

*Jesus
the true vine*

Rushen Parish Magazine
June 2020

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A Letter from Joe



I wrote my last letter for the Parish Magazine two months ago as we were just entering lockdown on the island. I guess for many of us life has changed beyond all recognition as we have had to live with the restrictions that have affected all aspects of our lives; be that queuing to enter shops or the need to social distance. For some of us it has meant working from home, or providing lessons for children, or grappling with new technologies to keep in touch with friends and family.

I am sure these last two months (though it seems far longer) have been difficult times as our days are less full and there seems far more time. Some people have decided to use their time to become proficient on a musical instrument or begin a new hobby or even learn a new language. I have done none of these things but have set myself much smaller tasks (and perhaps more achievable). These have ranged from digging up the weeds in the garden to finally reading a book I bought over two years ago ! Whether I finish it remains to be seen.

I've also used my time to draw closer to God. James, one of the authors of the letters of the New Testament, wrote '*Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you*' (James 4:8). It is a verse that I have gone back to throughout my life, particularly when God seems at a distance. I have also found reading the Psalms to be a great way to draw near to God. There is a huge variety in the Psalms, some were written when God seemed very close and are full of praise, others were written in times of anguish or distress as the authors struggled with encountering God. These ancient verses can still speak into our current situations with a freshness that is breath-taking.

So I invite you to read a Psalm a day and to be encouraged or comforted or inspired or challenged. James the letter writer (in the same verse) goes on to say '*Cleanse your hands*', which also seems particularly apt for our current situation as we seek to remain safe.

Richest Blessings

Joe

Rev Joe Heaton



Over 6,000 calls in first 48 hours to Daily Hope

A free phone line offering hymns, prayers, and reflections 24 hours a day while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus received more than 6,000 calls in the first 48 hours. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recently launched 'Daily Hope' as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes, during the lockdown period.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services in mind.

The service is supported by the Church of England nationally as well as through the Connections group based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

Within 48 hours the line had received more than 6,000 calls from across the country, with many being referred by friends, family, or members. Calls have so far spanned more than 50,000 minutes, with some of those accessing the service listening to the music, prayers and reflections for up to 50 minutes at a time.

The Revd Canon Dave Male, the Church of England's Director of Evangelism and Discipleship, said: "The volume of calls shows that Daily Hope is meeting a need.

"We have a duty in these strange and difficult times to find new ways of bringing prayer and worship to people wherever they are, and this is one more way of helping people to connect with God from their own homes.

"This is such a simple idea – planned and launched all within a few short weeks by a small dedicated team – but I pray it will bring real comfort, hope and inspiration to people at this time."

Callers to the line hear a short greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections, and advice on COVID-19.

Options available include materials also made available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer, updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service.



Blessed are the truth-tellers (during the pandemic)

ITV News journalist and presenter Julie Etchingham, a practising Christian, has defended the role played by journalists during the Coronavirus pandemic.

She told the Christians in Media website, “Reporters are coming in for a lot of criticism for the questions they are asking government. But what else are we for? We all get that this is a crisis like no other; that few in government have ever had to navigate such a challenge.

“But, if we’re still attempting to function as a democracy in the face of this, then scrutiny is clearly crucial. Many in our frontline services and the wider public are demanding answers. We are there on their behalf. We don’t always get it right. This isn’t a moment to trip people up, but urgently to get to the truth.”

As a Christian who has worked in communications for around 50 years, I strongly support Julie Etchingham’s view. Now is the time for truth and accuracy to be at the centre of all our communications.

So, yes we need to be praying for and supporting the front-line health service staff, the public health experts, the scientists researching vaccines to combat the virus, and the key workers keeping our societies running.

But we also need to be praying for and supporting the men and women working in and with the media to publish, upload, broadcast and distribute the most accurate information, without spin or distortion.

So here is a prayer for the media in these challenging days.

Loving God,

We pray for everyone working in and with media in these challenging times.

Encourage all who seek to explain and interpret the fast-changing world around us.

Embolden the truth-tellers, truth-seekers and fact-checkers.

Promote coverage that builds our shared humanity and where everyone has a voice.

Bring clarity where there is confusion

Bring knowledge where there is speculation

Bring wisdom and insight when the way ahead seems unclear.

And bring us all to a knowledge of truth that sets us free, and helps keep us safe.

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Revd Peter Crumpler



Jesus calming the storm of Covid-19

The BBC 'Today' programme that was broadcast on Good Friday included an interview with Hylton Murray-Philipson, a survivor of Covid-19. He had been on a ventilator in Leicester Royal Infirmary, "reduced to the state of a baby".

The programme presenter, Nick Robinson, invited him to describe memories of his time in intensive care. When he said one of the images he had, in a moment of great distress and struggle, was of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee, and he would like to think this was Jesus coming to him and helping *him* in his hour of need, Robinson suggested this was partly because of the powerful drugs he had been given, "which play tricks with the mind".

Later, Robinson apologised and said he didn't mean to demean anyone's faith. But what he had said also betrayed ignorance. While it is true that pain-killing drugs can cause hallucinations, these side-effects are rarely pleasant. It is not uncommon for patients to become agitated, anxious, confused and even prone to violence. Their physical pain will have been reduced, but that may have been at the necessary cost of mental disturbance; the overriding experience being more like that of a storm, than of a sea being calmed.

Back in the 1960s, it became fashionable for some groups to promote the use of illicit drugs because of the temporary sensations they induced. John Lennon of the Beatles said he had "such an overwhelming feeling of well-being, that there was a God, and I could see him in every blade of grass. It was like gaining hundreds of years of experience in 12 hours."

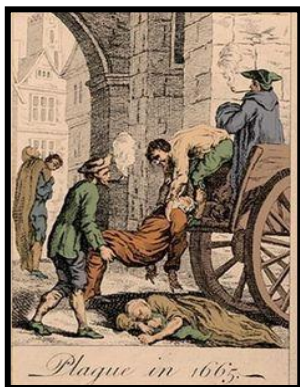
In his new book, 'Morality - Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times', Rabbi Jonathan Sacks chronicles the devastating long-term effects of leisure drugs. He includes cannabis, which he calls a 'gateway drug', because most of those who become serious addicts later, began with it.

So what was it that Hylton Murray-Philipson actually experienced, when he was at death's door in that hospital intensive care unit? He knew the biblical story of seasoned fishermen, fearful of their lives because a sudden squall threatened to swamp their boat. Did he recall their alarm because Jesus, asleep in the stern, appeared to be unconcerned at the very moment when divine assistance was most needed? Did not his coronavirus-induced distress match theirs?

The Gospels relate that Jesus woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. Is that what Hylton experienced, too? He says it was.

The Ven John Barton

Christians and the bubonic plague of London



The Reverend Richard Peirson was one of the exceptions. Most of the other clergy in the City of London had fled the Great Plague in 1665, but Peirson stayed behind to look after the parishioners of St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, where he was Rector. The parish was densely populated, and the pandemic was catastrophic. The church's register records 636 burials that year in the month of September alone, with

43 interred in one day.

Houses of infected people were marked with a red cross on the door, with occupants kept inside for 40 days. Handcarts were pulled along the city streets to cart away the bodies; the drivers' cries of "Bring out your dead", became etched in the memories of subsequent generations. Relatives were banned from attending funerals.

The official count numbered 68,596 deaths in London alone, but other estimates suggested two or three times that number. Bubonic plague – for that is what it was – was incurable. Poor people were fatalistic about it but complained that even their 'spiritual physicians' had abandoned them. Clergy of the Church of England were often supplanted by non-conformist preachers.

It wasn't just the St Bride's Rector who put his life in jeopardy by staying at his post. While most wealthy people, along with King Charles II and his court, escaped the plague-ridden city, Churchwarden Henry Clarke also chose to remain at the church. When he succumbed to the illness, his brother William took over. William survived for a fortnight.

Plague cases continued to occur sporadically at a modest rate until mid-1666. That year the Great Fire of London destroyed St Bride's Church and much of the City of London. It was rebuilt to a design by Christopher Wren, but almost obliterated once more in 1940 during World War II before being restored yet again.

Today's Rector, Canon Alison Joyce, says that compared with her predecessor Richard Peirson, she has it easy. Like everyone else, she is confined by the lockdown rules to her Rectory next to the church. But her pastoral work continues, and she collates sermons and archive music to create a Sunday webcast service. Alison writes, "these days it is a ministry of telephone calls, emails and Facetime. I offer such practical help and support to the vulnerable as I can . . . I keep a candle burning before our main altar and continue a ministry of prayer." Alison says she is surprised when people regard the faith as a kind of celestial insurance policy against bad things happening to them. The first followers of Jesus knew that in dedicating their lives to following the crucified and risen Christ, their discipleship would take them into the very heart of darkness, not away from it. She adds, "Hope is no hope at all unless it can engage with utter despair and meaninglessness."

The Ven John Barton

In Loving Memory

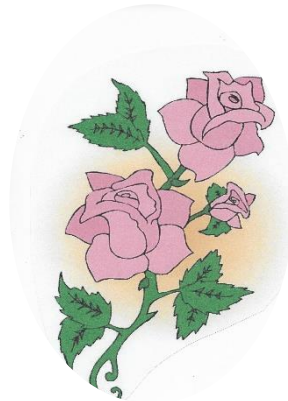
Over the past weeks we have lost five of our parishioners due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Canon John Sheen, Rev'd Brian Shephard, Pauline Bowman, Keith Hartley, and Bill Hodgett.

John, as a retired priest for many years, was a great worker in the parish along with his wife Elizabeth. He presided over many services to the congregations of our four churches, and accepted and adjusted to any change in the structure of our services. Brian was someone with a thirst for knowledge, and was able to use this in abundance when preaching. His love of God was apparent and his preaching effortless. Pauline had an appetite for poetry and wrote many amusing, and yet poignant poems about her love of God, and everyday issues. Along with her husband David, she worked for the church with great enthusiasm. She was a member of St Mary's Ladies Working Party and supported David in his work for the parish including the monthly parish magazine. Keith was, for many years, a sides person who, along with his wife Maureen, carried out their duties diligently, and welcomed many members and visitors to services at St Mary's Church on a Sunday morning. Bill's wife Heather, has been a member of St Mary's Church Choir for a number of years. We send our sympathy and love to all the family and friends of those mentioned. Stay safe through these difficult times.

**God Bless
Gerry Callister**

Lockdown 2020 by Margaret Couper

*Rise up! above the circumstance.
Rise up! confident be.
Our Father knows what lies ahead –
A perfect plan has He.
Rise up! transcend the emotions:
Anxiety and woe.
Our Father creates a future –
The way for us to go.
Allow no sad thought or feeling
Personal faith subdue;
Inspired by the Spirit's guidance,
Courage will see you through.
Take from love's eternal palette,
Strong colours, blue and gold.
Create something new, beautiful;
For others to behold.
Rise up! with friends and family –
Salvation's at our core,
Stand firm! In praise and certainty,
Now and forever more!*



*"Who will separate us from the love
of Christ? Will hardship or distress? ---
No, in all these things we are more than
conquerors through Him who loves us.*

ROMANS 8 : 35/37 (N.R.S.)

Sudoku June 2020

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

Sudoku Solution May 2020

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

Crossword Solution May 2020

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

Refugee Week - 15th-21st June



As the annual 'Refugee Week' approaches, various Christian relief agencies and campaign groups warn that coronavirus could have a catastrophic impact on the refugees whom they are trying to help.

First, the big picture: according to the UNHCR, "we are currently witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. An unprecedented **70.8 million** people around

the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly **25.9 million refugees**, over half of whom are **under the age of 18.**"

Refugees are especially vulnerable, as their usual homes of makeshift tents or flimsy shelters are over-crowded and without clean water or sanitation, making social distancing and isolation impossible. Also, many refugees are already suffering under-lying health conditions and mental health issues.

As the head of the Humanitarian Division at Christian Aid, Nick Guttman, also points out: "Refugees are some of the most vulnerable people in the world. Access to medical facilities is limited and the destabilisation of the global economy is likely to have an impact on their livelihoods and the flow of humanitarian aid." He warns that it is only a "matter of time" before it reaches the countries with a high number of refugees: Bangladesh, Syria, Lebanon, Nigeria, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Tearfund has highlighted the problem of warning the one million Rohingya people, crowded in camps in Bangladesh. "There is no internet provision in the camps and the mobile network is currently suspended, so getting the message out about the dangers of the virus relies on word of mouth."

Meanwhile, Open Doors is concerned for the plight of the Pygmy people in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many fled their rainforest after persecution by Islamist rebels, and are now living in camps, where they are extremely vulnerable to the virus.

Leprosy Mission has warned that India "faces a human timebomb, waiting to explode." Communities affected by leprosy, malnutrition, overcrowded living conditions and poor sanitation, make "ideal breeding ground for the spread of coronavirus. Social distancing and isolation are impossible in the densely populated areas."

Parish Pump



Reflected Faith: a string of beads



The **Revd Dr Jo White** continues her series on symbols in our churches. This began in March and will run for the rest of 2020.

As you pray or simply spend time quietly at home, have you ever thought of using a rosary? Holding something can be very comforting.

A rosary has beads in groups of ten, a separation and then a single bead. This is repeated five times in a circle and then there's a different set of beads on a single line from that in a pattern of single, space, three beads, space, single and then at the end a crucifix.

A couple of years ago the Archbishop of York went on a pilgrimage around the Diocese of York of which he is also the Diocesan Bishop; visiting every Church of England church and church school. He was also welcomed into many other non-church places and situations.

Wherever he went he distributed a set of 'beads.' These were in sets of three beads, a space and a single bead repeated four times. At the central point of the circle was a wooden cross. As he spoke, he invited those around him to pray using the beads and then to continue to use them in their own time and in their own ways.

All of us in our different personal circumstances are living in some isolation – as families with young children, teenagers, three generations, couples together, young singles, and the widowed.

So many different situations but like those different strings of beads, whether as a single or in small groups, each is part of the whole and separated we may be but not alone.

This month: If you don't have a set of beads just get some string and make knots in it. As you pass the knots through your hands think of other people, situations and places and do include yourself and your own church. Perhaps say a traditional prayer on each bead or just use the words, 'Lord have mercy'.

Right-click

Tech Support: "I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop."

Customer: "OK."

Tech Support: "Did you get a pop-up menu?"

Customer: "No."

Tech Support: "OK. Right-click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?"

Customer: "No."

Tech Support: "OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?"

Customer: "Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'."



Keep safe, stay alert and keep sane by immersing yourself in the garden

Never have gardens been so important. Staying at home has affected so many, and those who cope best are the people who are able to immerse themselves in growing and tending to plants. Even a window box or some pots outside the door prove beneficial to mental health and general wellbeing.

There are few other activities that offer so much at this time. Not only does gardening keep people active, but it provides stimulating experiences and opportunities to engage with nature. Remember to seek out and notice tiny things: an artistically unfurling leaf; a bright ladybird; a blue tit building a nest; the sound of the breeze through leaves; beautiful shadows. Tune in and allow yourself to become enthralled. Your garden can become your patch of paradise.

Tasks for these unusual times

Which garden tasks can you focus on during these difficult times when everyone is trying to do the right thing and reduce the spread of the pandemic?

- Firstly, plant up some pots and hanging baskets with colourful annuals. As they grow and begin to bloom you will gain so much pleasure from the cheerful flowers. There are many nurseries that are offering home deliveries. Just be aware that delivery times will be longer than usual. Use the best compost you can find as this will need to feed those plants for many weeks to come. Also give them regular feed, either in the form of slow-release pellets or liquid feed.
- Consider growing soft fruit in pots too. There's a wide range of suitable candidates if you lack space in your garden. Strawberries, blackberries, blackcurrants, blueberries, and raspberries are ideal candidates. Bear in mind that some support will be required for the latter. Blueberries require acid soil, so use ericaceous compost for these. You'll need to water regularly, also provide regular feed.
- If you haven't yet joined the 'grow your own' brigade, have a go at growing some easy vegetables. Some of the simplest are runner beans, French beans, cucumber, courgette, beetroot, and potatoes. Don't forget herbs too – these can even be grown on a sunny windowsill.
- Make a little pond if your garden doesn't have one already. It's one of the easiest and quickest ways to introduce biodiversity. Site your new pond in dappled shade, if possible, but avoid putting it under trees as the leaves will clog it up during autumn. If it's in full sun, plant some taller perennials nearby in order to shade part of the water. Put in plenty of hiding places for small creatures and also ensure to provide an escape or transition route in the form of stones or something that

leads from the pond to dry ground. Buy a few pond plants or beg some from a friendly neighbour who has too many. Avoid anything that can be invasive. Use rainwater to fill the pond, if possible. You will be amazed how quickly wildlife find the new habitat. From snails and insects through to frogs and newts, a whole new world will emerge.

- Cover your fences, using climbers such as Clematis, passion flowers, jasmine, honeysuckle, and evergreens such as Trachelospermum jasminoides. The area occupied by a small garden can more than double if you consider the vertical aspect. This is a great time to plant because the soil is warming, and they will establish quickly. Always be sure to water anything newly planted throughout its first season. Once again, there are many different on-line nurseries that are still operating during the pandemic, but allow for slower than usual delivery times.
- Make space and a place for birds. Even if you don't want to feed the birds because of the cost and perhaps the mess, you can make your garden bird-friendly. Provide nesting places, perching spots, and shelter. Birds will repay you with song, colour, and interest.
- Be sure to take a dose of Vitamin G every day. G is for gardening. Whatever the weather, it's good for you. Studies have shown that 'nature deficit disorder' is an actual thing. Being indoors or within built-up areas for extended periods of time negatively impacts upon the brain, often resulting in anxiety, depression, and low mood. Break the cycle. Green is good. Even the soil itself is said to be beneficial. Microbes within the ground can help to improve the immune system. Some theories suggest that our human microbiome has evolved alongside microbes in the ground and through this it learns to fight infection whilst tolerating harmless substances. Some microbes even have antibiotic properties. We are old friends.

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Perfectplants.co.uk.**

Terry Waite - on coping with lockdown

Terry Waite spent four years in solitary confinement in Beirut. He says: "In isolation, it is easy to become introspective and depressed. All of us, when we are honest and examine ourselves critically, will discover things about ourselves of which we are not especially proud. I had to learn how to grow a greater acceptance of myself and work towards a deeper inner harmony.

".... Today in lockdown, it's important to keep yourself well. Don't slob around all day in pyjamas and a dressing gown. Dress properly and develop a routine. It's important to have a structure – get up at a certain time, eat regular meals and so on.

"If you have faith, then that will give you resources to draw on", especially if you know some hymns, psalms and prayers by heart. "When I was captured, they were there to call on."



All in the month of June

250 years ago, on 11th June 1770, English explorer Captain James Cook discovered the Great Barrier Reef off Australia when his ship ran aground on it and was severely damaged.

200 years ago, on 19th June 1820, Joseph Banks, British naturalist, died. He was President of the Royal Society for 41 years, developed the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, into one of the world's leading botanical gardens.

150 years ago, on 9th June 1870, Charles Dickens, British novelist, died. His books include *The Pickwick Papers*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Great Expectations* and *David Copperfield*.

100 years ago, on 11th June 1920, the Colony of Kenya was established. It was previously known as British East Africa. It gained its independence as Kenya in 1963.

80 years ago, June 1940, was a dramatic month in World War II. Main points include:

- 3rd** The German Luftwaffe bombed Paris.
- 4th** The evacuation of Allied forces from Dunkirk was completed.
Winston Churchill gave his 'We shall fight them on the beaches' speech.
- 5th** The Battle of France began.
- 10th** Italy declared war on France and Britain.
Canada declared war on Italy.
The North African Campaign (Desert War) began.
- 11th** The siege of Malta began.
- 14th** German forces entered Paris.
- 17th** French government minister Charles de Gaulle (later President of France) relocated to Britain.
- 18th** Winston Churchill gave his 'Finest Hour' speech.
- 22nd** France surrendered to Germany.
- 30th** Germany invaded the Channel Islands.

75 years ago, on 22nd June 1945, the Battle of Okinawa ended after 82 days. This battle saw the highest number of casualties in the Pacific Theatre of the war, with more than 12,000 Allies, 110,000 Japanese forces and 140,000 civilians killed.

70 years ago, on 3rd June 1950, the first successful ascent of Annapurna in the Himalayas, was accomplished by a French expedition led by Maurice Herzog. This was the first successful ascent of a mountain over 8,000 metres. Annapurna is the 10th highest mountain in the world.

65 years ago, on 11th June 1955, the Le Mans disaster took place when a car span off the track during the Le Mans 24 Hour race in France. The driver, Pierre Levegh, and 83 spectators were killed and over 100 injured. It was the greatest loss of life in the history of motorsport.

60 years ago, on 16th June 1960, Alfred Hitchcock's suspense film *Psycho* was released. **Also, on 28th June 1960**, that the Six Bells Colliery disaster took place in Monmouthshire. 45 coal miners were killed by a gas explosion.

50 years ago, on 29th June 1970, following the Vietnam War, US troops were withdrawn from Cambodia.

40 years ago, on 12th June 1980, Billy Butlin, British holiday camp entrepreneur, died.

30 years ago, on 1 June 1990, US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed an agreement to end the production of chemical weapons and to destroy existing stocks. **Also, on 22nd June 1990**, Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, was dismantled. It remained an official crossing point between East and West Germany until re-unification in October. The guard house is now on display in a museum.

20 years ago, on 10th June 2000, the Millennium Bridge in London opened. It closed again two days later because it swayed uncomfortably when people walked in step. It reopened in Feb 2002 after changes were made. **Also, on 26th June 2000**, the Human Genome Project and Celera Genomics Corp announced that they had completed the first rough draft of the human genome.

10 years ago, on 15th June 2010, the Saville Report, an inquiry into Bloody Sunday in Northern Ireland in 1972, was published. It determined that British paratroopers had fired the first shot, without warning. Prime Minister David Cameron apologised on behalf of the British Government.

Thank you

April and May have been sad months for five of our parishioners, and I am sure that I speak for Elizabeth, Maureen, Heather, Helen, and myself, in thanking everyone for their kind words, cards, letters, support and prayers after the death of our loved ones. It really has been a traumatic time, and not being able to have funerals where family and friends can gather together and celebrate their lives, very hard to come to terms with.

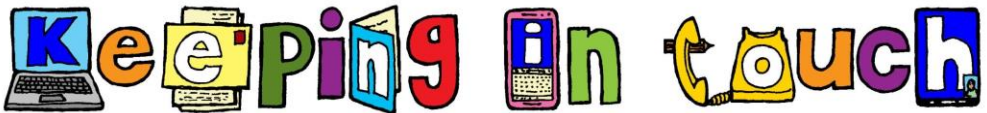
I am sure that in due course, when this pandemic has subsided, and worship together allowed, there will be a time when the contributions of John, Keith, Bill, Brian, and Pauline can be recalled, and thanks for their lives remembered.

David

From the Registers

Funerals (March/April 2020)

30 th March 2020 (Burial Rushen Churchyard) 11am	Derek E McDermott
31 st March 2020 (Burial Rushen Churchyard) 12 noon	Alexander R G Samson
31 st March 2020 (Burial Rushen Churchyard) 2pm	Leonard A Tomlinson
7 th April 2020 (Burial Rushen Churchyard) 3pm	David Mahon
8 th April 2020 (Ashes Rushen Churchyard) 11am	Barbara Faragher
23 rd April 2020 (Burial Rushen Churchyard) 11am	Rev John H Sheen
28 th April 2020 (Burial Rushen Churchyard) 11am	Keith Hartley



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



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

News from St Mary's Sunday School



As we have not been able to physically meet on Sunday mornings, we have tried to keep in touch via text, email and phone, and the occasional chat from a safe distance. Some of the children have written lovely cards to several members of the congregation, which were very well received, and some have even written letters! Several of the children have had birthdays, which they enjoyed despite the lockdown situation.

Although we weren't able to celebrate Easter together and to do our annual Easter egg hunt at the back of the hall, the children all received a few 'real' Fairtrade chocolate Easter eggs with a small activity booklet about the story of Easter.

Some of the children have made use of online Bible story and prayer resources (e.g. those posted on the Rushen Parish website), including short videos produced by the IOM Methodist Church (MAST kids) with Bible stories, songs, and craft activities. Others have been creative by drawing and painting rainbows to put in their windows, making a mosaic rainbow cross for Holy Week or creating illustrated Bible verses for cards. Some of the children have also joined in with listening to the parish podcast services, and Lukas read one of the lessons a few weeks ago.

At the time of writing, we have had our first online Sunday School meeting via Zoom this morning, which went very well and was enjoyed by all who were able to take part, although unfortunately not everybody was able to join in. It was great to see each other again, to talk about how everybody was doing and what they had been up to, to play a fun game together and to say a blessing and a prayer. We even sang Happy Birthday together for Rebecca's mum Magda! We are hoping to 'meet' again on Whit Sunday.

Under 'normal' circumstances, we would now be preparing for and looking forward to our celebration of Pentecost. While we will all be missing the fellowship and the annual BBQ, the music and dancing, we hope and pray that you will all be able to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit in your own homes and to feel His presence.

May the Lord bless you and keep you safe, and may you be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen you in your walk with the Lord during these challenging times.

Claudia König and Sam Bowman

Wrong number

Customer: "I've been ringing you on 0700 2300 for two days. Why didn't you answer?"

Travel agent: "Where did you get that number from, sir?"

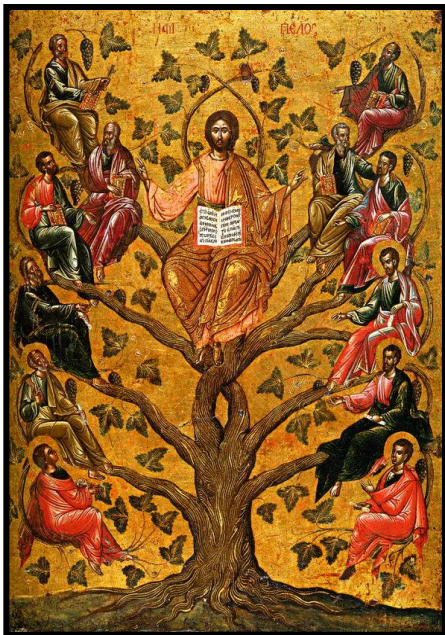
Customer: "It's there on the door to your Travel Centre."

Operator: "Sir, they are our opening hours."

God in the Arts

Editor: **The Revd Michael Burgess** continues his series on God in the Arts with an icon of Christ the true vine, from the 16th century. It is in the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens

He gave us eyes to see them – 'I am the true vine'



Jesus the Good Shepherd has been a popular inspiration for artists from the earliest days of Christianity. But this month we focus on another image that has been just as powerful and influential from the first centuries of the Church: Jesus the vine.

We think of grapes and the vine as symbols of the Eucharist and the sacrifice of Jesus, but early artists borrowed their inspiration from Greek and Roman sources with Dionysus (or Bacchus), the god of wine. For pagan believers, wine was a sign of intoxication and renewal of life, and Dionysus was a god who died and rose again. Under that influence, sculptors would carve vines on Christian tombs as a sign of that promise of new life.

But those artists were also influenced by the vine as an image of the people of Israel in the Old Testament, with God as the vintner tending his vine, as they were influenced by our Lord's own words in St John's Gospel. When Jesus talked of Himself as the vine, He was pointing to two truths. The first was the connection between the vine and the grapes: it was a symbol for the intimate relationship between

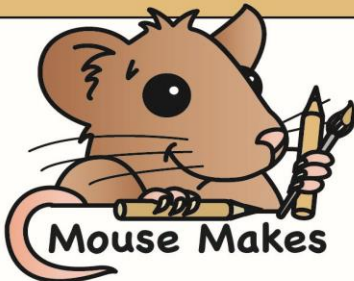
Jesus and His followers. They are the grapes because they receive their fruitfulness from Jesus. Without Him, there would be no growth, no maturity, no fruit. 'Whoever remains in Me, with Me in him, bears fruit in plenty.'

The second truth in this image is the wine that can bring life a new taste. Just as Jesus changed water into wine, His whole life was one of transformation – bringing water to the thirsty, sight to the blind, light to those in darkness, forgiveness to the sinner, and eternal life to those burdened by this world and the reality of death. The wine is a symbol of that goodness and flavour, both in creation and in salvation – the wine at the dinner party, and the wine in the chalice in communion. Jesus as the true vine brings that flavour and goodness to us.

Both truths speak out to us from this month's image of Jesus in an icon. In the Orthodox Church the icon is a window into the kingdom of heaven. As we stand and pray before the icon, if we can bridge 'the distance of the heart' (the space between the human eye and the icon), then God can reveal His glory to us. Here we see the face of Jesus in a 16th century icon, which is in the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens – the icon of Christ the true vine. He looks out at us, the Gospel book in His lap and His hands outstretched to bless the 12 disciples. The icon illustrates very vividly that metaphor of Jesus when He says that He is the vine and they are the branches. But those hands are also welcoming us to be with the 12: they invite us to offer our lives to live in Jesus.

Anselm Grün, a German Benedictine, tells how one of his fellow monks wondered what a difference there would have been if Jesus had said, 'I am a slimming camomile tea.' But no, He says to us in the Gospel and in the icon, 'I am the true vine': live in Me like my 12 disciples and your lives can be fruitful in my service.

Children's Page



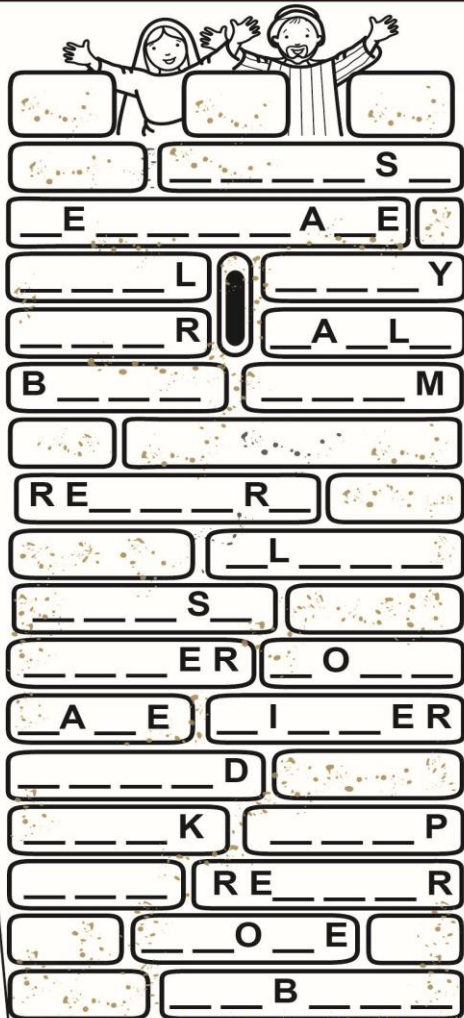
When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

READ Nehemiah's story in the *Old Testament* book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

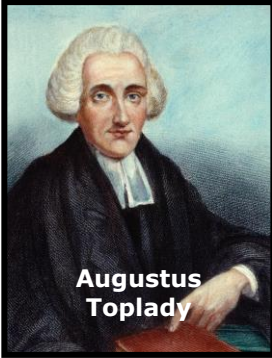
- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| ○ PRAY | ○ GATE |
| ○ RUBBLE | ○ BEAM |
| ○ REPAIR | ○ BOLT |
| ○ RESTORE | ○ BAR |
| ○ BUILD | ○ STEP |
| ○ WORK | ○ TOWER |
| ○ STONE | ○ HOUSE |
| ○ TIMBER | ○ POOL |
| ○ WALLS | ○ FINISH |
| ○ FLOOR | ○ DEDICATE |
| ○ ROOF | ○ DOOR |
| ○ CELEBRATE | |



How many gates were repaired?
Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?

The Story Behind the Hymn



Augustus
Toplady

Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure:
cleansing me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labours of my hands
can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hands I bring,
simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
tainted, to the fountain fly;
wash me, Saviour, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar through tracts unknown,
see thee on thy judgement throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Augustus Toplady was born in England in 1740. His father was a Royal Marine and died on duty soon after his son's birth, leaving the boy to be raised by his mother. Toplady had an interest in religion during his younger years, and showed this in spiritual journals and moralistic behaviour. However, it wasn't until his fifteenth year, while attending a Methodist revival in an Irish barn, that he felt "brought nigh to God." It was at this point that he determined to go into ministry.

Having been converted under Methodism, Toplady initially aimed to become a Methodist minister. This changed, however, when he began to consider more closely the distinctions between Arminianism and Calvinism. The Methodist movement was decidedly Arminian, and Toplady, as an offspring of that movement, initially adopted that understanding. However, after he studied the 39 Articles of the Church of England, he became convinced of the Calvinistic perspective and thus became a minister in the Church of England.

Toplady died in 1778 (aged 38) from tuberculosis. He never married, his life and ministry were short, and he certainly had his share of flaws. But God was pleased to use him to write a hymn that would so powerfully communicate the gospel and encourage the saints that his name and story have been preserved to this day.

Toplady wrote a number of hymns in his life, but "**Rock of Ages**" is by far his most famous. When Benson wrote about it in 1923, he claimed it "is to-day in more church hymnals than is any other English hymn." Not only is it well known among churchgoers, but it is also recognisable in popular culture. A 2006 Broadway musical about rock 'n roll (and a corresponding Hollywood film in 2012) adopted the name "Rock of Ages."

There is a common story of the hymn being inspired by a rock cleft that Toplady once took refuge in during a storm. The particular rock is in Burrington Combe gorge in North Somerset, England, and it has a plaque on it with this claim to fame. Toplady was most likely inspired to write the hymn after reading the preface of John and Charles Wesleys' *Hymns on the Lord's Supper* (1745) which contains a prayer voicing many of the themes and words that are also found in the hymn. This is ironic, given the poor condition of Toplady's relationship with John Wesley; but one can perhaps see the hand of God in it.

Regardless of where and how Toplady got his inspiration, the hymn is a blessing. For generations it has remained a solid testimony to the powerful sacrifice of our Saviour and a great encouragement to saints around the world. May God continue its influence, and grant us many more songs with such enduring legacies.

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*



June 2020

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Those mourning the loss of loved ones in the UK and on the Island through Covid-19
- 2nd Our families, friends, and neighbours, and those we know living far away from us
- 3rd Technology and how it has helped to keep families together during the pandemic
- 4th All who seek to relieve hunger and suffering
- 5th Those frightened to leave their homes during the coronavirus pandemic
- 6th The works of agencies such as the Samaritans and Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7th People who are homeless, poor, and starving and in need of help
- 8th Everyone living in Port Erin and Port St Mary
- 9th All volunteers prepared to work with young people as they grow up
- 10th The police on the Isle of Man and the work they do to maintain law and order
- 11th Those who may lose their jobs as a result of the coronavirus pandemic
- 12th Doctors, nurses and all people helping to look after people who are ill
- 13th The work of the Church Army
- 14th Children having to learn at home rather than at school because of the pandemic
- 15th Those who minister within the Southern Mission Partnership
- 16th The five PCC committees working to enhance God's work within the Parish of Rushen
- 17th Those responsible for maintaining the highways on the island
- 18th Our Government and its responsibilities in keeping us safe during these difficult times
- 19th That we may be gracious and loving in our relationships with each other
- 20th People who have had to cancel their annual holiday because of imposed restrictions
- 21st Places in the world where lives have been lost and communities destroyed
- 22nd People who are having to live in isolation and rarely see or talk to anyone
- 23rd Those in financial difficulty
- 24th Young single mothers having to bring up their children in difficult circumstances
- 25th Guidance for leaders in industry and commerce
- 26th Those who look after the environment within the parish
- 27th The Isle of Man Foodbank and the help it gives to families short of money and food
- 28th Those living daily with domestic violence and the people who try to help them
- 29th All who work in dangerous and poor conditions
- 30th Volunteers prepared to work with young people as they grow up



Obituary

The Reverend Brian Shephard

1934-2020

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Rev
Brian Shephard on 12 May 2020.

Rev Shephard was educated at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford prior to being ordained deacon in 1960 and priest in 1961. Brian was curate in Wigan before moving to Kidderminster to complete

a second curacy. From there he moved with his wife, Helen, to Blackheath in London to become a Lecturer in OT for five years at the Church Army Training College. In 1970 they moved to Hamilton in Scotland so that Brian could take up a post as a Lecturer at the College of Education.

In 1977 Brian became the Chaplain of the Buchan School teaching Latin and RE, a post he held for 11 years. He was well liked by all the pupils and always came with a smile. He was a kind and caring presence at the school and deeply gifted in languages. Following his time there he became curate at St Jude, Andreas for three years before becoming Vicar at Lezayre. He served the Parish of Lezayre from 1991 until his retirement in 2002.

Brian leaves behind his wife, Helen and their two children, Jennifer, and Judy.

Brian and Helen would have celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in September this year, and Brian's 60th Anniversary of Ordination would have fallen on Advent Sunday. Bishop Peter gives thanks for the life and ministry of a faithful and loving priest, husband, and father. Please pray for Helen, Jennifer, and Judy as we commend Brian to Almighty God in love and thanksgiving.

In the Day of Trouble

There is a God who answers prayer
Who intercedes before the throne
The Son of God who ever cares
Who walks with us, we're not alone.

Though flood and pestilence should come
He sees the path that we now tread
His rod and staff will comfort us
He knows the days that lie ahead.

We trust in Him who knows all things
And lift our prayers to heaven above
Our confidence is all in Him
Encompassed by unfailing love.

Megan Carter



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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.

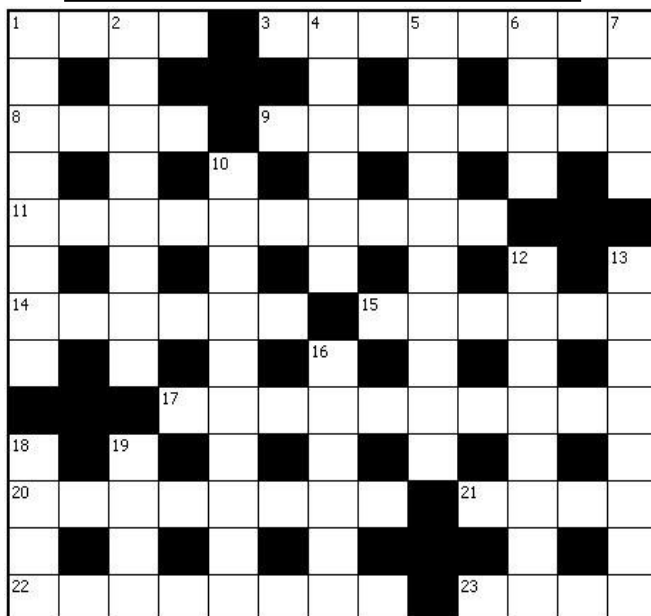
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Please contact Mr Harry Dawson: 478050/835770
or Mr G Callister: 474924/834627

June 2020 Crossword



Across

- 1 See 23 Across
 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
 8 Invalid (4)
 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
 23 **and 1 Across** 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in —, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
 7 Swirling current of water (4)
 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was —, to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)