

Rushen Parish Magazine

August 2020



JESUS - The Bread of Life

Contact Details for Rushen Parish

Vicar:

Rev'd Joe Heaton (rev.joeheaton@gmail.com) 832275
Rushen Vicarage, Barracks Road, Port St Mary

Curate:

Rev'd Liz Hull (revlizhull@manx.net) 677711

Readers:

Mrs Margaret Galloway
Mrs Wendy Heaton
Mr Harry Dawson

Active Clergy

Rev Roger Harper
Rev John Gulland

Church Wardens:

Mr Gerry Callister, 60 Ballamaddrell, Port Erin 474924/834627
Mr Harry Dawson, Thalloo Reagh, Cregneash 478050/835770
Mr Peter Hayhurst, Fois Fraon, Fistard 832974/464949

PCC Secretary:

Mr David Bowman, The Old Bakery, Qualtroughs Lane, 837117/260539
Port Erin

PCC Treasurer:

Mr Stephen Curtis, Clybane Cottage, Phildraw Road, 823475
Ballasalla

Parish Administrator and Safeguarding Officer for Children and Vulnerable People:

Mrs Claire Jennings, rushenparishorg@gmail.com 830850

More contact details on the inside of the back cover



From the Editor

During the past few weeks I have had the painful task of sifting through the many things that Pauline and I shared in our married life together. It has been extremely hard, especially when finding some of things she wrote to me, and for passages she wrote for others to read. Today I found a poem she wrote entitled 'Talents'.

Pauline was a firm believer that everybody, regardless of ability or upbringing, is capable of achieving success despite having to overcome challenges along the way. In her teaching career she was determined to bring out the best she could in every child she taught, and she would work endlessly to provide him/her with the stimulus they needed to succeed. In the poem she writes about herself and the tough environment she had to contend with during her own childhood.

She was brought up on a council estate in Stretford, Manchester. She was the oldest of four children and very often had to miss school to look after her mother who was not always in the best of health. Their house was adjacent to the railway line between Manchester and Liverpool, and very often the train drivers would throw coal down into their garden so that they could have the benefit of a fire in the evenings. Basically it was a family with little money, and this reflected in Pauline's school life.

She was, however determined to succeed even though as the poem states, she wasn't particularly good at anything. She asks, "Why can't I be an athlete and run the perfect race?" and states, "I don't think that I'm clever, I never get top grades," and "this is getting quite depressing, I'm beginning to lose heart." Just three of the lines she wrote which summed up how she felt as she grew up. In fact, when we met we were both studying 'A' level Biology at night school, and even then she said that I would pass and she wouldn't. She was right!

Despite her lack of confidence at that time she never swayed from her belief in God and that He would see her through her life whatever difficulties she might have to face. We know that she went on to achieve success in lots of things. Perhaps the penultimate verse of her poem sums up Pauline's belief that everyone has the talent to succeed just like she did.

*We all want recognition, and it's here the story starts,
For the very best of talents comes from deep within our hearts.
The ability to love and care, for those we meet each day
To show concern for fellow men, both near and far away.*

David

Keep-on-keeping-on

It takes a 'special' courage,
To keep-on-keeping-on;
When life has lost its sparkle
And umpteen things go wrong.

Attention to those 'little things' –
In all we say or do;
A smile; a laugh; a kindness;
May help to see us through.

Stand by the faith whatever,
To keep-on-keeping-on;
Guided by its promises –
Respond with cheerful song!

Keep deep joy within the heart;
Appreciate what's true –
As problems present themselves,
Gain resilience too.

Put fresh ideas in focus –
To keep-on-keeping-on;
Prayer acting as a spring-board,
Helps the good news along.

It needs committed witness,
To keep-on-keeping-on;
By His grace and in His love,
Keep-on-keeping-on!

Hebrews 12:1

*.....'let us run with
perseverance the race
marked out for us. (NIV)*

Margaret Couper



Whatever happened to Christopher Robin?



One hundred years ago this month, on 21st August 1920, Christopher Robin Milne was born. He was the only son of the author A. A. Milne and appeared as a character in his father's Winnie-the-Pooh stories and verses – a role he enjoyed at first but later found difficult to handle.

The characters in Winnie the Pooh were based on his own soft toys or items purchased later. The setting was inspired by Ashdown Forest in East Sussex: his family owned nearby Cotchford Farm and spent weekends and holidays there.

His relationship with his nanny, Olive 'Nou' Brockwell, was close and continued into adult life, but when he went to boarding school near Guildford in 1930 he was bullied because his father's work was well known: one poem, *Vespers*, brought him "toe-curling, fist-clenching, lip-biting embarrassment".

He married a cousin, Lesley de Sélincourt, in 1948 and opened a bookshop in Dartmouth. He was close to his father but not to his mother, Daphne, who did not see him during the last 15 years of her life.

Milne had one child, Clare, who had cerebral palsy. He himself had myasthenia gravis in his later years and died in 1996; he was described by one newspaper as a 'dedicated atheist'.

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



We have been extremely fortunate on this island to be able to enjoy an almost complete easing of restrictions brought about by Covid 19, and I think we all agree that our government has done an excellent job of keeping us safe during an extremely anxious and worrying time.

On 23rd June, the Ladies Working Party met together for the first time since 10th March, and as a heartfelt thank you to Margaret Moore for her leadership during that time, keeping us together with her “Thoughts of the Day” emails, we presented her with a “teacup, saucer and plate” arrangement of flowers and a ring binder containing each of the emails she had sent to the group. We shared many stories of Lockdown with each other and heard news of those whose health had been suffering. Shielding, whilst necessary for some, had brought its own constraints and concerns as nothing compares with meeting together in friendship and fellowship.

We are always delighted to welcome new members, and so were very pleased to have Maureen Hartley and Iris Mitchell join our group. We appreciate all the help we constantly receive from Gerry Callister and in particular his preparation of St Catherine's hall for our use while new toilets are installed in St Mary's Church Hall.

We were saddened to hear of Dollan Kelly's death, a sidesperson in St Mary's for many years, and sent a sympathy card to his widow Jean. The private funeral on 7th July will be followed at a later date by a celebration of his very full and active life on the island. Some of us were able to attend the funeral of Daphne Allan on 9th July and to remember the attendance of a very sweet lady at St Mary's over the years.

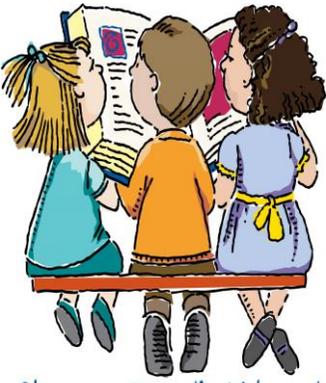
The flower rota will begin again on 19th July, when St Mary's will be open for worship once more, our summer lunch will be at Bradda Glen on 28th July, and we send all good wishes to the team for a successful Virtual Beach Mission in August.

Joe attended our last two meetings to explain about the proposed let of St Mary's Church Hall to the Happy Valley Nursery from September, which was confirmed by the PCC at their meeting on 14th July. At the time of writing, there is uncertainty about our future meeting place following this decision but once we discuss it together fully, we shall be able to move forward.

With love and best wishes from the Ladies Working Party.

Pat Thomson

St Mary's Sunday School



Share God's Word

To celebrate the end of lockdown on the Island, the Sunday School families and some friends enjoyed a lovely picnic with games at Silverdale at the beginning of July. The sun was shining (most of the time), and it was great to see everybody again in person after such a long time.

This morning, on 19th July, we had our first post-lockdown service back at St Mary's, and it was lovely to see so many members of our congregation gathered together again

for worship, including the Sunday School families. There was beautiful singing from the choir (and the congregation), a dramatised reading of "the parable of the weeds" by the Sunday School, followed by a well-illustrated talk by Liz. She explained that the main message of the parable was that the good will always outlast the bad, good will always triumph over evil because of God's amazing love for us, and that God calls us to love one another as He first loved us. (Despite Megan and Cameron putting dirty water on the beautiful white sheet, the letters 'Love one another as I have loved you' appeared through the dirt and remained for all to see.)

The Sunday School also led the prayers of intercession, including a prayer for all those at St Mary's who lost loved ones during the coronavirus pandemic. At the end of the service, Liz presented the Sunday School prizes to all the children and young people, and afterwards we were able to enjoy refreshments together at the back of the church. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this beautiful service, and especially to the children and young people who read and acted so well.

The Sunday School will now have a break over the summer holidays. We hope that many will enjoy the 'Virtual Beach Mission' as well as the on-Island afternoon activities that can go ahead with local team members.

Love and blessings.

Claudia & Sam

Body parts

A doctor in our village surgery often plays a game with his younger patients to put them at ease, and to test their knowledge of body parts. And so it was that one day, while pointing to my young son's ear, the doctor asked him solemnly, "Is this your nose?" Alarmed, my son glanced over to me and said softly: "Mum, I think we'd better find a new doctor!"

Pandemic transforms the Church into Netflix

The Covid-19 pandemic has “propelled the Church into the contemporary world,” says a new report from CPAS, an Anglican evangelical mission agency working with UK and Irish churches. ‘Everyone Welcome Online’ looks at the lockdown’s impact on churches and concludes, “Last month we were the Odeon, today we are Netflix.

“In the 1950s, the Odeon was okay, but then along came consumer choice, individualism and crowded complex lifestyles.

Then came TV film channels, and now Netflix, Prime and others, where you can watch whatever you want, whenever you want, wherever you are on whatever you’ve got.” The authors, Bob Jackson and George Fisher, say “The Government has shut our ‘Odeons’ down, so in response we have stumbled into ‘Homespun Netflix’ and it’s looking promising. “Most churches going online have discovered that far more people are accessing their services than ever came to the building. What seemed initially to be a devastating blow to churches may actually generate growth.”

Bishop of Sheffield Pete Wilcox described the 26-page report as “An astonishingly thorough and perceptive overview of online church.” The authors, who devised the popular ‘Everybody Welcome’ course published by Church House Publishing, include feedback from churches experiencing increased numbers of people logging in for online services, both live and recorded. One church reported “We’ve had a huge number of hits, many more than the number of people in church on a Sunday, connecting with people who would not come to a regular service.”

The report analyses who is responding and detects groups ranging from friends and family of church members, to the housebound with links to the church, people linked by christenings, weddings or funerals, people who have moved away, occasional churchgoers and people who have found the church through a denominational or diocesan link. The authors encourage churches to make contact with people who are ‘dropping in’ to the services, suggesting “Contact as many people as you can to say hello and how nice it was to see them connect with the church, and ask how they are and how the church can help them.”

People are finding it easier to access church online because they can join in the services without feeling concerned about ‘doing the wrong thing’ – like standing or sitting at the ‘wrong’ time – they don’t have to enter a strange building and meet new people and they can access the services at a time that suits them. One church reported: “One previously non-churchgoer said that online she felt comfortable, fully part of the service and so more welcomed than if she had been in the building unsure of how to behave.”

Revd Peter Crumpler



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



It was not the best of weather on Sunday 28th June, but it was with great joy that the first service since 15th March was held in the parish at Kirk Christ Church.

Since then there have been two further joint services in the parish church and Joe and Liz are to be thanked for leading the services. It was also good to have the choir at these services ably led by Michael Porter.

As you read this you will know that the other three churches in the parish re-opened for public and private worship on 19th July. It is good that we now have all four churches in use, throughout the week, for visitors and those wishing to spend time in private prayer and reflection. I am sure that you, like me, give thanks to God for protecting and guiding us through these last few months.

At St Catherine's all the windows are now protected with poly carbonate PVC covers. Around the church the patches, where paint has flaked, have been repainted along with the two outer doors. We are grateful to Steve Rycroft and Chris Barnes for the work which was undertaken with such care and dedication to the church.

Gerry Callister

The Parish of Rushen Thursday Summer Concerts 2020 St Catherine's Church, Port Erin

30 th July	2020:	Regal Singers
6 th August	2020:	Karen & John Elliott and Friends
13 th August	2020:	Glenfaba Chorale
20 th August	2020:	Gareth Moore and Friends
27 th August	2020:	Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band
3 rd Sept.	2020:	Lon Dhoo Male Voice Choir



Concerts commence at 7.45pm
Admission Free - Retiring Collection
Refreshments in Church Hall following concerts

Sudoku August 2020

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

Sudoku Solution July 2020

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

Crossword Solution July 2020

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

All in a name

I'm dyslexic, and recently attended a Zoom conference about the disorder with a friend. The speakers asked us to share a personal experience with the group. I told them stress aggravates my condition, in which I reverse words and letters when I'm tense. When I finished speaking, my friend blurted out, "Now I know why you named your daughter Hannah!"

When Christ Stood in Trafalgar Square



I'm not a big fan of statues – but my favourite was the life-sized figure of Christ that stood in London's Trafalgar Square during the Millennium celebrations. It stood on the square's previously empty fourth plinth, going almost unnoticed among the surrounding grand statues and with Nelson's Column towering above it. The statue, called *Ecce Homo* (Behold the Man), was built by conceptual artist Mark Wallinger and erected in

1999. He explained: "I consciously made Him life-size. We are made in God's image, and He was made in our image. "So for the statue to stand in contrast to the overgrown relics of empire was definitely part of the plan." The figure was made of white marble resin, and depicted Christ standing before the multitude with His head slightly bowed.

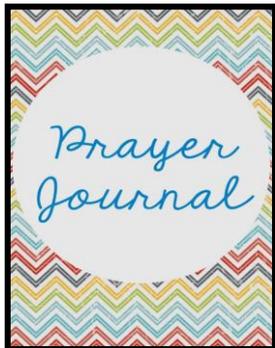
I found the statue of Christ deeply moving and kept returning to Trafalgar Square to stand and gaze at it. Because to me, the statue declared Christ's vulnerability. It stood as a reminder that the God of all creation came to earth as a man and lived among us. He gave up His life so that we might have salvation. There, with London's traffic rushing by, pigeons coming in to land, and tourists snapping photographs of each other, Christ stood unobtrusively. Standing, you could say, at the door of our consciousness, and asking to be let in. In a BBC interview at the time, the artist said that he wanted the statue to be an antidote to the "spiritually empty celebration" then taking place at the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. It certainly had a deep effect on me. In April 2017, the statue of Christ was placed on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral during Easter. Again, I watched as tourists passed by not noticing the figure. It was a modern-day parable in marble resin.

When the Apostle Paul took a stroll around Athens, he spotted the various altars and statues to the Greek gods. He found an altar 'To an Unknown God' and declared that this was "the God who made the world and everything in it" who had made Himself known in Jesus Christ. Just as Mark Wallinger took possession of the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square for Jesus Christ – the reason for the Millennium celebrations – so Paul claimed the 'unknown God' altar in Athens for the Christian gospel.

The Bible has always been wary of putting people on pedestals. It shows us all sides of the people it describes, warts and all. It tells us that Moses was a murderer, that David was an adulterer, that Paul persecuted the first Christians and that Peter denied Christ. But all of us have feet of clay, and few of us deserve to be memorialised for centuries in stone or marble. Rather, we are gently encouraged to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Maybe that's the best way to make our mark in history.

Peter Crumpler

(Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts and a former Director of Communications with the CofE)



Reflected Faith Series - A Prayer Notebook

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.

I recall when I was 14 years old going to stay on my own with my French cousins in the South of France, for three weeks during the summer holidays. It was a brilliant time which I thoroughly enjoyed. There was a sense of 'freedom' being away from close family and the ability to ride a 'moped' legally into the town and surrounding area! I wished it could have lasted much longer. However, as the homeward flight crossed over the last of the English Channel and British land came into sight, I found myself unexpectedly crying.

I suspect that when the time comes for us to return to collective worship in our buildings that will happen for many of us. It's not that we can put a finger on one specific aspect or another of our gatherings or buildings that we so sorely miss – but rather it's all those parts making up the whole. One thing that helps me at the moment, is having a Prayer Notebook handy.

It sounds very grand and holy, but it is just jottings of issues, places and people who are in the news or who have asked for prayer. At the back I make a jotting of phrases or parts of a reading or prayer that resonated with me at that moment. It helps me to be, as well as feel, a part of the body of church as I take my place in praying and it also encourages me to look out for the ways that Christ feeds me during these strangest of times.

This month: Find an unused notebook or fold a few pages together to make one. Cut the edges of the pages like an address book and mark each with: places, people in need, family, friends, issues, celebrations, words, etc. Whatever works for you - as large or as little as you like.

Make a note of news items, things people say in your conversations, comments on what you read and so on. You don't have to read or write in it every day, just when you notice something that 'grips' you. Allow God's Holy Spirit to bring you His peace through the process and enable you to pass that on to others.

Multiply

Noah opened up the ark and let all the animals out, telling them to "Go forth and multiply!" He began to close the great doors of the ark when he noticed that there were two snakes still sitting in a dark corner. Concerned, he said to them: "Didn't you hear me? You can go now. Go forth and multiply."

"We can't," said the snakes sadly. "We're adders."

What do we mean by Forest School?

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If your child attends primary school, you might already be familiar with the concept of Forest School. If so, you and your child are fortunate. The rise in popularity of this mode of learning over the past few years has benefited so many children who are learning to develop a bond with nature. This sets them up for life and can instil an ethos of nurture which not only applies to growing plants for food, for biodiversity and for pleasure but also helps to expand their consciousness, improve fitness, develop fine and gross motor skills and encourage resilience. There's no doubt that any small person's health and wellbeing can be enhanced by linking to the natural world.

The Forest School movement began in Scandinavia, where 'free-air life' has long been part of the culture. This child-centred form of learning encourages children to grow

holistically through play, exploration and monitored risk-taking. Forest School began to emerge noticeably here in the UK during the early 1990s and since then the movement has gained momentum.

It's all about child-led activities, which encourages independent thinking and learning. The children themselves decide what they want to do outdoors. There are activities provided, but they can choose how and what they do with them. Forest school is, ideally, a long-term process which happens within primary school on a regular basis. During 'normal' times, this is generally once per month or so, throughout the entire year. Although more often is always better! The environment can be woods, a tiny copse, meadows, a park, even a beach.

The adults' role is one of observation rather than direction. The children are encouraged to learn and experiment by themselves, but always taking care of the environment rather than destroying it. All children benefit, and it has been noticed that those with behavioural or learning difficulties particularly tend to blossom within such an environment.

During the Forest School process, children learn how to assess situations before taking

risks. The ultimate goal is for them to make sensible and informed decisions, but in order to arrive at this point they will make mistakes – dealing with failure is all part of the process. Children learn from all the activities and experiences they encounter. In turn, this boosts their levels of confidence and ultimately, their self-esteem. It's also a great way to improve social skills as kids often end up engaging in teamwork and tend to engage others in collaborative effort.

Forest School activities can be linked to many different areas of the National Curriculum including seasons, geography, history, weather, science, maths, design, technology, art and more. What's more, children don't realise they are learning. It's an entirely natural process outside the classroom which is generally hugely enjoyed.

Perfectplants.co.uk

Psalm 40 - desperation to security



'I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.' (Psalm 40:1).

'Dear God, I pray for patience, and I want it now!' Most of us can identify with this prayer, especially as we face an uncertain future. Psalm 40:1-3 describes how David waited *patiently* on God (lit: *'I waited, waited for the Lord.'*). Do we also intensively wait on God?

David speaks of falling into a deep, dark well and sinking deep into the sludge: *'a slimy pit of mud and mire'*. This expresses his desperate helplessness that threatened to take his life. We do not know what David was going through, but in our current situation we can easily identify with him.

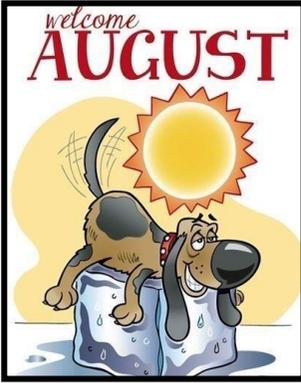
David cried out to God, who answered his prayer: *'He lifted me out of the slimy pit, he set my feet on a rock'*. There is a world of difference between quicksand and rock, as God lifts us from desperation to security. Waiting on God is not inactivity, but it means engaging in service to God and others, as we discern His will and accept His wisdom and timing.

In response, David offers praise to God: *'He put a new song in my mouth. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.'* His song is an expression of gratitude and trust in God, who can deliver us from every sort of pit and mire. People of praise never take their life for granted and they are credible witnesses to others, with a personal story of faith to tell.

'Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud.' Whatever our current circumstances, we can confidently turn to God alone for help, as our loving heavenly Father.

Canon Paul Hardingham

All in the month of August



250 years ago, on 22nd August 1770, British explorer Captain James Cook discovered eastern Australia, named it New South Wales, and claimed it for Britain.

150 years ago, on 4th August 1870, the British Red Cross Society was founded.

125 years ago, on 10th August 1895, the Proms (Promenade Concerts) began in London.

100 years ago, on 21st August 1920, Christopher Robin Milne was born. He was son of the author A. A. Milne, and he appeared as a character in his father's Winnie-the-Pooh stories. (Died 1996.)

90 years ago, from 16th to 23rd August 1930, the first British Empire Games (now the Commonwealth Games) were held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

80 years ago, on 13th August 1940, the main phase of the Battle of Britain began. The German Luftwaffe launched raids on RAF airfields and radar installations. On 29th August Winston Churchill paid tribute to the Royal Air Force in a famous House of Commons speech, saying, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

75 years ago, on 6th August 1945, the US Army Air Forces dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. The centre of the city was totally destroyed, and 80,000 people were killed immediately. A further 60,000 died by the end of the year. It was the first city in history to be hit by a nuclear weapon. **Also on 9th August 1945**, the US Army Air Forces dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki, Japan. 40,000 people died immediately and about 33,000 more by the end of the year. It was the second (and last) city to experience a nuclear attack.

70 years ago, on 15th August 1950, Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, was born. She is the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

60 years ago, on 8th August 1960, the pop song *Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polkadot Bikini* by Brian Hyland became a worldwide hit. The record had been released in June.

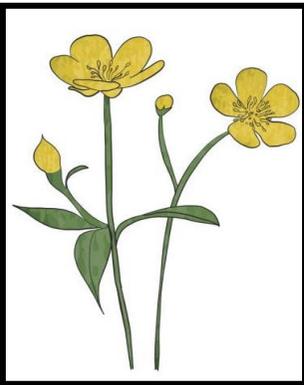
40 years ago, on 14th August 1980, Lech Walesa led a strike by shipyard workers in Gdansk, Poland, to protest against the dismissal of a trade union activist. On 30th August the striking workers won the right to establish independent trade unions. This led to the formation of the Solidarity movement.

30 years ago, from 2nd August 1990 to 28th February 1991, the Gulf War took place. On 2nd August Iraq invaded Kuwait. The UN Security Council then ordered a global trade embargo against Iraq. On 7th August the USA launched Operation Desert Shield, and then Operation Desert Storm, to prevent Iraq from invading Saudi Arabia. Coalition victory. **Cont'd.....**

20 years ago, on 5th August 2000, Sir Alec Guinness, British stage and film actor (*The Bridge on the River Kwai*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *A Passage to India*, *Star Wars*, etc) died.

15 years ago, from 23rd to 31st August, Hurricane Katrina hit the Bahamas, Cuba and the southern US states. New Orleans was badly affected when the levee system failed, and 80% of the city was under water for weeks. Florida and Mississippi were also badly hit. More than 1,800 people died. It was the costliest natural disaster in US history.

10 years ago, on 5th August 2010 a cave-in at the San Jose copper and gold mine near Copiapo in northern Chile trapped 33 workers 700 metres underground. An international rescue operation was launched, and they were brought to the surface on 13th October after being trapped for 69 days. Around one billion people watched the rescue on TV.



Buttercups – treasure in our countryside

Buttercup! What a delicious name! Rumour has it that, as they were frequently to be found in meadows where cows grazed, they were responsible for butter's yellow colouring. So the name was an obvious choice.

However, since buttercups are poisonous and therefore are avoided as far as possible by our four-footed friends, this is somewhat unlikely. But surely, we all remember having a buttercup held under our chin to see whether the reflection

proved that we liked butter! The shiny surface of the petals actually has two real purposes. Firstly, to help attract insects and secondly to act as a kind of mirror to aid the temperature regulation of the plant's reproductive organs.

We are fortunate that buttercups do not suffer from the same unpopularity as other poisonous plants, because if eaten, not only do they taste nasty, but the poison will also cause blisters in the mouth of the consumer. Extensive handling can also damage the skin, but presumably the size of bunch that many of us picked as children did not count as 'extensive'. Fortunately, Health and Safety experts do not yet seem to have forbidden this source of pleasure for little people. Incidentally, the poison is reduced as the plant dries, and hay that includes buttercups is safe for cows and horses to eat.

Buttercups help form the traditional view of the British countryside. Differing varieties range in height from small to quite tall and although at their peak in early summer, the golden blooms can often still be seen in mid-autumn. Jan Struther, who wrote 'Lord of all hopefulness' also wrote a children's hymn entitled 'Treasure' It starts:

*Daisies are our silver, buttercups our gold:
This is all the treasure we can have or hold.*

From the Registers

Funerals (June 2020)

3 rd June 2020	(Ashes Rushen Churchyard) 10.30am	Alexander William Wilkie
8 th June 2020	(Ashes Rushen Churchyard) 10.00am	Michael John Yates
23 rd June 2020	(Burial Rushen Churchyard) 11.30am	Beryl Buckley Barratt
23 rd June 2020	(Ashes Rushen Churchyard) 4.00pm	Earnest Noble East

Sick of preaching

Our new vicar had just been prescribed bifocals. The reading portion of the glasses improved his vision considerably, but the top portion of the glasses didn't work so well. In fact, he was experiencing dizziness every time he looked through them. He tried to explain this to the congregation on Sunday: "I hope you will excuse my continually removing my glasses. You see, when I look down, I can see fine, but when I look at you all, it makes me feel sick."

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



"Looks like no one was available to fill in for the vicar's annual holiday again."

Rushen Mothers' Union



Mrs Elsie Faragher warmly welcomed 17 group members and Gerry, to our planning meeting, a much anticipated return to normality, on 13th July 2020 in St Catherine's Hall at 2pm, and Mrs Jane Gunn led us in prayer. The last few months have been difficult for many, and very sad for those who have lost loved ones. When contemplating our opening communion service in September, Elsie expressed an emotion we all were feeling that Rev Brian Shephard would be sorely missed, particularly as he willingly took this service every year. We have 5 potential new members, some of whom may be enrolled at this communion, and Elsie advised that anyone could attend our meetings for a year, before deciding if they wished to join. Mrs Jude Sille intimated that we have currently 18 members and 3 indoor members.

We had a lively discussion on members' suggestions for speakers, and Elsie now has the task of contacting and inviting them. The programme should contain topics to interest us all. Members will take turn to lead the meetings, a system which has worked well for the last few years. Although Elsie explained she wished to stand down, there were no takers to be her replacement! Jude reported on our current finances and we agreed that we should try to hold a coffee morning to raise some funds. We look forward to a full and interesting programme for the year.

Mrs Pat Thomson read out the Notes from Trustees and Corporate Communion which had been received from Mrs Liz McGirr, Marown, following a Trustees Zoom meeting she had attended on 19th May. MU have previously donated items for the intensive care baby unit at Noble's Hospital, but due to very strict guidelines, we have been advised that anything offered should now come from individuals rather than under the MU umbrella. Any member wishing to knit items should contact the Neonatal Unit to establish needs and requirements. The next Joint Mission Partnership South & West will be held on 22nd July at Marown and Pat will continue to represent the branch. Refreshments were served, including a delicious cake from Jane and we all enjoyed the friendly conversation.

Some dates for diaries: (subject to possible Covid Restrictions)

Founders' Day - St Mathew's in Douglas on Mon 10th August at 7pm, to be led by Fr Ben Bradshaw.

Trustees meeting – 1st September.

JMP Corporate Communion – provisional date is the afternoon of 9th September, in Marown Church, to be led by Revd Canon Janice Ward.

Our branch monthly meetings continue to be held on the second Monday of the month, beginning with our opening Communion on Monday 14th September, at 2pm. With love and very best wishes to all.

Pat Thomson

God in the Arts

The Transfiguration – beholding the Glory



The Rev Michael Burgess considers ‘The Transfiguration’ by Fra Angelico. It is found in the Dominican convent of San Marco in Florence

TQ – Tingle Quotient – is the name given to those things that can produce a tingle down the spine or a frisson of excitement. It could be a piece of music or the sight of an evening sunset at sea. We look, we hear, and our sense of wonder as something sublime unfolds before us produces delight and awe. We see a hint of glory that can even lead us to worship.

I think the monk who lived in cell no 6 at the Dominican convent of San Marco in Florence must have felt that when he entered his room and saw for the first time the fresco of the Transfiguration that Fra Angelico had painted. I am sure the sight would have stopped him in his tracks, just as Peter, James and John were stopped in their tracks as they beheld their Lord transfigured before them on the mount.

From 1436 Fra Angelico painted a whole series of frescoes for the convent from the High Altar to the Chapter House to the cells of the monks. Here in cell no 6 there is a restrained simplicity and directness about the Transfiguration. One of the three disciples looks out towards us, while the other two are caught up in wonder and awe as they look on Jesus with the faces of Moses and Elijah on either side.

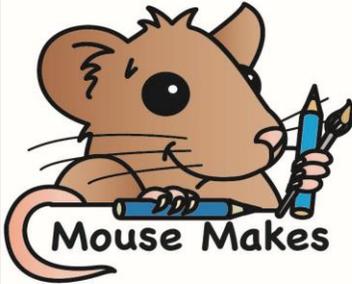
Here Fra Angelico is not seeking to impress a wealthy patron: he is providing a focus for devotion and prayer for the monks of his community. The scene speaks to us of that sense of awe and reverence.

On August 6 we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration. The Gospel accounts relate that special moment of revelation to the inner group of disciples. The glory shown to them evoked a sense of wonder and marvel, but also a sense of loss. For the glory proved elusive and just out of human reach. The moment of revelation passed, and the disciples had to go down the mount again to meet the crying needs of the world, all but forgotten when they were with their Lord on the mountain top.

The monk in his cell would ponder the glory of Fra Angelico’s fresco, knowing that he would be called from his cell to take up his monastic duties. But the painting would go with him to sustain and nurture his life. It is the same with us: we have moments of glory. But they pass, and we must return to our daily lives. As we look on this month’s painting, we sense that glory and wonder which can sustain us through life. As Thomas Jones says in his poem on this episode:

*Like a pearl we hold
Close to our hearts
what we have heard and seen.*

Children's Page



The PSALMS are hymns of **PRAYER** and **PRAISE** to God.

"I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will thank you: I will praise you for ever and ever."

Psalm 145:1-2

Glory to God



Cut out and colour these cards to help you to **thank** and **praise** God.



"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

God's World

"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord: the earth and all who live on it are His."

Psalm 24:1



Praise the Lord!

"Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord."

Psalm 150:6



Give thanks!

"Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you. I will give You thanks as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer."

Psalm 63:3-4



The Story Behind the Hymn



Count Your Blessings

When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings; name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

(Chorus)

Count your blessings;
Name them one by one.
Count your blessings;
See what God hath done.
Count your blessings;
Name them one by one.
Count your many blessings;
See what God hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings; ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.

(Chorus)

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you his wealth untold.
Count your many blessings; money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven nor your home on high.

(Chorus)

So amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged; God is over all.
Count your many blessings; angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

(Chorus)

"Count Your Blessings" is a hymn about gratitude. It is a call to rise above discouragement, doubt, envy, and self-pity to reach a new appreciation for the blessings which the Lord has poured upon each of us.

The hymn was written by Johnson Oatman Jr. in 1897 (with music composed by Edwin O. Excell). Oatman was born in 1856 in Lumberton, New Jersey, and looked up to his father dearly. It was said that his father had the best singing voice in town, and as Oatman grew, he wanted to contribute musically to the faith that he and his father shared. It wasn't until he was much older that he realised his musical gifts. At 36, he realised that he did, without question, have a musical talent after all. He could write songs for other Christians to sing. So, every year some 200 songs flowed from his pen. He eventually had written 5,000 songs and was happy that in his musical compositions he had found a way to '*preach the Gospel*'.

"Count Your Blessings" is a very memorable hymn, with each verse beginning with a challenge, and ending with the fact that no matter what happens, if we count our blessings, we'll be *surprised, singing, rewarded, and comforted*. The chorus also repeats the same phrase twice with a different melody and adds the word *many* before the word *blessings* the second time. The repetition of counting our many blessings is a great reminder to always thank God for whatever we receive.

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



*Dear Lord, we give you thanks for the month of August. As each day of the month dawns, we thank you for bringing us out of the shadow of night and into the light of morning. We also thank you for the joy of spending each day in your service, so that when the evening comes, we can once more give you the thanks that you deserve, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen***



August 2020

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Those who have lost loved ones during the coronavirus pandemic
- 2nd The work of aid agencies throughout the world
- 3rd Families in debt, unable to find a solution, and in despair
- 4th Those who work in financial institutions
- 5th Peace throughout the world
- 6th The beauty of God's creation found on the Isle of Man and throughout the world
- 7th Joe and his ministry in the Parish of Rushen
- 8th All sportsmen and women who enjoy partaking in sport rather than winning
- 9th That those who are vulnerable stay safe during the coronavirus pandemic
- 10th All grandparents and their grandchildren
- 11th The Mothers' Union and its tireless work throughout the Isle of Man
- 12th All Christians to serve Jesus faithfully and to behave like He did throughout His life
- 13th The Salvation Army and its work with the homeless
- 14th Those receiving treatment in hospital
- 15th All parents and their children
- 16th Authors and the books they write which give such enjoyment to their readers
- 17th One parent families and the work of agencies which help them
- 18th The people who kindly buy and arrange flowers in our four churches
- 19th The coastguards who ensure the safety of all who venture on our beaches
- 20th The Royal Family and all it does for everyone living in the Commonwealth
- 21st Farmers preparing their crops for harvest time
- 22nd Teachers preparing for the new term in September
- 23rd The Southern Mission Partnership and its work in integrating parishes in the south
- 24th The work of the National Royal Lifeboat Institution in saving lives
- 25th The beauty of music in all of its forms
- 26th Those who entertain through the media of radio and television
- 27th The work of doctors and nurses throughout the world
- 28th Children preparing for the new term ahead
- 29th The work of the National Health Service here on the island and in the UK
- 30th The disabled and the work of those who try to help them
- 31st The continued success of Messy Church and for those who help to run it

Services August 2020

2nd August (Trinity 8)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
5th August	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise (at St Catherine's)
9th August (Trinity 9)	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)
16th August (Trinity 10)	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 Holy Communion (BCP)
23rd August (Trinity 11)	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)
30th August (Trinity 12)	11am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) (Joint Service)

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

What am I?

A teacher gave her young class a lesson on Zoom on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a short test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I am strong and attractive. I pick up lots of things. What am I?"

When the answers were sent in, the teacher was astonished to find that more than half her students had answered the question with the word: "Mother."

Contact Details for Rushen Parish

St Mary's Sunday School Leader:

Mrs Claudia Koenig, Fois Fraon, Fistard, Port St Mary 832974/495630

St Mary's Ladies Working Party

Mrs Margaret Moore, 51 Ballamaddrell, Port Erin 832399

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

St Mary's Hall Bookings:

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

St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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

Web Site/E-mail:

www.rushenparish.org.uk rushenparishorg@gmail.com

Magazine Editor

Mr David Bowman, The Old Bakery, Qualtroughs Lane, 837117/260539
Ballafesson, Port Erin

e-mail: dbow43@manx.net

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

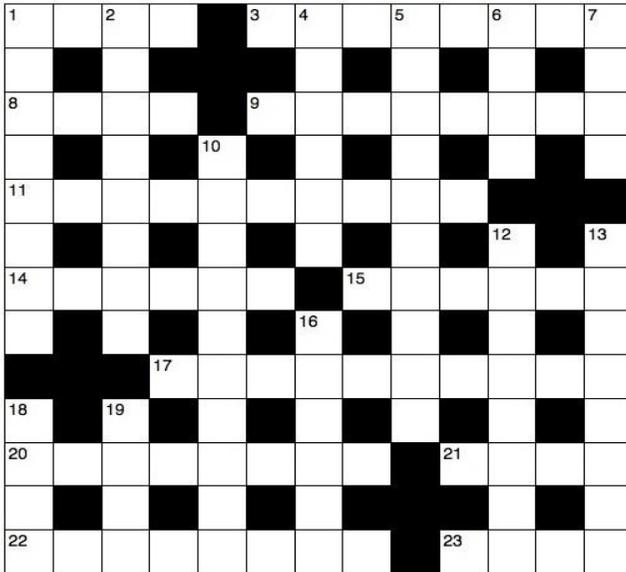
Parish Director of Music:

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

Churchyard Enquiries:

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

August Crossword



Across

- 1&3** Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
- 3** See 1 Across
- 8** 'Let us draw --- to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
- 9** O Simon is (anag) (8)
- 11** Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
- 14** How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15** In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2,4)
- 17** Glad sin rat (anag) (10)
- 20** Spinal Column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21** Valley of the Balsam Tree with the reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22** 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one --- --- sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23** Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

Down

- 1** David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2** 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his --- kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4** 'I Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; --- --- or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5** Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6** Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7** 'For Christ died for --- once for all' (Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10** 'Offering spiritual sacrifices --- to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12** Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13** One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel (3:20) (8)
- 16** 'You have --- of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19)(6)
- 18** 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held --- ---, and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19** Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)