

A painting of a lamb in a field with three crosses in the background. The lamb is in the foreground, looking towards the viewer. It has a grey body with a white face and black legs. The field is green with scattered brown and red leaves. In the background, three wooden crosses stand on a grassy hill under a blue sky with white clouds. The central cross is slightly taller than the other two.

Rushen Parish Magazine

October 2020

JESUS
The Lamb
of God

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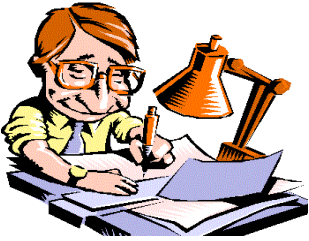
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More contact details on the inside of the back cover



From the Editor

Edgar Allan Poe once wrote, ‘Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words.’ How true he was, because being able to write in verse is a skill which many people have used in expressing their innermost thoughts. Personally I have never been particularly good at it, and I’m sure my English teachers would agree. Nevertheless it hasn’t taken away my love of reading the poetry from many of the famous writers. So occasionally I will sit down and read the poems written in the anthologies Pauline and I obtained through our lives together. I feel sure that I am not alone, because it’s very likely that you too love to read some of the beautiful poems written by famous authors.

Every month, without fail, I find an envelope behind my front door which contains a poem written by Margaret Couper. She is a dedicated Christian who writes poetry with a deep sense of emotion and sensitivity. Most of her work is accompanied with a quotation from the Bible, the relevance of which you can see whilst reading the poem itself. I find myself very privileged to be one of the first people to read the poems she writes, and to become captivated by how she links her thoughts to passages of scripture. I have no hesitation in including her work in the magazine, and this month’s poem can be found on page 10. I was so thrilled to be asked to produce an anthology of her poems a year ago, and many of you will have a copy of ‘Pause for Poetry’ which she sold to raise funds for the church. If you haven’t got a copy and you would like one let Margaret know and it can be arranged.

Such was the success of the anthology that it has been decided to publish another this year. Again I have been asked to assist in its publication and I’m grateful for this. The poetry contained within it is beautiful. It proves what a talented writer Margaret is and shows the immense thought she must put into writing each of her poems. She is meticulous and methodical in her use of the English language, and in being able to portray her thoughts in words. She is encouraged by Douglas, her husband who loves what she writes, and isn’t afraid to tell her if he doesn’t like it! Hopefully the new anthology will be published in early November. It hasn’t got a name yet, because like everything else Margaret does, it has to be right!

I can assure you that the new anthology supersedes the first and will be well worth considering as a Christmas present for friends and family. Thank you Margaret for sharing with us your talent, and deep devotion to Christianity. We are so lucky.

David



Edith Cavell – 12th October

Edith Cavell is a good saint for NHS workers this year: she cared for the sick despite the danger to her own safety.

Edith was a vicar's daughter from Swardeston in Norfolk, where she was born in 1865. She became a governess, but her heart was for nursing, so she went on to train at the London Hospital, before nursing in various hospitals such as St Pancras and Manchester.

When Edith was 42, she decided to go abroad, and was appointed matron of a large training centre for nurses in Brussels. She was still there seven years later, when the First World War broke out and German troops invaded Belgium on their way to Paris and the Channel Ports.

Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, and she turned down the opportunity to return to the safety of England. Instead, her nurses tended wounded soldiers from both German and Allied armies.

Sadly, in 1915, when the Germans began their occupation of Brussels, they took a dim view of Edith's work. But they would have been even more unhappy had they known she was helping to smuggle 200 British soldiers across the border into the Netherlands!

Finally, the Germans arrested Edith in August 1915, and put her into solitary confinement. They tricked her into confessing to a charge which carried the death penalty. But Edith refused to show either regret at what she had done, or any fear or bitterness towards her captors.

On 11th October 1915, the night before her execution, Edith was visited by the Anglican chaplain to Brussels, the Revd Stirling Gahan. Together they said the words of *Abide with Me*, and Edith received her last Holy Communion.

She told Gahan: "I am thankful to have had these ten weeks of quiet to get ready. Now I have had them and have been kindly treated here. I expected my sentence and I believe it was just. Standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone."

Edith was shot by a firing squad next day, on 12th October 1915.

After the war her body was exhumed and buried in Norwich Cathedral. Her memorial service in Westminster Abbey attracted thousands. A commemorative statue of her stands near Trafalgar Square.



Who authorised the Bible, anyway?

Editor: Bible Sunday comes on 25th October, so this article might be of interest

Question: If it was the Church that finally decided which books should be included in the Bible, then isn't the Church the top authority?

Answer: No; the Bible produced the Church, not the Church the Bible. This is the real issue: what caused a book to be accepted within the 'Canon' of Scripture?

As far as the Old Testament was concerned:

1. Books that were recognised by Jesus Christ as infallible 'Scripture' could not be broken (Matthew 5:18). In John 10:35 Jesus didn't have to explain what He meant by 'Scripture', though elsewhere He did refer to its different categories (law, prophets, psalms) as pointing to Himself (Luke 24:44; Matthew 24:37). All was to be believed and obeyed.
2. Books that were recognised by God's people because of their impact. God's people will always recognise His voice (John 10:27). Jesus clashed with the Pharisees for adding their traditions to the Scripture; yet all were agreed that the Old Testament Scriptures were God's word.
3. Books that were recognised by the New Testament. It is significant that the New Testament features hundreds of Old Testament allusions. Only two are from the body of books known as the Apocrypha (Jude 9, 14) – seemingly in similar style to Paul's quotation from a Greek poet (Acts 17:28). The Apocryphal books were perceived to be on a lower level.

Next, what determined inclusion in the New Testament Canon?

1. Books that are Christ-centred in their emphasis. It was inconceivable to the early Church that the Gospels, for example, which focused so much upon the life and death of Jesus, could have any lower place than that given to the Old Testament Scriptures.
2. Books that are apostolic in their teaching. It was to the apostles exclusively that Jesus promised guidance 'into all truth' through the Holy Spirit's inspiration (John 16:13). The result of this was the New Testament (1 Corinthians 2:12,13). Significantly, Peter brackets Paul's writings with what he calls 'the other scriptures' (2 Peter 3:15,16).
3. Books that are faith-building in their effect, and thus, to be read in the congregations (John 20:30,31; 1 Thessalonians 5:27; Colossians 4:16; 1 Peter 2:2; Revelation 1:3). When the Christian scriptures take hold of the thinking of masses of people, they have the effect of 'stabilising society, without sterilising it' (historian T. R. Glover).

The books of the Old Testament were becoming largely accepted by AD 70; those of the New Testament by the end of the second century. The drawing of a line around them discouraged forgers and religious peddlers.

So no one really 'put' the books into the Bible; they put themselves in, because of their innate quality. No council by itself could have conferred authority upon the books; this, they possessed already. It is an authority that is inherent, not imposed. If art lovers say of a Renoir painting, 'This is a genuine Renoir', their acclaim in no way invests the painting with authority; it was already authentic. It is the same with the Scriptures; we can only recognise them as such.... and live by them.



St Mary's Ladies Working Party

Our meeting on 15th September in St Catherine's Hall took place at 2.15pm on a glorious sunny and warm afternoon. Eleven met round the table to hear news of friends' health, birthdays, staycations and holidays and to plan for the decoration of the church for Harvest Sunday on 27th September.

Sue Maddrell led the meeting, beginning with Pat's reading from The Friendship Book, followed by The Lord's Prayer.

Jean Taylor will travel soon to Liverpool for her eye operation with our love and prayers, a journey further complicated this year by essential isolation periods before and after. We all sang Happy Birthday to Barbara Qualtrough whose birthday last week was a very special one, and gave her a card with our love.

This year there will be Harvest Festival Services at each of the churches, with produce being donated to the Foodbank, and flowers taken to those who are unwell, housebound or in nursing homes. A very appreciative thank you to all helpers.

Discussions took place regarding the government's proposals for the development of the Southern Wellbeing Partnership, an integrated care plan for the south of the island, and also the Planning Department's Approval which has been granted for the Additional Use of St Mary's Church Hall as a Play School.

We send our love and prayers to everyone, especially those who are finding life challenging at this time.

With very best wishes from us all.

Pat Thomson

Mike & Gill

Mike and Gill Porter would like to thank everybody for their prayers and good wishes during what has been, and still is a challenging time for them both. We will continue to pray for them so that full health can be restored. The same thoughts are also extended to anyone who is finding life tough at this time, or are awaiting treatment, or a diagnosis. You can be assured that we all hope and pray that their problems are resolved as soon as possible and that their lives, on this wonderful island, return to normality.

Editor

St Mary's Sunday School



Following our summer break, St Mary's Sunday School started the new school year with a family outing to Rushen Abbey, which was a great success! We were joined by one of the families from St Catherine's, and we all had a lovely time, thanks to the wonderful staff from Manx National Heritage (MNH) and also thanks to the unexpectedly good weather (praise the Lord!). We all learned a lot about the history of the Abbey and the life of the monks, as well as the more recent uses of the historic site. Several of the children completed a very detailed quiz with 32 questions (provided by MNH), for which they had to read the display boards very carefully – well done! As a reward, all children received a free ice pop – yummy! We all enjoyed the various fun activities provided, e.g. building a stone arch or arranging mosaic tiles, and especially the games in the 'jam factory'! As the sun was shining, we were able to have our picnic outside in the beautiful grounds, followed by games of frisbee and hide and seek. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and were very grateful to the MNH staff for making us feel so welcome.

Now we are looking forward to preparing for our Harvest service at St Mary's, which will have happened by the time you read this, and to our regular Sunday morning meetings in the hall.

Love and blessings

Claudia & Sam

A spirit guest

When new neighbours moved in next door, they held a House Warming party and invited the entire road. My husband and I were glad to go along, as our daughters were both five years old. But next morning I was taken aback when my daughter told me that the mother had taken her into the kitchen and given her 'a spirit guest', which my daughter had really enjoyed. Now she wanted me to get her 'a spirit guest.' I was wondering how to contact the local vicar for exorcism when I realised that my daughter meant 'asparagus'.



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



The Soirée at Kirk Christ was a great success with over 150 participants and a raffle which raised over £500. We are deeply grateful to all who provided the lovely food and drink. Also many thanks must be given to Mike and Gill Porter who organised the canapes and music. Gill had bought the ingredients for the canapes but unfortunately became ill and had to go into hospital. Mike was responsible for inviting performers, and for preparing some of the canapes. We are indebted to both of them for their hard work. We hope that Gill will soon be back to full health. Thanks are also due to Jim Dale and his secretary for all their preparatory work in organising posters and tickets. Thanks too for those who provided raffle prizes. The star prize was a painting provided by Margaret Galloway, and this was won by Simone Georgeson. Finally, thank you to everyone who bought tickets and supported the event.

The next event is a 'Murder Mystery Evening' being held in St Catherine's Church Hall during the evening of 20th November. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

At St Catherine's Church the Summer Concert season is now completed. There has been good attendance, even though the first three concerts had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Thanks to Michal and Dorothy Kewley for organising the concerts every year, and to those who serve the refreshments in the hall at the end of each event. Thanks are also due to the entertainers who give of their time and talents so freely.

Gerry Callister

Remembering Elizabeth Fry

The prison reformer and philanthropist Elizabeth Fry died 175 years ago, on 12th October 1845. She was widely admired during her lifetime and after, and was depicted on the British £5 note between 2001 and 2016. She was born into the family of a wealthy Quaker banker, John Gurney, in Norwich in 1773. She rededicated her life to Christ at the age of 18 and devoted herself to helping the downtrodden. This she continued to do after her marriage to London merchant Joseph Fry, and while giving birth to 11 children.

She was a minister of the Society of Friends from 1811 and travelled in England and Europe inspecting prisons and writing reports that were highly influential, transforming gaols from "pits of indecency and brutality" to more orderly places with a new interest in reform. She was admired by both Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale. Early on she made frequent visits to Newgate Prison in London, suggesting radical improvements that were adopted both there and in other prisons. She read the Bible to inmates and gave Bibles away, combining social work with proclamation of the Gospel in a way that inspired future generations. Her insights also led to the Prison Reform Act of 1823.

Tim Lenton

Sudoku October 2020

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

Sudoku Solution Sept. 2020

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

Crossword Solution Sept. 2020

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

A prayer for morning... and for evening

O God, who divides the day from the night, separate our deeds from the darkness of sin, and let us continually live in your light, reflecting in all that we do your eternal beauty.

O God, who gives the day for work and the night for sleep, refresh our bodies and our minds through the quiet hours of night, and let our inward eyes be directed towards you, dreaming of your eternal glory. Amen

From the Leonine Sacramentary, 5th century



Leaving Home

Leaving home for best of reasons:

To pursue a fine degree.

Results of 3 'A' levels

Means Uni accepted me.

Home has been the "support system",
Where love bonds and hope are strong;
Here was emphasised the difference,
Between what's right and what's wrong.

Of course there's a touch of sadness,
For those loved who care so well;
But I'm off on an adventure
And excitement rings its bell!

Now the challenge lies wide open,
Time is ripe; get ready! start!
Now opportunity calls,
'Play the game' and do your part.

As a 'fresher' there's bound to be;
Need to settle; friends to make;
Plus new areas of study
Available to undertake

Life-time habits cause a spiral;
Apprehension fills the mind,
But where'er the future beckons,
A 'Welcome home' I'll always find.

Margaret Couper

Mothers' Union and the UK prison system

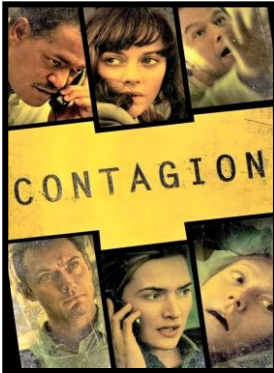
Crime hurts many people – including the families of prisoners who have ended up in the UK prison system. They are often the forgotten victims, but not by the Mothers' Union (MU).

Instead, the MU's prison work across Britain is extensive, with the aim of keeping hurting families together. It is not simple work, for as prison governors are replaced and new directives come into force, those who work with prisoners and their families must adapt their approach.

MU members provide support to prison visitors by holding short courses so that visitors can get the most out of their time with the prison residents. MU also holds workshops to introduce many of the services that work with prisoners' families.

MU helps support the Family Days held at one prison, and also provides presents for children of prisoners at Christmas time. MU provides tea and a chat with the inmates of one women's prison, as well going-home packs of essential items for when they leave.

MU also supports prison officers, who as key workers have found the last few months particularly challenging. MU's Thank You Key Workers appeal wants to raise funds to provide families of key workers with short breaks or experience days.



Moral questions from the pandemic

You may have missed it at the time. The movie 'Contagion' didn't make much of an impact when it was released for public viewing in 2011. Perhaps it was thought to be unrealistic. It was about a highly contagious, unknown virus, transmitted by an infected bat to a pig in a Chinese marketplace. From there it spread like wildfire round the world.

It was fiction then of course, but not so far-fetched as to be distant from reality, as we now know. Deadly viruses, and the plagues they cause, have been part of world history since time began. In the early days, when travel between continents was infrequent, their spread was slower and usually confined to local regions.

The way the film's imaginary plot develops bears an uncanny resemblance to what we have experienced this year. Panic buying empties supermarkets, whole populations adopt social distancing, scientists work flat out to identify the virus and then search for a means to combat it. Meanwhile, millions are infected, and quarantines are imposed.

The story progresses far beyond the reality which is familiar to us. The irresponsible use of social media and false rumours of a cure lead to the looting of pharmacies. Emergency food supplies are ransacked, law and order break down. Troops police the streets. Then there's a breakthrough: a vaccine is discovered. But that raises a new moral problem: who will get it first and what would be a fair distribution system?

The movie is still available via Netflix, or you can buy a DVD online. Despite the inevitable carnage of the pandemic and the suffering it portrays, it contrives to have a relatively happy ending.

In real life, we haven't got that far yet. But, please God, we will. After all, most deadly diseases are now under control and both vaccination and immunisation are part and parcel of everyday life; old 'uns take it for granted that their GP will summon them for an anti-flu jab each winter.

But we may face an ethical dilemma when it comes to a vaccine for Covid-19. If there's an initial shortage, who should get it first? Should money come into it? Are Christian principles applicable?

The Venerable John Barton

New York

The last time we went to New York, it was incredible. We circled the airport for two hours. What made it so incredible was that we were in a bus. – Anon

Colourful plants for the Autumn Garden

Perfectplants.co.uk: an on-line supplier of garden plants, house plants, garden products. Delivery to your door across the whole of the UK



Chrysanthemum



Cyclamen



Pansies & Apples

Just because the summer is over, it doesn't mean that the garden need look forlorn or devoid of colour. There are plenty of beautiful flowers that give you a boost in October and November. Not to mention the amazing show that is happening amongst trees and the everlasting colours to be found in foliage.

If your outdoor space is looking desperately dull, it might benefit from a few, carefully placed containers near your entrance, along the circulation routes and close to your windows. Colour is uplifting and some plants shine during the autumn.

Looking good in October:

Pansies and viola – plant as soon as you can so that they can grow strong roots and begin to flower whilst there is still warmth in the soil. They can flower all through the winter and take you through into spring. Those planted late have less chance of soldiering on through the frost, so do it this month.

Cyclamen – these little beauties burst into life in a flurry of pink, purple and white in autumn. They are Mediterranean plants that like cool, damp conditions and they will fade away during the summer, ready for action the following year. They are at their best when planted under evergreen trees and shrubs so that the colour will shine where you need it the most.

Autumn and winter flowering heathers – Erica varieties like free-draining soil in light shade and they can look stunning when planted in rock gardens and to the front of borders. Calluna, or ling heathers prefer acid soil in full sun. Heathers seem to have fallen out of fashion in recent years but they are worthy of space, particularly against stones and boulders where their pink, purple and white flowers provide a warming autumn glow.

Then there are the **garden mums** – Chrysanthemum species. These are perennials belonging to the daisy family and they create a flowering mound in autumn which looks

stunning in a pot. People tend to treat them as annuals but they can be planted out in the garden for years of extravagant autumn colour.

Ornamental grasses – swathes of gently swaying grasses are at their best right now. In fact, there's nothing better than plumes of grass flowerheads to lighten the soul. Some grasses measure just a few centimetres high whilst others tower to three metres and more. The seed heads can be pink, purple, cream and white. Some look like lambs' tails and others look more like giant plumes on a circus horse's head. What's not to love about these remarkable plants?

Heuchera – well-behaved groundcover plants that look equally good in a border or a pot. They are loved for their foliage colour rather than flowers. Experiment with combinations of lime green against purple and yellow against red – Heuchera are plants that look great all year round provided they are given enough shade. Who needs flowers when you have amazing leaves?

Acers – so many trees provide brilliant autumn colour but none are quite so breathtaking as Acers. According to their variety, Acer leaves turn crimson, purple, bronze and brilliant yellow. The foliage offers a palette of colours that is unrivalled by any other plant.



When Oxford accepted women

A century ago, on 7th October 1920, Oxford University allowed women to become full members and study for full degrees for the first time, and the first 100 women were admitted.

Women had been attending lectures, taking examinations and gaining honours since the 1870s. Four women's colleges were established in those years – but no woman had been allowed

to graduate and receive a degree although between 1904 and 1907 the so-called "steamboat ladies" travelled to the more liberal University of Dublin to graduate.

The 1920 decision was retrospective, and so at the first ceremony at which women were able to graduate more than 40 women did so. The first was Annie Rogers, who had achieved first class honours in Latin and Greek in 1877, and first class honours in Ancient History in 1879. She graduated on 26th October 1920.

Despite this leap forward, a quota limiting the number of female Oxford students to fewer than a quarter of the men was not removed until 1957, when the Warden of Wadham College, Sir Maurice Bowra, described it as "foolish and finicky" and declared that women were a "civilising influence".

Cambridge University did not give women equal status until 1947.

All in the month of October



500 years ago, on 21st Oct 1520, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan's Spanish expedition to the East Indies discovered the Strait of Magellan at the southern tip of Chile.

175 years ago, on 12th Oct 1845, Elizabeth Fry, died. This prison reformer and philanthropist was depicted on the British £5 note between 2001 and 2016.

100 years ago, on 7th Oct 1920, Oxford University allowed women to become full members and study for full degrees for the first time, and the first 100 women were admitted.

90 years ago, on 22nd Oct 1930, the BBC Symphony Orchestra gave its first concert.

80 years ago, on 9th Oct 1940, during the Blitz, a German bomb destroyed the high altar of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Later that same month on 31st Oct, the Battle of Britain ended.

70 years ago, on 7th Oct 1950, Mother Teresa founded what would become the Missionaries of Charity, in Kolkata, India.

40 years ago, on 3rd Oct 1980, the Housing Act came into effect in Britain, giving more than five million council tenants the right to buy their homes. **Also on 10th Oct 1980**, Margaret Thatcher gave a memorable and defiant speech defending her policies to combat inflation and economic recession. She told the Conservative Party conference in Brighton: 'The lady's not for turning!'

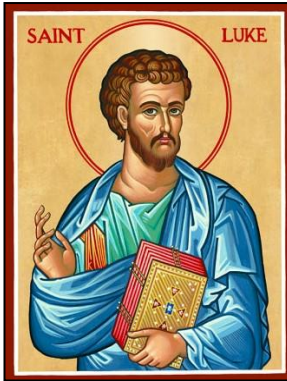
30 years ago, on 8th Oct 1990, East and West Germany reunited as the Federal Republic of Germany.

20 years ago, on 17th Oct 2000, the Hatfield rail crash took place. Four people were killed when a high-speed passenger train derailed because of a cracked rail.

15 years ago, from 18th to 26th Oct, Hurricane Wilma, the most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded, caused massive damage worth \$29billion across the Caribbean, Central America and the eastern USA. 63 people were killed.

Prayer for the sick

I was listening to my new curate pray and I realised one of his phrases didn't come out quite right. He said, "...and Lord, we pray for those who are sick of this church."



Thank you Doctor Luke! – 18th October

‘Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on’ - my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day – 18th October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a ‘physician’ - an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms, he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, ‘only Luke is with me’.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark’s Gospel may have more drama, Matthew’s more prophetic background and John’s a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise - indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly storyteller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: subtle repetitions (‘your son, this brother of yours’), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling’s alleged reformation, the ‘prodigal’ himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father’s mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son’s return.

There are more women in Luke’s Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more ‘sinners’ and tax-collectors, more ‘outsiders’ who are shown to be ‘inside’ the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us. Thank you, Dr Luke!

David Winter

From the Registers

Wedding

Saturday 15th August 2020 @ 2pm

Kirk Christ

Emma C McLoughlin
& Samuel J Looker

Funerals

Friday 14th August 2020 @ 1.30pm

Kirk Christ (+Burial)

Juan Andrew Clague

Thursday 20th August 2020 @ 4pm

Kirk Christ (+Burial)

Peter John Howes

A Prayer for Healing

Heavenly Father, we bring to you all those struggling with their mental health just now. We pray: For everyone who is smiling, when inside they're in pain. For everyone who is saying they're fine, when inside they feel drained and empty. For everyone struggling with fear and worry as the easing of the lockdown brings new anxieties. Be with them in their suffering, as so much of their world has been stripped back and emptied. When loved family and friends have been taken by illness, or made distant by lockdown. Pour your healing balm into their pain and sadness. May you walk with them besides still waters. May you speak to them in a still small voice. May you heal them, and fill them, and bless them with your abundant love and fullness of life. And may they know that they are loved by you for the beautiful unique person that they are, created in the image of their heavenly creator and loving Lord. In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Rev'd Peter Crumpler

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



Rushen Mothers' Union



The Rev Joe Heaton led our lovely Opening Communion Service on Monday 7th September at Kirk Christ Parish Church, supported by Gerry Callister, with Mike Porter at the organ, and assisted by Peter Gunn, and to them all we extend our grateful thanks. This service, for both new and existing members to affirm and reaffirm their commitment to the Mothers' Union, was well attended and a very

warm welcome was extended to two new members, Mrs Sandy Fairest and Mrs Iris Mitchell who were enrolled by Joe. We enjoyed a cup of tea with cake and biscuits afterwards, supplied by Mrs Jane Gunn and Mrs Elsie Faragher.

Not having met together since May, there are a few dates for diaries:

The Joint Mission Partnership South and West Corporate Communion will be held on Wednesday 23rd September at 2pm at Marown Church. The Rev Janice Ward will lead the service, branches will supply refreshments and a raffle prize, Mrs Joyce Kermeen will have a MU stall with cards including Christmas ones and hopefully diaries and calendars too, and Rushen Branch will run the Bring and Buy stall.

The next JMP S&W committee meeting will be on Wednesday 30th September at 10.30am at St John's Methodist Church. The Autumn MU Council meeting will be held on Monday 5th October at 7pm at St George's. On Friday 4th December the MU Advent Service will be held at 7pm at Braddan, when Rev Ruth Walker will be enrolled as the new MU Chaplain. The charity is The Prison.

Our next branch meeting will be on Monday 12th October in St Catherine's Hall at 2pm, which will be led by Mrs Pat Thomson. Our speaker will be Miss Kirsty Pendlebury who will give a talk on "Weather Forecasting". Guests are always welcome to join us.

With love and very best wishes to everyone.

Pat Thomson

Moses revisited

Nine-year-old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed. "Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

God in the Arts 'St Francis of Assisi preaching to the fish'



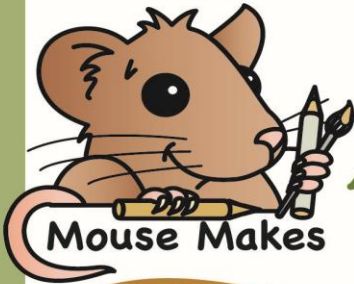
On 4th October we give thanks for one of the most loved saints in the church - Francis of Assisi. He died in 1226, but his example and witness have lived on to inspire Christians through the centuries. His was a life focused on the crib and the cross, Lady Poverty, and the stigmata, suffering and transfiguration. But also, it was a life marked by a deep love of creation: St Francis had a special nearness to all creatures great and small. As we read the stories of Thomas of Celano, we learn how he tamed a wolf in Gubbio, how swallows would chirp and fly around his head, how lambs would come close and gaze with delight, how his faithful donkey wept as the saint approached death, and in this month's painting, how fish would come to the shore to hear him preach.

Thomas relates how Francis returned some fish that had been caught to the water, telling them not to be caught again. They lingered near the boat, listening to the saint until he gave them permission to leave. The sermon to the fish is portrayed in this work by Luc-Olivier Merson, a French artist who lived from 1846 to 1920. He is better known for his work with designs for banknotes, postage stamps, and the basilica of Sacré - Coeur in Montmartre. Here in this canvas, we see St Francis with followers young and old, a faithful dog and the fish at the water's edge.

What was the saint telling them? I think that they were loved and valued as part of the rich tapestry of God's creation, and they must return that love. It is the mood of the Benedicite where all things that move in the earth, the skies and the seas are exhorted to praise the Lord and magnify him forever. St Francis captures that mood in his own Canticle of the Sun.

In the weeks and months of lockdown many of us have had the time to look afresh at our relationship with the world of nature as we have journeyed through the seasons of spring and summer. We have learnt to wonder at the richness and variety of creation. We need to take that lesson into the 'new normal' as restrictions are gradually relaxed. The clock and the complexity of life may easily take over again, but St Francis is inviting us to journey with him in simplicity and joy as we praise God with all His creatures.

Children's Page



Mouse Makes



"GOD is the **one** who gives seed to those who **plant**, and He gives **bread** for **food**. And GOD will give you spiritual seed and make that seed grow. He will **produce** a great **harvest** from your goodness."

2 Corinthians 9:10

Look out for seeds in the park and garden and in your kitchen store cupboard.



How many different seeds can you find?



Jesus said:
"The kingdom of heaven is like a _____ **seed** that a man took and sowed in his **field**. It is the _____ of all the seeds, but when it has grown it becomes a tree, so that the wild _____ come and nest in its branches."

Read
Matthew
13:31-32

Jesus said:
"You do not need more **faith**. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree
"Go jump into the lake" and it would do it!"
Luke 17:6

So the one who plants is not important, and the one who **waters** is not important. Only **GOD** is important because He is the one who makes things grow."

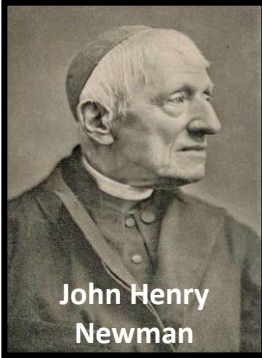
1 Corinthians 3:7

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



The Story Behind the Hymn



Praise to the holiest in the height

Praise to the holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise;
In all His words most wonderful,
Most sure in all His ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should strive and should prevail.

And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine,
God's Presence and His very Self,
And Essence all divine.

O generous love! that He, who smote,
In Man for man the foe,
The double agony in Man
For man should undergo.

And in the garden secretly,
And on the Cross on high,
Should teach His brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise;
In all His words most wonderful,
Most sure in all His ways.

The hymn itself is part of a longer work, 'The Dream of Gerontius' (1865, subsequently set by Elgar) by John Henry Newman (d.1890) who, starting life as an evangelical, became part of the Oxford Movement which sought to recover for the Church of England its High Church ideals. He was later a priest in the Roman Catholic Church and made a Cardinal in 1879.

A writer on religious history and doctrine, Newman was celebrated for the quality of his thought, his poetry, and his powerful command of prose. The first tune, Gerontius, was written for this hymn by John Bacchus Dykes (d.1876) who was both Church of England clergyman and cathedral organist.

As a high churchman, he came into conflict with his bishop and after losing a legal process he retired from his parish due to strain and ill-health.

He wrote more than 300 hymn tunes. Sir Arthur Somervell (d.1937) who wrote the second tune, Chorus Angelorum, made his career in music, becoming a professor at the Royal College of Music and an inspector for schools. His works were both sacred and secular, including the well-known settings of A Shropshire Lad.

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

Lord Jesus Christ, draw our hearts to yours with a love that is irresistible; unite our hearts to yours with a love that is immeasurable; and bind our hearts to yours with a love that is inseparable; now and for ever. Amen.

October 2020

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Those people weighed down with debt who see no solution to their problems
- 2nd The Rev. Joe Heaton, and those who minister to us in the Parish of Rushen
- 3rd Children attending Castle Rushen High School
- 4th Those who are housebound who would love to attend a church service today
- 5th Those throughout the world affected by the coronavirus pandemic
- 6th William Tyndale who translated the scriptures into English
- 7th All people taking part in sporting events
- 8th Farmers and agricultural workers preparing for the winter ahead
- 9th The children who are affected when families break up
- 10th Our local shops and businesses, and for those who work in them
- 11th The residents and staff of all the care homes in the Isle of Man
- 12th The ministry of healing for the sick and disabled
- 13th King Edward the Confessor and those who brought Christianity to our shores
- 14th All Saints, known or unknown, now in heaven
- 15th The many people who anxiously wait for news of sick relatives
- 16th Fishermen who work tirelessly to provide us with fish to eat
- 17th The work of all charities both at home and overseas
- 18th Luke the Evangelist, remembered for his healing, and whose day is celebrated today
- 19th Older people who need warmth as winter approaches
- 20th Employees throughout our country striving to meet their targets
- 21st People in prison seeking to improve their lives
- 22nd Christians around the world
- 23rd Preparations for Christmas in shops and other retail outlets during the global pandemic
- 24th The work of the Southern Mission Partnership
- 25th PCC committees and the valuable work they do for the parish behind the scenes
- 26th King Alfred the Great, whose day it is, and those baking cakes today!
- 27th Babies born today and the families into which they are born
- 28th Those who are persecuted for their faith
- 29th Artists, poets and musicians
- 30th Those who look after our churches and arrange the flowers week by week
- 31st Those who work in the hospitality industry

Services October 2020

4 th October (Trinity 17)	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 Harvest)
6 th October	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	Play & Praise at St Catherine's (*)
11 th October (Trinity 18)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
18 th October (Trinity 19)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's All-Age Service (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
25 th October (Last Sunday after Trinity)	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)
1 st November (4th before Advent)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion(CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
4 th November	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	Play & Praise at St Catherine's
8 th November (3rd before Advent)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)

Dates and times of services/activities subject to alteration)

(CW)

Common Worship

(BCP)

Book of Common Prayer

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--

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**Articles for the parish magazine should be submitted to the editor
no later than 20th month.**

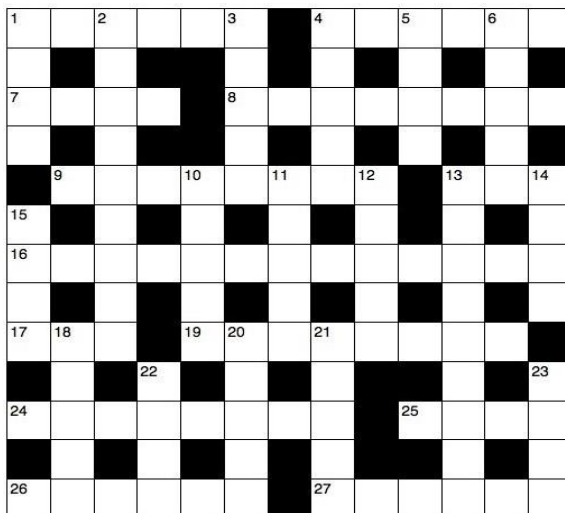
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Mr M D Porter, 10 Fairway Drive, Rowany, Port Erin 832143

Churchyard Enquiries:

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

October 2020 Crossword



Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 **and 8** ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)

- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)