



JESUS
THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Rushen Parish Magazine

November 2020

Contact Details for Rushen Parish
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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
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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, Port Erin	837117/260539
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PCC Treasurer:

Mr Stephen Curtis, Clybane Cottage, Phildraw Road, Ballasalla	823475
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**Parish Administrator and Safeguarding Officer
for Children and Vulnerable People:**

Mrs Claire Jennings: rushenparishorg@gmail.com	830850
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From the Editor

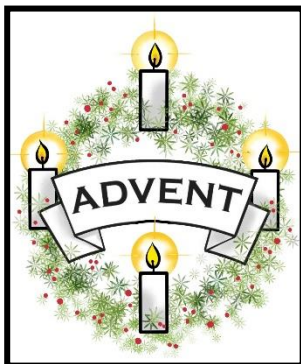
Many years ago when Pauline and I were very adventurous, we would drive from Kent to the Costa-del-Sol for our summer holidays. Very occasionally, whilst in Spain it rained, and on such days we would drive inland along winding roads to remote villages. On one of these drives we found a shop full of pottery of every kind imaginable. Not wanting to pass it by without having a good look around we decided to investigate. We were not disappointed, so much so that the proprietor, wanting to make a sale, did his best to sell us some of his wares. He must have liked us because he climbed a ladder and retrieved a cardboard box. He told us that in it was something that he and his wife used to love, and because she was no longer alive he couldn't bear to use it. When he opened the box he revealed the most beautiful teapot we had ever seen. Although he did his best to sell it to us we felt that if we took it from him he might always regret it, so we left without purchasing it.

This little adventure prompted Pauline to write a short story, and quite by chance I found it whilst rummaging through some drawers recently. This is what she wrote:

"I have been so long on this dusty shelf that I've forgotten who or what I am. Do I have a name, where did I come from, and why do I seem to have been forsaken? That is what I believe has happened to me. I used to have a purpose, a role to play, but not anymore. There were happier days deep in the empty chasm of my being: I remember laughter, warm conversation, and silent contentment. In those far off days, strong hands carried me, placed me, appreciated my worth, even cherished me, but the years rolled by and those same hands grew feeble. I could sense their pain. It was quiet now, no laughter, just sighs and silent tears. Then there was nothing, just darkness. I was in a box where there was no night or day. Now I sit on the shelf watching day turn to night in a never-ending cycle. We're told that out of darkness comes light. My light began to shine one rainy afternoon. Two rain-soaked travellers passed by my dusty shelf, looked at me, and then walked on back into the darkening street. I swear that if I'd had a heart it would have broken then, but it was not to be. They returned, and came to me, lifted me off my shelf, looked, examined, and smiled agreement at each other. That was then, and since that day I have been cleansed, restored to beauty and purified. Now there is no greater joy than for me to hear the words so full of love, 'Put the kettle on and we'll have a nice cup of tea.'"

Yes, you've guessed it! We returned to the shop on the next rainy day and the teapot now sits in The Old Bakery, it's shiny and full of happiness, because I now use it and remember the man who was glad to sell it to us, and the happy days that Pauline and I shared in Spain.

David



Why do we need Advent?

Many people say: "I can understand God, but I can't see where Jesus fits into the picture."

A theologian called Athanasius, Egyptian by birth and Greek by education, gave the answer to your question 1600 years ago. He said: *"The only system of thought into which Jesus Christ will fit is the one in which HE is the starting point!"*

Once we try to begin with our own human-based attempt at understanding God and the meaning of life – let alone the place that Christ occupies – we'll be like the man who tries to do up his shirt buttons, *beginning with the wrong button*. He may hope that it will all work out, and that the shirt will eventually fit properly, but it never will.

So, you need to begin with Christ, if you want the picture to make sense. He is right there in the Bible, from the start. All Creation finds both its origin and its fulfilment in Him, its rightful heir (Colossians 1:15-17). You will notice from Colossians 1:17 that, far from Christ fitting into our system, we can only 'fit' – and thus find coherence and meaning – in His... or rather, in HIM.

It is through Christ alone that we can know the face of God, and His salvation in our lives. Jesus is fully God and fully human, Christ – the God-Man – is the perfect mediator. By His saving death He has bridged the gulf between heaven and earth (Philippians 2:5-11).

No one else will do. That was the blazing conviction of those first-century Christians. Beside Christ there was no other name (Acts 4:12). Historically, Christ's name claims supreme recognition in all the areas of life that matter most. It happened in the world of worship – where the Druids, ju-ju men, witch doctors, temple priests and the gigantic gods Mithras, Serapis, Diana, Jupiter and Venus were all swept away.

It also happened in the world of suffering. When we put the leaders of history and of thought together, it is quite clear that none of them suffered as Jesus did. In Him we see God incarnate, living among us, loving, suffering, dying and reclaiming. This fact alone is enough to explain the beginning of hospitals in our world. They were never begun by a state department. They owe their origin to the influence of Christ, and reflect His compassion.

It happened in the world of creativity. Christ has inspired symphonies, paintings, soaring architectures and enduring literature. Take Christ away, and the writings of Shakespeare would be meaningless. Atheism, by its very nature, could never have this impact, for atheism has no wings.

It happened in the world of eternity. The pre-Christian epitaphs say it all: 'I was not, I was born, I lived, I am not, that is all'. 'Guesswork is over all', Xenophanes had written. Into that world exploded the message of Christ, bodily raised from death, never to die again. That message alone is enough to change our view of the entire universe. The universe itself only *fits* because of Christ.

By the Revd Richard Bewes, a former Rector of All Souls Langham Place, London.

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



Our Tuesday afternoon meetings now take place in St Mary's Church, an arrangement we are still getting used to. Friendship and fellowship remain as before, with a determination to make things work.

Margaret is always relied upon to keep us informed of friends who need our prayers, and her caring contribution to the church family during the days of lockdown and physical separation was recognised in an invitation to a reception at Government House, to express thanks and appreciation. She was both honoured and humbled.

The decorated church looked really lovely for Harvest Sunday; goods donated for Harvest were gratefully received by the Foodbank, and bouquets of flowers by those unwell in the parish. Many thanks to everyone who helped.

Access to the hall one afternoon allowed Joe, Gerry and Peter to meet with some of the ladies, resulting in a good clear out of the hall cupboards and agreement on what was to be kept for future use.

We received a newsletter from The Friends of Chernobyl's children which was distributed amongst the ladies. The charity is still hopeful that the children may be able to visit the island next year, from 24th July to 21st August, but like so much else these days, it is uncertain. We do think of them all, and pray for them in these challenging times.

Sue Maddrell has been in touch with Paul Moores of the Leprosy Mission, thanking him for his poster, updating him on recent events and assuring him of our continued support. Our fundraising coffee morning, normally held in November, will now take place in the New Year, on Saturday 30th January, with perhaps a Scottish theme, as it is close to Burns' Night. More information to follow.

We send our love and prayers to everyone, especially those who are unable to get about or who are in self isolation for health reasons, those who are at a low point, those who are recovering from surgery and those who are dealing with ongoing medical treatment. We think about you all, and pray for you.

With love and very best wishes from us all.

Pat Thomson

Green growth the Holly



Continuing the occasional series on different common flowers by **Kirsty Steele**, a retired teacher and active church organist:

A music manuscript from about 1515 and attributed to King Henry VIII has the words:

*Green grow'th the holly,
So doth the ivy,
Though winter blasts ne'er so high
Green grow'th the holly.*

The next three verses take us through spring, summer and autumn, so this is clearly not a Christmas carol, unlike the familiar 'The Holly and the Ivy'. What may not be known is that holly and ivy are two of the very few native evergreen trees, and in past times must have been especially popular in providing greenery during winter months.

With its shiny spiky dark green leaves, holly is surely one of the most easily recognised trees in this country. Though often bush like, holly can grow up to ten metres high with a straight trunk and pyramid shape. It is *dioecious*, meaning each tree is either male or female, explaining possibly why the one in your garden never has any berries!

Nowadays we associate holly with Christmas wreaths and garlands, cards and carols. Pre-Victorian times saw holly branches used as Christmas trees, with the spiky leaves representing Christ's Crown of Thorns and the red berries as drops of blood. Holly brought into the house was regarded as protection against evil spirits and as a refuge for good 'faeries' who would guard the residents of the house in return.

It is interesting to note that where no person or animal brushes by a holly, the leaves lack all spines except the one at the tip. This includes upper leaves on mature trees. A bit like people – be nice and they won't be scratchy!

Back to 'Green grow'th the Holly'. The final verse ends:

*The God of life can never die,
Hope! Saith the holly.*

How wise. Where would we be without hope?

One out of Ten

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. The teacher asked if anyone could recite one from memory. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbour's wife."

St Mary's Sunday School



Following our very enjoyable outing to Rushen Abbey, St Mary's Sunday School met in St Catherine's Hall on 20th September to prepare for our Harvest Festival service on 27th September, which was a lovely service led by Reverend Liz Hull. The church was once again beautifully decorated with flowers and gifts for the Foodbank. The Sunday School presented 'A Harvest Rainbow' with pictures of fruit

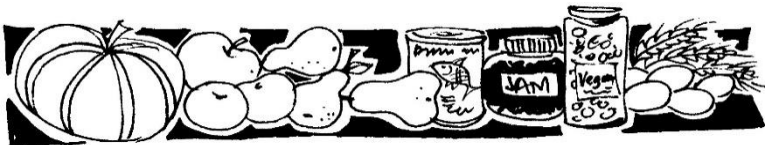
and veg in the colours of the rainbow, giving thanks for the colourful variety of gifts God provides for us, and reminding us that God put His rainbow in the sky as a sign of His love for us. The children and young people led the congregation in the Harvest thanksgiving song "For our cereals and grain we thank you Lord," accompanied by Lukas on the mandolin as well as a variety of percussion instruments played by the children. We enjoyed acting out the gospel reading about the healing of the 10 lepers, with only 1 of them coming back to Jesus to thank him.

Liz started her talk by acting out the part of the healed leper who was full of joy and gratitude, before asking the children and the congregation to think about the many good things we can be thankful for, including food and clothes but also friends and family, good health, our beautiful Island (without COVID-19), and of course the amazing love of Jesus for every single one of us. The Sunday School also led the prayers, which were all very well read. Many thanks to all the children and young people for their various contributions to the service. We all enjoyed our well-deserved refreshments afterwards!

Two weeks after our Harvest Festival we had our October all-age service, where the children once again confidently read the prayers. The service was led by our vicar Joe, who got the whole congregation to join in with actions for the parable of the wedding banquet and engaged the children with questions about excuses they might make and what might be considered unsuitable wedding clothes – they were not short of ideas! Joe explained that we are all invited to the heavenly feast and that the reference to the "right clothes" means that we should all clothe ourselves with 'godly clothes' such as love, patience, grace and forgiveness. It is up to us to make the right decision to follow God's invitation (and to invite others), and to share His love with those around us.

As the work in St Mary's Hall is now nearly finished, we are looking forward to having our regular Sunday morning meetings in the hall again very soon.

Love and blessings from Claudia & Sam





News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



The Harvest Services at Kirk Christ and St Catherine's were quite well attended. Thank you to everyone who provided harvest gifts, decorated the churches, worshipped or helped in any way. It was good to see so many gifts going to the food bank and bundles of flowers distributed to the housebound in the parish.

Tickets are now on sale for the 'Murder Mystery Evening', on 20th November, organised by the Social Committee. I now have tickets to sell, please contact me on 474924.

God's Blessings

Gerry Callister

Remembrance Sunday

'Tis on a certain Sunday
A special time of year,
Old soldiers from all Britain
Stand to attention here.
The noise is hushed in London
On this very special day,
Poppies on the cenotaph,
Red amidst the grey.
Two minutes special silence
As we think of those who fell,
Who died for king and country
In that other place called hell.
And those legions of soldiers
Like shadows, march on by,
And they hold their bodies proudly,
And stare towards the sky.

Gervase Phinn



War and Peace

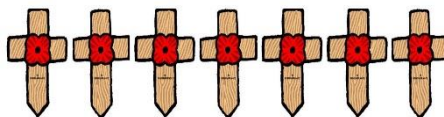
War is not a new thing
It's been here from the start,
When Cain slew brother Abel
And their lives were torn apart.

Brother still fights brother
And nations go to war,
It seems these things will never end
Perhaps we need to ask, 'what for?'

Man has chosen his own path
Where might and power tell,
But God desires a better way
Where harmony and peace can dwell.

And so a time will come at last
When all man's rule will cease,
Emmanuel will come to reign,
Our Lord and Saviour, Prince of Peace.

Megan Carter



Sudoku November 2020

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

Rooms

When the vicar moved his family into the large Victorian vicarage, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. "It's great," the little boy replied. "At last I have my own room, Mike has his own room, Gemma has her own room, and Bobby has his own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad."

Sudoku Solution Oct. 2020

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

Crossword Solution Oct. 2020

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

The unsung heroes who help us say goodbye



*The **Revd Peter Crumpler**, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E, considers the work of funeral directors during the pandemic.*

No one likes to talk about death. Especially during a pandemic that is impacting everyone on the planet. And yet for some people, death is their life's work. It is their vocation. In fact, helping bereaved families and friends say a personal goodbye to their loved ones is what motivates them, day after day.

They are the funeral directors and the staffs of our local crematoria and cemeteries. Often forgotten or out of mind, the men and women who arrange and service funerals perform a vital role. Vicars and other ministers of religion work closely with these key workers. We see the care they take to help families arrange the funerals they want for their loved ones. We see the strict health regulations they have had to follow during this pandemic and the increased pressures on them. We see the long hours and dedication.

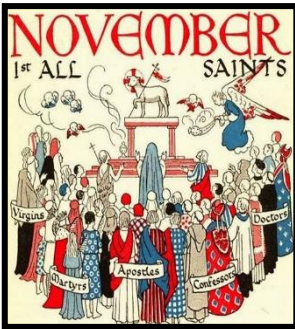
Yet, after one funeral, an undertaker confided to me how useless he felt while NHS staff were at the frontline of fighting coronavirus. I replied that what he did was essential too, and massively important during these difficult days. Another undertaker told me how he helped families cope with the restrictions on the numbers of mourners at funerals, currently set at 30. He had slowly driven his hearse past golf clubs, pubs, and old people's homes where friends – unable to attend the services – had said their goodbyes.

In the funerals I have taken during the pandemic, I have been much impressed by the care and sensitivity shown by funeral directors and crematorium staff. Often, while they have been under much stress themselves. I applaud the way that crematoria have made it easier for mourners who cannot attend funerals to view the services via the internet. This seems to have become common practice across the country. During the pandemic, this 'optional extra' has become a key part of the service. The feedback I have had from mourners watching from just outside the chapel, or across the world, has been positive.

Christian ministers work closely with the bereaved family and the funeral director to ensure each funeral is very personal to the deceased, and an occasion they will remember long after the day has passed. We want to bring a message of hope at funerals. I like to say that love never dies, and that the love we have for someone goes on beyond the grave.

As the funeral section on the Church of England website states: *"When someone dies, although we can't see the person we love anymore, Christians believe that through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we will see that person again. It might be in a quite different form, in a hugely different way, but that is the Christian hope, and that is the message everyone will hear when they come to a Church of England funeral."*

Meanwhile, it's the care of undertakers and all those who arrange and conduct funerals that help us say our goodbyes.



1st November: All Saints' Day The feast day of all the redeemed

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

*He wants not friends that hath thy love,
And made converse and walk with thee,
And with thy saints here and above,
With whom for ever I must be...*

*As for my friends, they are not lost;
The several vessels of thy fleet,
Though parted now, by tempests tost,
Shall safely in thy haven meet....*

*The heavenly hosts, world without end,
Shall be my company above;
And thou, my best and surest Friend,
Who shall divide me from thy love?*

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints - a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Of course, very many of the early 'saints' were also martyrs, and as such became the 'seed' of the Christian Church. The first martyrs of Rome are recorded in the old Roman Martyrology, which states that:

'At Rome, the birthday is celebrated of very many martyrs, who under the Emperor Nero were falsely charged with the burning of the city and by him were ordered to be slain by various kinds of cruel death; some were covered with the skin of wild beasts, and cast to the dogs to be torn asunder; others were crucified, and then when daylight failed used as torches to illuminate the night. All these were disciples of the apostles and the first fruits of the martyrs whom the Holy Roman Church sent to their Lord before the apostles' death.'

Why you should be caring about your outside space in autumn and winter – just ask David Attenborough



Heart



The New Wilderness at Chernobyl

If you haven't yet watched 'A Life on Our Planet' a nature and ecology documentary starring Sir David Attenborough, you need to schedule a living-room sitting as soon as possible. The broadcaster recounts the most memorable aspects of his life and reveals the shocking changes that have taken place over the 94 years since he has lived on the planet Earth. During the first half of the programme, he grieves the loss of so many wild places and creatures whilst recording the monumental scale of humanity's impact on the world in what he terms a 'witness statement'.

This might seem to be a depressing way to spend 90 minutes or so, but it makes compulsive viewing. Indeed, viewers are gripped from the outset during scenes showing Sir David wandering through the ghost town of Chernobyl. Decades after the disaster that saw an explosion within a nuclear reactor, the radioactive site at Chernobyl has been reclaimed by nature. It is fascinating to witness wild animals, including wolves and the endangered Przewalski's Horse, calmly enjoying the deserted buildings and treating this new wilderness as their safe haven. Trees, vines and plant life have reclaimed the streets and now weave their way through concrete, including an old amusement park. The area is so intriguing and outstanding that the Ukrainian Government has decided to make the zone into a tourist site, with strict time limits on visiting.

During the second half of this moving documentary, the famed naturalist acknowledges the catastrophic loss of the planet's biodiversity whilst finding a way forwards. This is a powerful call to action – a plea to humanity to change things for the better for the sake of every living thing on the planet. What's more, he encourages viewers to believe that we can prevent another mass extinction by immediate action by each and every one of us.

There is no excuse to ignore the need to phase out fossil fuels, allow fish stocks to replenish, reduce the area of land we use for farming by changing our diets and stabilising the human population. Not by restricting birth rates but by education, healthcare and raising people out of poverty.

Never think you can't make a difference. There are three major things that everyone can do immediately:

1. Reduce waste. Stop throwing things away. Don't waste food, power, packaging and don't over-consume.
2. Respect nature in each and every outdoor space that you control. Don't kill spiders and crane flies, they are vital members of the food chain. Allow plant seed heads to remain during the autumn and winter. Leave leaves on the beds and create woodpiles and untidy areas where creatures can over-winter in peace.
3. Spread the word. Educate other people by passing on knowledge and wisdom regarding the natural world. Excite people into believing they CAN make a difference – and they will.

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Lord, prop us up!

There is a story of an old farmer who always prayed the same prayer at his church meeting. 'Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side'. After hearing this many times, his minister asked him one day quite what he meant.

The famer replied: "Well, it's like this... I've got an old barn out in one of my fields. It's been there a long time and gone through a lot of storms. One day a few years ago I noticed that it was leaning to one side a bit. So, I went and got some poles and propped it up on its leaning side, so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking about how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time and seen plenty of storms in life. I was still standing, but I was also leaning a bit. So, I decided to ask the Lord to prop me up, too, on my leaning side.

Our 'leaning side' is where we are weakest in ourselves. Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, bitterness, bleakness in life. Then we too need to pray for God to prop us up, especially on that leaning side. He wants us to stand tall and free, in Him.



All in the month of November

500 years ago, on 28th Nov 1520 the Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan sailed into the South Pacific and named the waters the Pacific Ocean.

200 years ago, on 28th Nov 1820 Friedrich Engels, German socialist philosopher and social scientist who collaborated with Karl Marx to found modern communism and co-write the Communist Manifesto.

100 years ago, on 11th Nov 1920 following World War 1, Britain and France held ceremonies to dedicate a national monument known as the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. The British monument is at Westminster Abbey in London. **Also, on 21st Nov 1920** Bloody Sunday took place during the Irish War of Independence. 31 people were killed in a day of violence that began when the IRA shot dead 14 British soldiers in Dublin. The British then opened fire on a Gaelic football crowd, killing 14 people. Three Irish prisoners held in Dublin Castle were also killed.

80 years ago, on 5th Nov 1940 Franklin D Roosevelt became the only US President to win a third term in office. **Also, on 14th Nov 1940** German Luftwaffe bombers virtually destroyed the city of Coventry, including its medieval cathedral. **Also, on 15th Nov 1940** all the Jews in Warsaw were transferred to the Warsaw Ghetto – about 400,000 of them.

60 years ago, on 2nd Nov 1960 that a British jury cleared Penguin Books of obscenity for publishing D H Lawrence's novel Lady Chatterley's Lover. This event is often considered the beginning of the permissive society in Britain. **Also, on 8th Nov 1960** John F Kennedy was elected as the 35th President of the USA.

40 years ago, on 4th Nov 1980 Ronald Reagan was elected as the 40th President of the USA. **Also, on 21st Nov 1980** American TV soap opera Dallas revealed 'Who shot J.R.' after keeping viewers in suspense for eight months.

30 years ago, on 7th Nov 1990 Mary Robinson became the first female President of Ireland. **Also, on 22nd Nov 1990** Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced her resignation. She was succeeded by John Major on 28th Nov.

25 years ago, on 20th Nov 1995 Princess Diana admitted that she had committed adultery and spoke openly about her separation from the Prince of Wales in a frank interview for the BBC.

20 years ago, on 7th Nov 2000 George W Bush was elected as the 43rd President of the USA, though the result of the election would not be known for over a month because of disputed votes in Florida.

15 years ago, on 30th Nov 2005 John Sentamu became Archbishop of York. He was the first black archbishop in the Church of England.



6th November: William Temple Archbishop of Canterbury

During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was Britain's Prime Minister. At the same time, William Temple was Archbishop of Canterbury. While Churchill led the country against Germany, Temple encouraged the British people to trust the Lord for their deliverance and strength. Like Churchill, Temple was a great leader, a gifted orator and a prolific writer. He was also a theologian and social activist.

Temple was born on 15th October 1881 in Exeter, Devon. He was educated at Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford, from 1900 to 1904. He loved the music of Bach; the poetry of Browning and Shelley, and Shakespeare. He was an avid reader and possessed a near-photographic memory.

He became president of the Oxford Union and after graduation, was a lecturer in philosophy at Queen's College, Oxford. He was a member of the debating society and was a skilled and balanced debater. Following his ordination in 1909, and priesting in 1910, Temple was headmaster of Repton School for four years. He married Frances Anson in 1916. They were childless.

From 1921-29 Temple was Bishop of Manchester. During this time he was seen as a pioneer of the Ecumenical Movement and gradually became a national figure. In 1926 he urged the British government to seek a negotiated agreement to the General Strike.

Temple excelled as a moderator; a teacher and a preacher and his appointment as Archbishop of York (1929-40) was a popular one. His influence also led to the formation of the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. During the 2nd World War he jointly founded the Council of Christians and Jews to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice in Britain.

As Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44) Temple became an outspoken advocate of social reform and became involved in the campaign against unemployment, poverty and poor housing. He believed in the rights of all people, whether rich or poor, and was a leading force for social justice. He was grounded in the problems of the working man and in his book *Christianity and Social Order* (1942) he shared his vision for all to have access to healthcare, education and decent housing. His radical thinking and activism played a foundational role in the formation of the British Welfare State.

Temple died aged 63 at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent on 26th October 1944. He was the first Primate of All England to be cremated and his ashes were buried in the cloister garden of Canterbury Cathedral. He is the last Archbishop of Canterbury to have died while in office.

Scatter the Seed

Scatter the seeds of the Gospel!
Ours not to selfishly hoard,
But with determination,
Proclaim the day of the Lord!
Resound the note loud and clear,
God's Holy Spirit is near.

Scatter the seeds of the Gospel!
Present the purpose of love.
Act! For all generations;
Teach of the father above.
Let us not complacent be;
Church has need of you and me.

Scatter the seeds of the Gospel!
Work for believers to do;
People wait for a harvest
The challenge remains with you.
Awake! Dear church and revive!
It's important to survive.

*Acts 8:1 ----"the apostles
Were scattered throughout
Judea and Samaria."*

Margaret Couper

Family tree

At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. "Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror," observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked, "What about you dear? Can you go back very far?"

"Not very far," came the reply. "You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood."

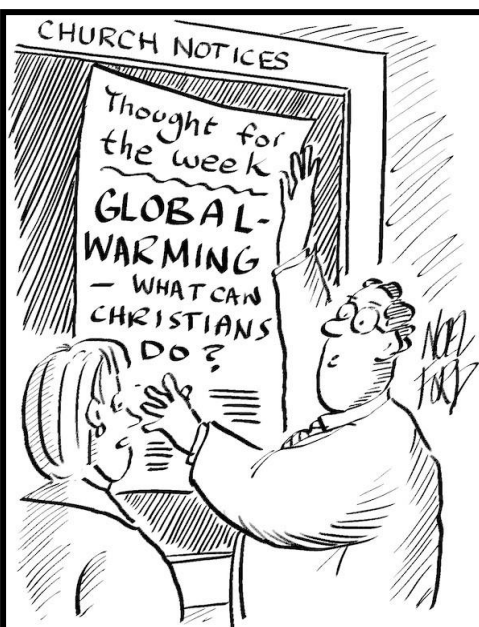
Safeguarding

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



"Given the state of our heating system, you'd think the vicar would be all for it!"

Rushen Mothers' Union



There was an excellent turnout for our meeting on Monday 12th October in St Catherine's Hall, and a warm welcome was extended to all members, guests and speaker Mr Adrian Cowin, Senior Met Officer at Ronaldsway, who had kindly stepped in when his colleague Kirsty Pendlebury took ill. Our short service included apt hymns chosen and played by Mrs Margaret Couper, prayers led by Pat, and lovely readings chosen and given by Mrs Sue Bould. Mrs Jude Sille

accepted our subscriptions of £22 for full members. Thank you to Gerry for setting up the hall for us.

The well attended Corporate Communion held on 23rd September in Marown church had been a most enjoyable event, the service led by Canon Janice Ward and the raffle, bring & buy, and card stalls raising £118, £76 and £130 respectively. The afternoon tea was delicious.

Our MU Chaplain Rev'd Ruth Walker will be commissioned during our Advent Service at Kirk Braddan, at 7pm on Friday 4th December, during which we are invited to donate in envelopes to this year's MU charity; raising money to buy tools for the prison.

We were all eager to hear Adrian's talk on Weather Forecasting, and it proved fascinating. He spoke with 37 years of experience, explaining how Ronaldsway Met Office provided forecasts 24/7, 365 days per year. His illustrated presentation was both informative and enlightening, and if we were to invite a member of the team to come on another occasion, he suggested that "Climate Change" might be of topical interest.

Mrs Sue Maddrell gave a most appreciative vote of thanks and a book token, and after our closing hymn and The Grace, we all enjoyed refreshments and fellowship.

Our next branch meeting to be led by Mrs Sue Maddrell, will be in St Catherine's Hall on Monday 9th November at 2pm, when our speaker Mrs Kathleen Trustrum will deliver a talk entitled "Around the World in 80 years". All welcome.

With love and best wishes to everyone.

Pat Thomson

The congregation

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation was like, and especially the church council. So, he rang the minister who had just retired from that church. The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: "Some of them are wise; some are otherwise."

God in the Arts - He gave us eyes to see them: Tobias, the angel and the dog, by Andrea del Verrocchio



*Editor: The **Revd Michael Burgess** continues his series on animals and birds as seen in art and scripture:*

‘He never makes it his business to inquire whether you are in the right or the wrong, never asks whether you are rich or poor, silly or wise, sinner or saint. You are his pal. That is enough for him.’ Jerome K Jerome was writing there about the special bond between human beings and dogs who offer us those vital gifts of loyalty, companionship and help. We can think of guide dogs, sniffer dogs, and dogs serving with the forces in war torn countries. And dogs who have a special part to play in care homes, prisons, with undergraduates taking exams, and autistic children. Dogs are a calming,

dependable presence in so many ways.

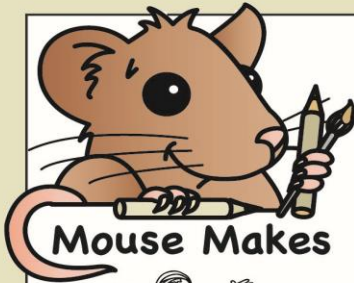
A few years ago Dion Leonard was running an ultra-marathon across the Gobi desert. A stray dog befriended him and together they ran the course. It was an amazing adventure that eventually brought them both back to this land, and they can now be seen exercising in the streets and parks of Edinburgh.

In the book of Tobit in the apocrypha, a dog accompanies his son, Tobias, on another incredible journey. Tobias leaves home with his dog to collect a debt, and Raphael, the angel of healing, is also a companion. It is the theme of this month’s painting from the workshop of Andrea del Verrocchio which is now in the National Gallery. The studio flourished in the 15th century in Florence, and it is possible that Leonardo da Vinci painted the little dog.

We know that it was not an easy journey and we see the stones along the way. Tobias holds a fish from the river Tigris which will heal his father’s blindness. His arm is entwined with the angel’s arm, and there at their feet is the faithful dog.

While ‘dog’ is often a word of contempt in the Bible, here in the apocrypha we meet a dog who provides friendship and security on the journey of life. Dostoevsky wrote ‘Love the animals. God has given them the rudiments of thought and untroubled joy.’ We know that to be true as we think of the part dogs play in our lives, and as we rejoice in the special gifts they bring us on the journeys we make.

Children's Page



REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.



READ Joshua 4:1-9 and Exodus 12:1-14

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.

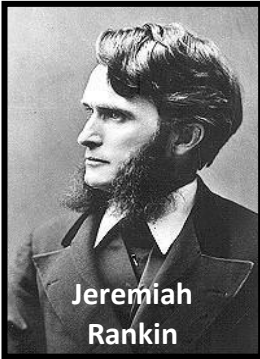


*Is there anything
you would like
to thank
God for?*



REMEMBRANCE • SACRIFICE • VICTORY • TRIUMPH • MONUMENT
ROCK • PILE • OBSERVE • TRIBUTE • COMMEMORATE • RECALL • OFFERING
HONOUR • CELEBRATE • PRAISE • REJOICE • THANKSGIVING • DAYS
FESTIVAL • EASTER • PENTECOST • HARVEST • CHRISTMAS

The Story Behind the Hymn



God Be With You Till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again.
May he through the days direct you.
May he in life's storms protect you.
God be with you till we meet again.

*Till we meet! Till we meet!
Till we meet at Jesus' feet.
Till we meet! Till we meet!
God be with you till we meet again!*

God be with you till we meet again,
And when doubts and fears oppress you,
May his holy peace possess you.
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again.
In distress his grace sustain you;
In success from pride restrain you.
God be with you till we meet again.

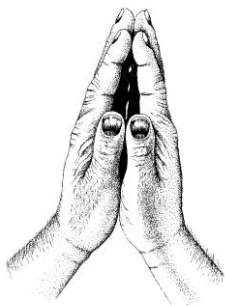
God be with you till we meet again,
May he go through life beside you,
And through death in safety guide you.
God be with you till we meet again.

Many of the popular songs we know and love have a special story behind them. That being said, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again", which was written by Jeremiah Rankin, was simply composed so his church choir could have something to sing when they parted each week. Rankin was the minister for the First Congregational Church in Washington, D.C. and said this about the hymn, "Written...as a Christian goodbye, it was called forth by no person or occasion, but was deliberately composed as a Christian hymn on basis of the etymology of "goodbye," which is "God be with you." He got the idea for the first verse of the song when he saw the dictionary definition of "good-bye" was short for "God be with you." The song was written in 1882 when Rankin was 54 years old.

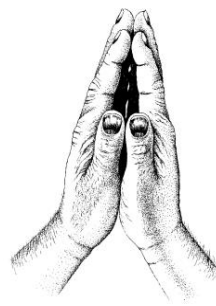
While Rankin was responsible for writing the lyrics, William Tomer, who was the music director at Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, composed the music. While the original hymn had eight verses, it is verses 1, 2, 4, and 7 that are generally heard in congregations. The hymn became the official closing song for the Christian Endeavour Convention. Dr Rankin said: "It has had no sweeter recognition than that given it by its adoption by the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour. Long, long, may they sing it!"

During the war, many postcards were printed with hymn lyrics to help those in battle feel at ease. One such postcard was a colourful picture of soldiers going to battle with the following verse: "God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you, smite death's threatening wave before you; God be with you till we meet again."

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



*Help me to live each day, quietly, easily,
To lean on your great strength
Trustfully, restfully,
To await the unfolding of Your will
Patiently, joyously,
To face tomorrow
Confidently, courageously Amen*



November 2020

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st All saints, known or unknown, now in heaven
- 2nd People we have known and loved, but no longer see
- 3rd Christians around the world
- 4th Those who intercede at our services throughout the parish
- 5th Safety for all those involved in firework and bonfire celebrations
- 6th The Ladies Working Party and the wonderful work it does for the parish
- 7th The work of the British Legion in preparation for Remembrance Sunday
- 8th Older people who need warmth as winter approaches
- 9th The refugees seeking better opportunities for themselves
- 10th Babies born today and the families into which they are born
- 11th The Armistice which is remembered today
- 12th The work of charities both at home and overseas
- 13th Those who died in two world wars and subsequent conflicts to give us freedom
- 14th Fishermen who risk their lives to provide us with food to eat
- 15th Couples who are preparing for marriage at some point in the future
- 16th Those who are ill, or in hospital, and the people who look after them
- 17th The PCC meeting taking place in St Catherine's Church Hall this evening
- 18th Our congregations throughout Rushen meeting in fellowship and faith each Sunday
- 19th The Diocesan Strategy for Church Buildings and ongoing discussions
- 20th Preparations for Christmas in shops and other retail outlets
- 21st People in prison seeking to improve their lives
- 22nd Christ the King – the last Sunday of the church year
- 23rd Preparations throughout the parish for our Christmas services
- 24th The importance of the Bible as a teaching aid for all Christians
- 25th People who are suffering hardship through loss of earnings
- 26th Children who are affected when families break up
- 27th Those recovering from operations, or medical procedures, at Noble's Hospital
- 28th Our PCC Treasurer, Stephen Curtis, for maintaining the parish finances
- 29th Voluntary helpers in schools who give their time to help the children
- 30th Saint Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland, and brother of St Peter the Apostle

Services November 2020

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)
	5pm	Kirk Christ All Souls Service
4 th November	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	Play & Praise at St Catherine's
8 th November (3rd before Advent)	10.50am	Kirk Christ Remembrance Sunday
	10.55am	St Catherine's Holy Communion CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
15 th November (2nd before Advent)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's All-Age Service (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
22 nd November (Christ the King)	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)
29 th November (Advent 1)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
2 nd December	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	Play & Praise at St Catherine's
6 th December (Advent 2)	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)
	4pm	St Catherine's Christingle Service
13 th December (Advent 3)	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

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 Lesley Scott, 20 Rhenwyllan Close, Port St Mary 832919

(Mobile: 07808254356 email: lesley@pharmaconsulting.co.uk)

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, Ballafesson, Port Erin 837117/260539

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

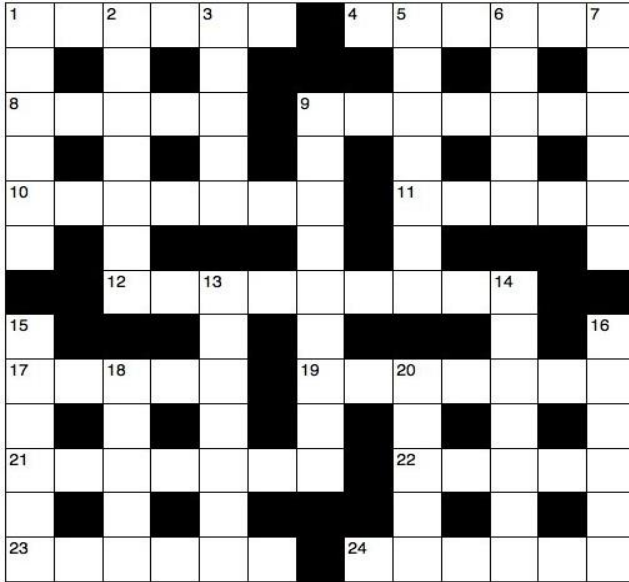
Mr Harry Dawson:

478050/835770

or Mr G Callister:

474924/834627

November 2020 Crossword



Across

- 1** 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when He had given —, he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4** 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8** Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9** Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10** Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11** A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12** A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17** 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19** Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21** Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22** 'And feeble as —, in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23** 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)

Down

- 24** Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)
- 1** Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2** 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3** Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5** Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6** **and 16** Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7** A three (anag.) (6)
- 9** Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13** Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14** Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15** Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16** See 6 Down (6)
- 18** Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20** How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)