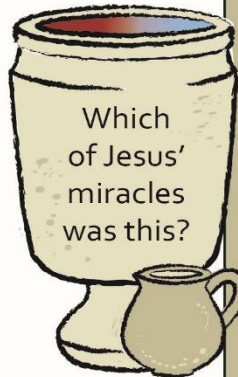
READ John 2:1-11 to find out what happened.



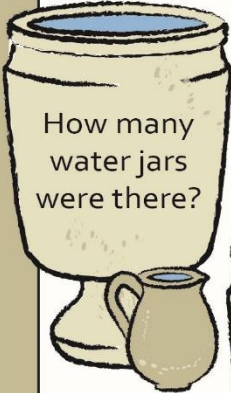
Where was the wedding?



What were the water jars for?



Which of Jesus' miracles was this?



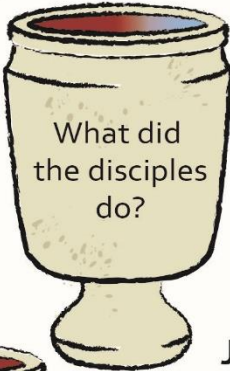
How many water jars were there?



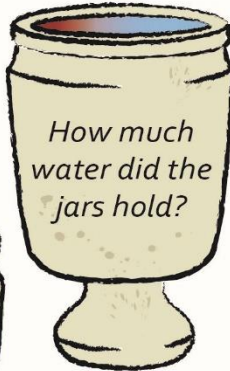
What did the steward tell the bridegroom?



What were the water jars made of?

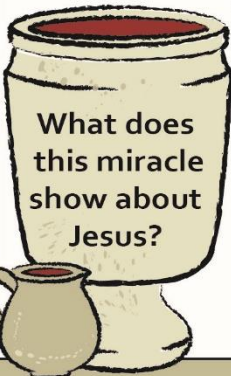


What did the disciples do?



How much water did the jars hold?

What had happened to the water when it was taken out?



What does this miracle show about Jesus?



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

WEDDING • CANA • GALILEE • JESUS • MARY • DISCIPLES
SERVANTS • RAN • OUT • SIX • STONE • WATER • JARS
FILL • TOP • TASTE • TURNED • WINE • FIRST

The Story Behind the Hymn



Don Moen

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say
'I am strong',
Let the poor say, 'I am rich'.
Because of what
the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say
'I am strong',
Let the poor say, 'I am rich'.
Because of what
the Lord has done for us.

"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" was written in 1978 by Henry Smith. The song was his only published worship song out of 300 unpublished compositions. It was written after Smith had trouble finding work after graduating from university. He also suffered from a degenerative condition that eventually left him legally blind. While at his church in Williamsburg, Virginia, his pastor inspired him with a reference to how Jesus made himself poor to make others rich through him. When Smith started performing the song in church, a visiting United States Military officer took the song to Europe, from where its popularity spread. In 1986, Integrity Music published the song on their Hosanna! Music audio cassette but credited it as "author unknown". Later that year, Don Moen released the song on his *Give Thanks* album. Smith contacted Integrity to inform them of his authorship and they said that they had been attempting to track him down. As a result, Smith signed a writer-publisher agreement with Integrity for distribution rights to the song.

The lyrics of "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" have been erroneously credited to Moen rather than Smith in some media reports. In the United States, the song was used by a Catholic news website to focus on returning a Christian focus to Thanksgiving celebrations. The song has also been cited by Christian authors to be used for thanksgiving and giving thanks to God.

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.
Amen*



March 2020

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Farmers as they prepare their land for the seasons ahead
- 2nd Children returning to school after a busy weekend
- 3rd The Leprosy Mission meeting taking place in St Mary's Church Hall at 2pm
- 4th Preparations being made to reorder parts of St Mary's Church and Hall
- 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 Michal Kewley for organising the summer concerts at St Catherine's Church
- 9th The Mothers' Union and the good work it does in our parish
- 10th Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, whose birthday it is today
- 11th The emergency services in their effort to bring relief to those in distress
- 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 The PCC meeting in St Catherine's Church this evening to approve the 2019 accounts
- 18th All saints and martyrs who have remained steadfast in their faith
- 19th Actors and Actresses who provide such pleasure to theatregoers
- 20th Families as they begin to spend the weekend together
- 21st Headteachers in schools within the Southern Mission Partnership
- 22nd All mothers on Mothering Sunday, and families re-united
- 23rd For the springtime and the signs of new life in the trees, farms and gardens
- 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 Chaplains in hospitals, prisons and the armed forces, and their ministry

Services March 2020

1 st March (1st Sunday of Lent)	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)
4 th March	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise
8 th March (2nd Sunday of Lent)	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)
15 th March (3rd Sunday of Lent)	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)
22 nd March (4th Sunday of Lent)	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)
29 th March (5th Sunday of Lent)	11am	St Catherine's Joint Holy Communion (CW)
5 th April (Palm Sunday)	8am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	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)
12 th April (Easter Day)	6.10am	Kirk Christ Dawn Service
	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All Age/Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)

(CW)

Common Worship

(BCP)

Book of Common Prayer

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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.

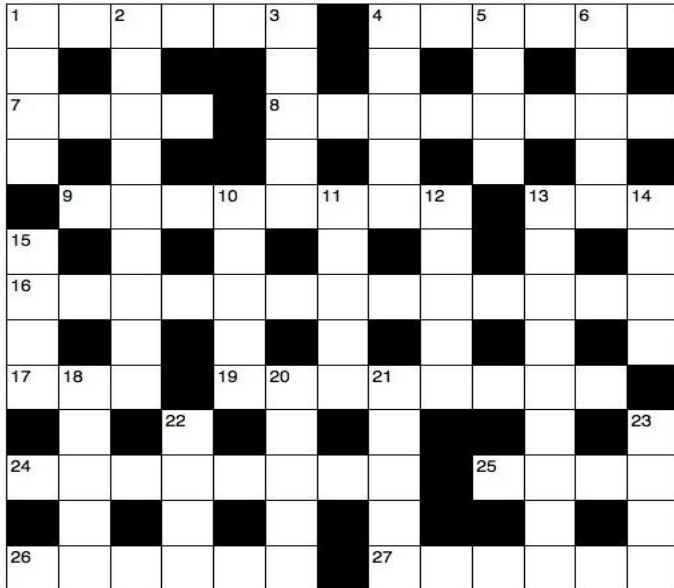
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Please contact Mr Harry Dawson: 478050/835770
or Mr G Callister: 474924/834627

March 2020 Crossword



Across

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 The earth is one (6)</p> <p>4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)</p> <p>7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)</p> <p>8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)</p> <p>9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus'(Philippians 2:5) (8)</p> <p>13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)</p> <p>16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)</p> <p>17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)</p> <p>19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)</p> <p>24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)</p> <p>25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)</p> <p>26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)</p> <p>27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)</p> | <p>3 Gospel leaflet (5)</p> <p>4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)</p> <p>5 Tugs (anag.) (4)</p> <p>6 To put forth (5)</p> <p>10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)</p> <p>11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)</p> <p>12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)</p> <p>13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)</p> <p>14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)</p> <p>15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)</p> <p>18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)</p> <p>20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)</p> <p>21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)</p> <p>22 Does (anag.) (4)</p> <p>23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)</p> |
|--|--|

Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)