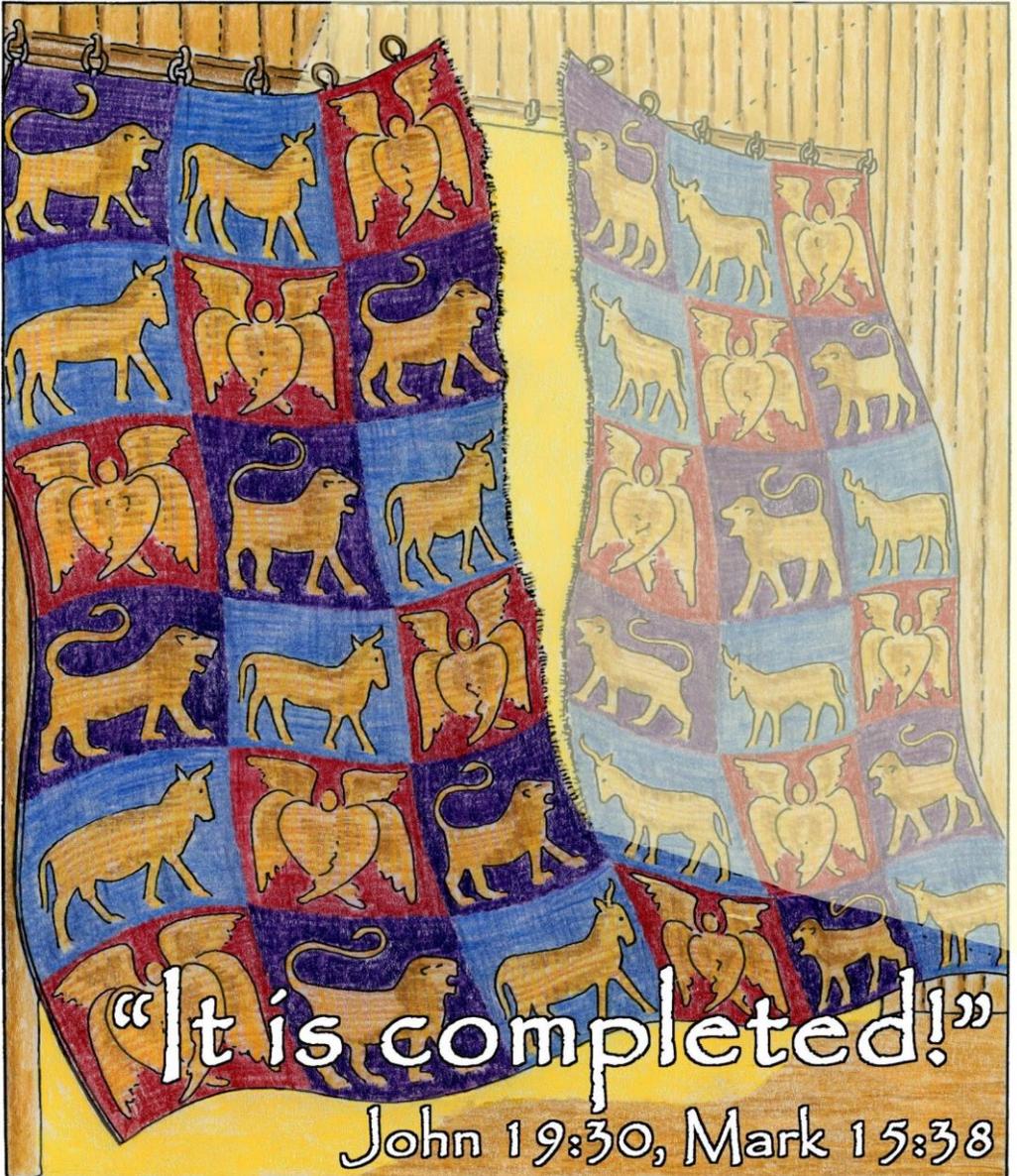


April
2021

Rushen Parish Magazine



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From the Editor

I hadn't really understood the concept of loneliness until I lost Pauline nearly a year ago. Whilst I had not had her company in our home surroundings for a year before her death, in a strange way she was always with me, possibly because I could share with her all the things going on at home when I visited her each day at Abbotswood. Now I know what it is, and how difficult it must be for some people who have very few, if any, people to turn to in times of adversity. I suppose by now those of you reading this are suddenly concerned about my mental state and whether loneliness is affecting me. I can reassure you that I am not lonely because my own family, and the church family, are around me giving me the strength to continue. I am feeling fine and coping with Pauline's loss as well as can be. The coronavirus doesn't help, but one day it will become a distant memory and hopefully confined to the history books.

However, loneliness is a problem for many in our community, around the island, and further afield. The pandemic won't have helped, especially when families have not been able to meet, let alone give each other a hug. I can't think how it must have affected those with no living relatives. Mother Teresa once said, *"The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved."* I think she was right because I think it affects more people than we can comprehend.

I'm writing this editorial during Lent, the period of 40 days when our Lord Jesus Christ spent time in the desert in total loneliness. How He must have felt nobody knows, but we can imagine what it must have been like. Nobody to talk to, to share food with, to care for, to shed tears with, or with whom to share valued memories. All He had was his own mind which, like ours when we are in a predicament, must have been racing away with unimaginable thoughts. To make matters worse, when He was at his lowest ebb, He was tempted to do things which, in the tempter's mind, would make Him feel so much better. Thankfully He overcame this torment, but in so doing, gave His life on a wooden cross with others around Him mocking Him and treating Him as a sinner. His loneliness, and temptation by the devil, was the catalyst for Him to save us from our sins, and we are eternally grateful for this.

His Resurrection on Easter Day is the most important time of the year for Christians throughout the world. I know it doesn't improve the state of mind of those who are truly lonely, who as I wrote in the last paragraph *have nobody to talk to, to share food with, to care for, to shed tears with, or with whom to share valued memories*, but it does give them hope that things will get better. If we as Christians are going to change the world, just as the Resurrection of Jesus did, we have to continue to think about the lonely, and those less fortunate than ourselves, and to give them the expectation that life can get better. All we have to do is prove it!

David

100 years of the PCC



It's a hundred years since parish churches gained the power to run their own affairs, separately from what we now regard as local government.

The religious affairs of a parish, as well as its secular business had been controlled by a single committee, which met in the church and was known as the 'Vestry'. Then, in 1894, Parish Councils were formed to deal with secular matters; the Vestry continued to oversee church affairs until 1921, when

Parochial Church Councils (PCC) were established. People still get confused by the two.

Churchwardens have been around since the 13th Century and legally 'own' the movable contents of the church. They are meant to maintain order in the church and churchyard, with the assistance of their staves, if necessary. In the event of serious disorder today, a mobile phone might be a safer instrument, with staves reserved for ceremonial occasions! Churchwardens are now chosen by parishioners, though the Incumbent (ie Vicar or Rector) has a limited right of veto.

Today, anyone on the Electoral Roll of the church (sorry, this is another confusion, for the secular Electoral Roll is entirely separate) can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which elects the PCC. The Incumbent is an *ex officio* member, as are other licensed clergy and Churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod, plus any member of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod who lives in the parish or is on the Roll. The Incumbent chairs the PCC, which elects a Vice-Chair and appoints a Standing Committee to transact business between meetings.

The purpose of a PCC, which must meet at least four times a year, is to consult together with the Incumbent "on matters of general concern and importance to the parish", and that includes the "whole mission of the Church". Did you know that changes to the forms of service, or the vesture or the minister, can only happen after consultation?

Inevitably, money and building maintenance take up a lot of room on the Agenda, though we all know they are less important than mission. It's a real challenge for every PCC member to pray for non-churchgoing parishioners and to find imaginative ways of introducing them to Christ and His Church.

If you've got this far and are a member of your PCC - congratulations - you are a hundred years old this year!

The Venerable John Barton



Alphege – the archbishop taken captive by Danes

Alphege is the saint for anyone who refuses to let others suffer on their behalf.

His is a tale of courage and self-sacrifice, with some details that are still poignant, even down 1000 years of history.

Alphege began like many other leading churchmen of his time; born of a noble family, with a good education, he decided to become a monk. Alphege joined the Benedictine Abbey at Deerhurst in Gloucestershire, and then became a hermit at Bath, before becoming Abbot of Bath. From there, he was appointed to be Bishop of Winchester, where he was loved for his frugal lifestyle and great generosity towards others.

In 954 King Ethelred the Unready sent Alphege as a peace envoy to the Danes, seeking some relief from the constant Viking raids against England. Alphege secured a time of peace, and in 1006 was made the 29th Archbishop of Canterbury.

But the Viking raids increased again, until the south of England was largely overrun. In 1012 they surrounded Canterbury, and with the help of a treacherous archdeacon, Elfmaer, captured and imprisoned Alphege. A vast sum was demanded by his captors, so much that it would have ruined the people of Canterbury. And so Alphege refused to be ransomed.

This infuriated the Danes, who wanted the gold of Canterbury, not the Archbishop. After seven months of ill-treating him, one night they got very drunk and began pelting him with ox-bones from their feast, until in a frenzy they hacked him to death with an axe.

Alphege was mourned as a national hero and venerated as a martyr: he had given his life in order to protect his people from harm.

Parish Pump

Guilty Verdict

A woman was found guilty in traffic court and when asked for her occupation she said she was a schoolteacher. The judge rose from the bench. 'Madam, I have waited years for a schoolteacher to appear before this court.' He then smiled with delight. 'Now sit down at that table and write "I will not run a red light" one hundred times.'

Easter Story Biscuits for Young Children



Preparation Time: 20 minutes

Total Time: 1 day

Ingredients:

110 grams of pecan nuts, 5 grams vinegar, 3 egg whites, 1 pinch salt, 200 grams sugar, large plastic bag, wooden spoon, tape, Bible

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 150C

Place pecans in the plastic bag and let the children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far the ingredients are not very appetising...

Add sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Ps. 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the colour white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts.

Drop by teaspoons onto non-stick baking parchment-covered baking sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.

Put the baking sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.

St Mary's Sunday School



As we have entered another circuit-breaker lockdown in March, we have only been able to have one Sunday School meeting in the hall on the 21st February. It was lovely to see everybody again for a catch-up but also to think about the season of Lent. Before we went into the hall, the children who had attended Messy Church the day before were able to show the congregation the various things they had made at Messy Church on the theme of the Good Samaritan, all

about loving our neighbour.

We started our Sunday School session by talking about Shrove Tuesday (we had all been enjoying our pancakes!), Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent as a time of preparation for Easter. We watched a short video about Jesus being tempted in the wilderness and how He was using the Word of God to resist the devil and withstand all the temptations. We then played a game where we looked at various temptations we may be facing in our daily life and how we would respond (e.g. if we found a £10 note on the pavement, if a friend asked us to watch a movie that wasn't suitable for our age etc.) – some of these were quite challenging, but the children were all very honest! We moved on to talking about what can help us make the right decision in these situations, e.g. to think about 'What would Jesus do?' or 'What would Jesus want me to do in this situation?' and that it's always good to ask God in prayer when we're not sure what to do, and trust that He will nudge and guide us to the right decision.

We also had a brief look at the 'Armour of God,' especially the Shield of Faith which can protect us, and the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, which can help us in difficult and tempting situations. We were planning to make our own Shields of Faith and Swords of the Spirit in the following weeks, but unfortunately that will have to wait for now.

Since the start of Lockdown #3, we have already had one enjoyable Zoom meeting with Bible quizzes and games, and we are planning to have another one this Sunday. On Mothering Sunday, we had a 'week off,' so that the children could enjoy the morning with their mums and families and listen to the podcast service if they wanted - many thanks again to Thomas for reading the first lesson for that service – well done!

While we don't know at this point when we will be able to have church services in person again, we hope and pray that we will all be united in spirit on Good Friday to remember that Jesus died for us on the cross, and on Easter Sunday to celebrate with great joy the glorious resurrection of our Saviour! Alleluia, Jesus is alive!

At this difficult time of uncertainty, may we draw strength and comfort from our faith in Christ and from God's promise that He will always be with us and will never forsake us.

May God bless you all this Easter and keep you safe,

Claudia König



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



March was set to be a very busy month for both churches, with Mothering Sunday and the Mariner's Service, plus many other events, having to be cancelled. We pray we can return to both churches for Easter Sunday. Similarly we hope that we can also resume the regular activities that take place each month throughout the parish.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter.

Gerry Callister

Kentraugh Mill – A Date for your Diary

National Mills Weekend is the second weekend of May.

Kentraugh Mill will be open on

Saturday 8th May from 10am to 5pm., and Sunday 9th May from 11am to 5pm

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

Refreshments are available. No charge is made, but donations are invited for the United Society, Partners in Global Mission

This is an ancient building and the machinery will be running.

Visitors come at their own risk.

Enquiries: 832406

Divine Intervention?

A little boy was playing outside with his mother's broom in the garden. That night his mother realised her broom was still missing and asked her son to go out and bring it in. When the little boy confessed he was afraid of the dark, his mother tried to comfort him: 'The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid.'

Hesitantly, the little boy opened the back door and peered out. He called softly: 'Lord, since you're out there already, please will you pass me the broom?'

Sudoku April 2021

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

Saying good-bye

An inexperienced curate was sent to do a graveside burial for a homeless man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, he made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the backhoe was next to the open hole, and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch. When the curate looked into the open grave and even found the vault lid was already in place, he felt very guilty. The homeless man deserved something, even though it was late. And so, the curate delivered an impassioned burial service, sending the deceased into the great beyond in some style. The workmen looked on in silence, but as the curate returned to his car, he overheard one of the workmen remark: 'I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years and I ain't never seen anything like that!'

March Sudoku Solution

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

March Crossword Solution

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

23rd April – St George and Hiccup and the dragon



Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this

friendship, the people, and dragons eventually learn to live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

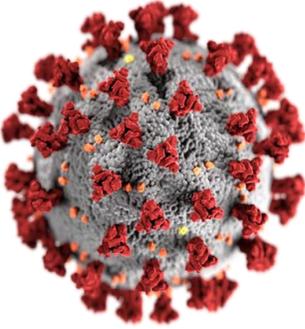
Parish Pump

Easter Prayer

Dear generous, loving Father, how can we thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus, for His life of obedience and servanthood, for His choosing to die that agonising death on a cruel cross, so that we can be forgiven, and most of all for His death-defeating resurrection on the first Easter morning and the gift of His Spirit to those who put their trust in Him? We can't possibly thank you adequately Lord, but we want to try! Thank you, thank you Father, that Jesus, our Servant-King is alive, Lord of heaven and earth - and yet still serving us, so that we too can live and serve. Help us to be your Easter people and live lives of faithful witness to the living Lord, empowered by your Holy Spirit, building in all that we think, say or do for your kingdom to come. Hallelujah!

Amen

Covid-19: should we have sacrificed the economy, or us?



This article refers to the UK government and its handling of the pandemic. Here on the island our government has had to manage the situation too, so what is written here is applicable to us:

Suppose the Government had chosen an entirely different policy for dealing with coronavirus. Instead of instructing us to wash our hands, observe social distancing, locking us down, and issuing other restrictions, it had let the pandemic run its course? Hundreds of thousands of people would have died: mainly those who were old, as well as some younger people with pre-existent health deficiencies.

As these potential casualties were already costing the National Health Service much more per head than anyone else, their (slightly) premature deaths would have saved the Exchequer billions and freed up resources to improve the health and standard of living for the rest of the more vigorous population. Only the fittest would have survived. Isn't that the law of nature?

Instead, the policy was deliberately to sacrifice the economy. At all costs, human beings were to be saved, whatever their longer-term prospects. Consequently, many businesses have gone under, unemployment has shot up and may get worse when the dust clears. Family relationships have been curbed, children may have lost a year's schooling, and leisure, hospitality and travel have been hampered.

Why? Why choose this policy and not that?

The answer is a religious one. Perhaps without realising why, policy-makers chose to act as though each human being has a value which can't be measured by their state of health or wealth or status. That's not what 'nature' intends. It's what the Christian faith demands. Everyone, everyone without exception, is unique and marked with God's image. Everyone has the potential for adoption as a child of God. Christ died for each one. You can't put a price on that.

Some countries have this faith ingrained in their national character. Some do not. In some, life is cheap, disposable and valued only by its usefulness for production or warfare. The fittest survive. Even then some are sacrificed as warriors, like suicide bombers paying the price of an ideology.

Christianity doesn't happen by accident. It is the outcome of missionary activity and the conversion of one-time unbelievers. They then saw other people in a new light: equally worth saving, whatever the cost.

Dreadful as it is, Covid-19 will eventually be controlled. In its wake will be a history of survival, not of the fittest, but of the God-given value of every human being.

John Barton

Time to wake up the Vegetable Garden

By Perfect Plants Ltd. Perfectplants.co.uk
 Deliveries to your UK door: Houseplants, garden plants
 and gifts for the garden lover



April brings warming soils and hopefully air temperatures too – although it's not uncommon to have a little snow this month! But, generally, we should be able to get outside to organise a great season of growing.

Here's a checklist of possibilities to whet your kitchen gardening appetite:

- Plant onion sets early in the month, ensuring they are up to 10cm apart, with the tips only just visible above the soil line.
- Asparagus crowns need to be planted by the end of this month.
- Don't consider planting any more bare-root fruit bushes as they will have already awoken from dormancy by now. You can, however, plant container grown specimens all year round provided you water them. This includes fruit trees.
- Most herbs can go outside, apart from really tender and young seedlings.
- Plant second early and maincrop potatoes, after they have been chitted.
- Any peas and broad bean seedlings that you have started off indoors can be planted out this month. Always keep an eye on the weather, however, as they might need to be covered during cold temperatures.
- Kale, marrows, pumpkins, sprouting broccoli, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, strawberries and grape vines can also be planted outside, when the soil is feeling warm.

Harvesting in April

- The fun is only just starting! One of the highlights of the month is asparagus. When you see spears pushing their way through the soil, it's time to rejoice. Cut them when they are about the thickness of an average finger.

- Harvest spring cabbages, new season spinach, leeks and rhubarb. The latter is 'pulled' rather than cut. Just grip the stalks and twist.
- Early spring onions are at their tastiest if picked when they are small during April – they're ideal in salads.
- Spring cauliflowers need to be harvested before the heads discolour. It's just about the end of their season, so make the most of them.
- It's the same for sprouting broccoli and last year's kale.

Keeping your patch healthy and 'veg-ready'

- This month is the last lull before everything takes off with a spring burst. Prepare now and your growing season will be easier to manage.
- Put up your pea and bean supports, prepare your soil by removing weeds and create a fine tilth in your seed beds. You can even cover it with hessian, old carpet or recycled plastic until you're ready to plant.
- Open cold frames during the day if you are using them. Harden off any plants grown under cover or indoors by putting them outside during the warmer hours and protecting at night.
- Bear in mind crop rotation – never attempt to grow the same vegetable in exactly the same place. It can lead to an over-burden of disease.
- Water newly planted fruit and vegetables, little and often.
- If you have apricots, peaches or nectarines, protect the blossom from frost. You could even consider hand-pollinating the flowers later this month, too.
- Once the leaf buds on cherry and plum trees have opened, it's time to prune these. They are less likely to be attacked by silver leaf fungus when they are actively growing.

Grow your own, garden plants, houseplants and garden products delivered to your door from Perfectplants.co.uk



True story

Several years ago, a notice appeared on the vestry noticeboard of a church in Hampshire, after a Holy Week performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion'. The choirmaster wrote "The Crucifixion – well done, everyone!" Later that day, someone had added, 'The Resurrection – well done, God!'

All in the month of April



1900 years ago, on 26th April 121, Marcus Aurelius, Emperor of Rome (161-180AD) and Stoic philosopher (whose works are still read today), was born. He was the last of the rulers known as the Five Good Emperors, and the last emperor of the Pax Romana, an age of relative peace and stability for the Roman Empire.

500 years ago, on 27th April 1521, Ferdinand Magellan, Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition to circumnavigate the earth, died at the hands of natives in the Philippines. He was aged 41.

300 years ago, on 3rd April 1721, Robert Walpole became the first British Prime Minister.

250 years ago, on 13th April 1771, Richard Trevithick, British mining engineer and inventor of the first steam locomotive, was born.

125 years ago, from 6th to 15th April 1896, the first modern Summer Olympic Games were held in Athens. The original Olympics were banned by the Roman Emperor Theodosius (I or II) in either 393 or 426 AD.

95 years ago, on 21st April 1926, Queen Elizabeth II was born in Mayfair, London. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York. Her father became King on the abdication of his brother King Edward VIII in 1936, from which time Elizabeth was the heir presumptive.

90 years ago, on 14th April 1931, the first edition of the Highway Code was published in the UK.

80 years ago, on 12th April 1941, Bobby Moore, British footballer, was born. He was Captain of the English team that won the 1966 World Cup and died in 1993.

70 years ago, on 17th April 1951, the Peak District National Park was established. It was Britain's first national park.

60 years ago, on 11th April 1961, Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann went on trial in Jerusalem. He was convicted on 12th September and executed in June 1962.

50 years ago, on 6th April 1971, Igor Stravinsky, Russian composer, died. He was one of the most important and influential composers of the 20th century.

40 years ago, on 11th April 1981, the Brixton riot took place in London. 5,000 youths rampaged through the streets, attacking police officers and damaging buildings, looting shops and setting cars alight.

30 years ago, on 3rd April 1991, Graham Greene, novelist, short story writer, playwright and journalist died. Author of *Brighton Rock*, *Our Man in Havana* and many more.

20 years ago, on 7th April 2001, NASA launched its Mars Odyssey spacecraft to search for evidence of life and volcanic activity on Mars. It went into orbit around Mars and remains operational (though it will run out of propellant in 2025). It is the longest surviving continually active spacecraft orbiting another planet.

10 years ago, on 29th April 2011, the wedding of Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton took place at Westminster Abbey in London. They were given the titles the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Easter Hope



“So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark.”

These are words from the Archbishop of Canterbury’s sermon on Easter Day 2020. Who would have thought that we are experiencing the same uncertainties this Easter!

Yet the Easter story remains one of hope overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning with mixed emotions, as they came to anoint Jesus’ body. *‘But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.’* (Mark 16:4). They were confused, as they tried to make sense of Jesus’ death. Their hopes were dashed with an uncertain future. In the current pandemic, we too are left asking: *Where is God in all this?*

The young man at the tomb reminds them that God is still in control: *“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”* (Mark 16:6).

The women had forgotten Jesus’ promise to the disciples that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus’ resurrection is also the sure foundation of hope for us in the present crisis. He turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder! We can trust Jesus’ plan for the future of our world and lives, despite the fact that things can’t return to the way they were: *“There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it, build it, make it, grasp it, because it is the gift of God and the call of God.”* (Justin Welby).

Canon Paul Hardingham

Mars Bar Cake

This quick and easy cake is a favourite in many families and is a fun recipe for sweet-toothed readers to try after Lent...

Ingredients: 3 Mars bars; 150g butter; 150g rice crispies; 150g chocolate

Method: In a pan, slowly melt the Mars bars and butter together. Remove from the heat and add the rice crispies, a little at a time, until they are covered with the mixture. Spread mixture onto a baking sheet and place in the fridge until hard. Melt the chocolate and cover the mixture with it. Return to the fridge for a further half an hour. Cut into pieces.

From the Registers

Funerals February 2021

Tuesday 2 nd February	@ 11am	St Catherine's	Jean Kershaw
Thursday 4 th February	@ 11.30am	Kirk Christ	Barbara S Kniveton

Baptism February 2021

Sunday 21 st February	@ 11am	St Catherine's	Hugo J A Tipper
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An Easter Prayer

Dear generous, loving Father, how can we thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus, for His life of obedience and servanthood, for His choosing to die that agonising death on a cruel cross, so that we can be forgiven, and most of all for His death-defeating resurrection on the first Easter morning and the gift of His Spirit to those who put their trust in Him? We can't possibly thank you adequately Lord, but we want to try! Thank you, thank you Father, that Jesus, our Servant-King is alive, Lord of heaven and earth - and yet still serving us, so that we too can live and serve. Help us to be your Easter people and live lives of faithful witness to the living Lord, empowered by your Holy Spirit, building in all that we think, say or do for your kingdom to come. Hallelujah! Amen

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



Give your house an M.O.T.



It's Spring, and time to venture outside – to take a really good look at your house. How has it survived the winter? A spokesman for the National Home Improvement Council says: "For most of us, our homes are our biggest single investment. We need to look after them well."

There are a number of things to look for:

Roof space: Venture up into your loft and check for signs of leaks through tiles or roof linings. Check timbers are sound, dry and free from woodworm.

Walls: Are your airbricks clear? Are there any cracks in your brickwork? Check for crumbling bricks, often caused by frost and loose rendering.

Chimneys and flues: If you don't fancy climbing up onto your roof, why not beg or borrow a pair of binoculars off someone and check for broken pots, missing pointing and loose chimney seals. Make sure your flues are clear from debris.

Gutters and pipes: Make sure that all your gutters and pipes are clear of twigs and leaves. You'll be surprised where last year's fallen leaves have ended up! Also, check for leaks in downpipes, as these can cause damp patches.

Floors: Many of us now have timber floors. Check for undue springiness – which can be a sign of rotting or weakened joints. Inspect your skirting boards for rot and woodworm.

Doors and windows: Check for rot or corrosion, missing putty and flaking paint. Make sure they open and close properly and are not warped. Check your locks for wear.

Paths: Finally, wander around the paths outside your house. Check for loose paving or broken slabs – a potential hazard. If you find problems, lay new paving – soon!

Most of these checks are things that you can carry out yourself. But if in doubt about your roof, your heating or your electricity, it is far better to call in an expert.

Parish Pump

Lot's wife

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.'

His son looked up, concerned. 'What happened to the flea?'

God and the Arts

Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest



*Editor: **The Rev Michael Burgess** continues his series on God and the Arts with a look at **'The Supper at Emmaus'** by **Caravaggio**. It now hangs in the National Gallery.*

I like the story of the vestry noticeboard of a church in Hampshire: after a Holy Week performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion', the choirmaster wrote: "The Crucifixion" – well done, everyone! Later that day, someone had added, 'The Resurrection – well done, God!'

For the two disciples treading the road to Emmaus, there was no such sense of victory and celebration. Their minds and hearts were numb with the sense of loss and failure. They had seen their Lord tried and crucified. As Luke recounts that walk in his Gospel, he shows how it began with absence and loss, but journeyed to presence. It was a road that took the disciples from blindness and despair to sight and insight. They talked over past events with the stranger who joined them, and Luke uses ten different Greek words to describe that conversation – all stages in their understanding. And when they share a meal with the stranger, who becomes the host, taking the bread and giving thanks, then the understanding becomes vision and insight.

That meal is the theme of Caravaggio's painting of 1601, 'The Supper at Emmaus.' Caravaggio had a reputation for being a violent, irrational artist, given to bouts of anger and forced to spend part of his life in exile in Naples and Sicily. His paintings as well as his lifestyle shocked and provoked comment. This portrayal of Jesus with a plump, youthful face and his depiction of the apostles as ordinary labourers upset the church authorities. But by giving Jesus a beardless face, Caravaggio was trying to show Him in the new likeness of Resurrection – an Easter image of our Lord. The light from that Easter Jesus fills the scene as the two disciples look on, astonished and finally understanding.

When we read the Gospel, we are drawn into the scene. For Caravaggio the movement is the other way: the scene reaches out to us from the canvas. Look at the outstretched hand of Jesus, the elbow of one disciple and the left hand of the other: they are being projected into our world. And that basket of fruit, full of apples and figs and grapes, symbols of the fall and the eucharist: it is about to topple off the table and into our laps. It is an Easter encounter two thousand years ago, reaching out to us through light and shade and the skill of the artist.

In many ways the Gospel story in Luke is of an ordinary encounter between travellers and a stranger. But it is made extraordinary by the transforming power of the risen Lord, talking with the disciples in the open air and then going inside for a meal. However, the doors are not shut to us. For Caravaggio shows how that special moment of encounter for the two disciples can reach out to enter our world. And he shows the hand of the risen Lord beckoning us to step into that Easter world of sacrament and new life.

Children's Page

The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY



HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

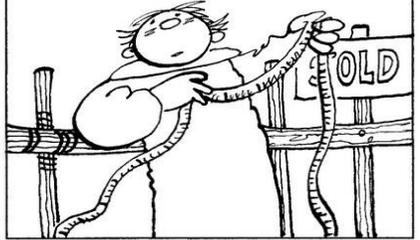


OH!
NO!!

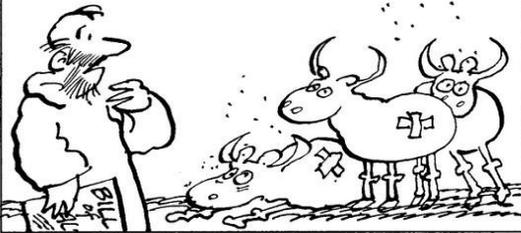


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!



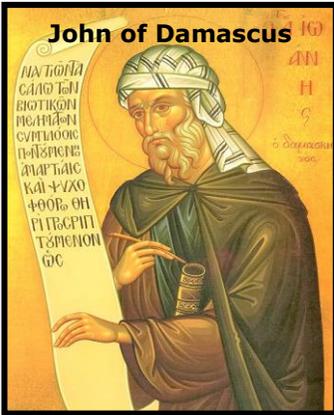
SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN
COME TO YOUR
PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

The Story Behind the Hymn



The day of resurrection!
 Earth, tell it out abroad;
 The Passover of gladness,
 The Passover of God!
 From death to life eternal,
 From earth unto the sky,
 Our Christ hath brought us over
 With hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
 That we may see aright
 The Lord in rays eternal
 Of resurrection light;
 And list'ning to His accents,
 May hear so calm and plain,
 His own "All hail!" and, hearing,
 May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful!
 Let earth the song begin!
 Let the round world keep triumph,
 And all that is therein!
 Let all things seen and unseen
 Their notes in gladness blend,
 For Christ the Lord hath risen,
 Our joy that hath no end.

The Day of Resurrection

"The Day of Resurrection" explodes with Easter triumph! The original language is Greek. This is one of the few hymns that we sing with roots so deep in Christianity.

St. John Damascene, known also as John of Damascus, (circa 750) lived at the end of the seventh century and well into the eighth. There is a suggestion that he might have lived to be over 100 years of age. His excellent literary and philosophical education in Damascus no doubt contributed to his renown as the author of liturgical hymns in Constantinople, the seat of eastern Christianity.

Tradition suggests that he was a monk at the St. Sabbas Monastery. This is a historically significant site overlooking the Kidron Valley, halfway between the Dead Sea and the Old City of Jerusalem. Greek scholar, Vass Conticello, places John of Damascus at Jerusalem Cathedral where he was the theological advisor of Patriarch John V of Jerusalem. Though most likely buried at St. Sabbas, his relics were moved to Constantinople at a later date.

There is no doubt, however, that John of Damascus was one of the most important hymnographers of the Byzantine (Eastern) Church. His name appears often in manuscripts, although not all the hymns attributed to him may have been his. It was a common practice during this time, and indeed for hundreds of years after this, to ascribe the name of a famous or acclaimed author (or even composer) to a work.

Verse one of "The Day of Resurrection" reminds us that Easter is the second Passover, the first Passover is described in Exodus 12. The second verse introduces the important theme of "resurrection light," which is recalled by the description of the ancient Easter rite of the "blaze of light from thousands of tapers," a symbol of life conquering death, goodness overcoming evil. The cosmic antiphonal chorus begins verse three. Throughout Christian hymnody, one may find the cosmic song beginning in heaven followed by earth's response. Indeed, the Resurrection is a singular event of universal significance. The verse continues with an allusion to the opening statement of belief in the Nicene Creed: "We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen." In the spirit of this creedal affirmation, John's great hymn concludes in eternal praise.

C. Michael Hawn

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

Dear Lord, we thank you for the seasons and the changing weather we experience in each one of them. We look forward to the warmer weather now that April is here, for the spring flowers and the changing countryside that you have created for us to enjoy. Help us to realise that without you none of these things would occur. Amen

April 2021

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st The beauty of springtime and the new life that it brings to us all
- 2nd All those who attend the home groups that are arranged within the parish
- 3rd Gerry Callister for all his work as churchwarden, and his devotion to the parish
- 4th Engaged couples preparing to be married this year
- 5th The work of the Royal Lifeboat Institution in its aim to save lives of people in distress
- 6th The gift of love, given to us by God
- 7th Our sidespeople who work tirelessly for the parish
- 8th All the work carried out by those involved in the parish with the Mothers' Union
- 9th That everyone will say safe throughout the world during the Coronavirus Pandemic
- 10th Those who have served the parish for many years and now reside in care homes
- 11th The responsibility given to people who care for those who are terminally ill
- 12th The use of talents, given by God to us, as we pursue our daily lives
- 13th All people who are persecuted for their beliefs
- 14th Help for all those around the world who are hungry
- 15th Peace throughout the world
- 16th Those who intercede at all services within the parish
- 17th Children who have been orphaned and their hope for the future
- 18th The work of teachers and their assistants in our primary and secondary schools
- 19th Those who decorate our churches with floral displays
- 20th Those people in need of financial help in times of trouble
- 21st Queen Elizabeth, Lord of Man, and her 95th birthday which is today
- 22nd Those elected into positions of responsibility on the Parochial Church Council
- 23rd St George, the Patron Saint of England, who is remembered today
- 24th Farmers and farm workers, preparing the land for profitable harvests
- 25th The Children's Society and the wonderful work that it does
- 26th Stephen Curtis for all the work he's doing as Treasurer to the PCC
- 27th Young sportsmen and women preparing to partake in sporting activities
- 28th Parishioners and others who give of their time to keep our churches clean
- 29th People who are moving to a new house either here on the island or across the water
- 30th The tourist industry and the preparations being made for the summer months

Services April 2021

4th April (Easter Day)	6.30am	Kirk Christ Dawn Service
	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Holy Communion(CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
7th April	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise
11th April (Easter 2)	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)
18th April (Easter 3)	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)
25th April (Easter 4)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer + Baptism (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
2nd May (Easter 5)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion(CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
5th May	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise
9th May (Easter 6)	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/or cancelled
 (CW) Common Worship (BCP) Book of Common Prayer

Contact Details for Rushen Parish cont'd....

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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

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

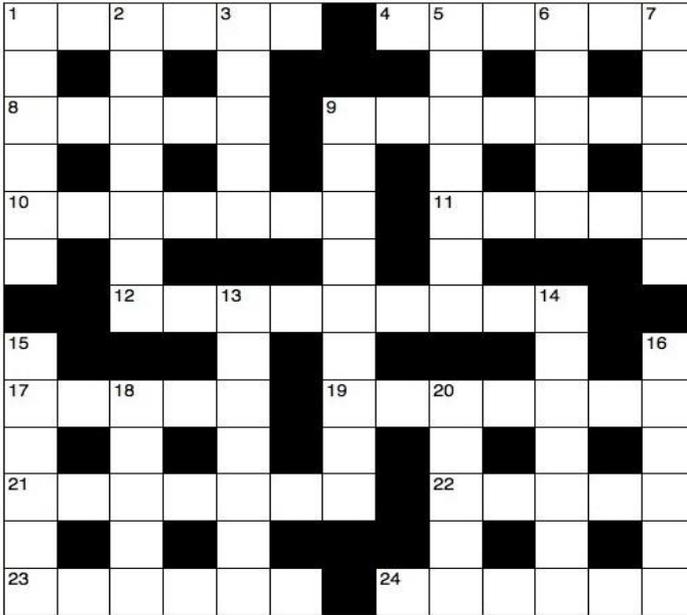
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Mr M D Porter, 10 Fairway Drive, Rowany, Port Erin 832143

Churchyard Enquiries:

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

Crossword April 2021



Across

- 1** Relating to the whole universe (6)
4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
12 Repossessed (Gen 14:16) (9)
17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Ex 34:29) (7)
21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)

- 24** 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1** Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
7 He reps (anag.) (6)
9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
15 The human mind or soul (6)
16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
20 Bared (anag.) (5)