

Rushen Parish Magazine

August 2021

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord.
“Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”



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A Letter from Liz



Dear Friends

As some of you know and some of you may not realise a Curacy is normally only a fixed term arrangement, especially as I do not live in the Parish. So later this year I will be saying farewell and wishing you every blessing as I move to pastures new – still on the island.

For those of you who don't know I have lived here for 32 years and Steve my husband is Manx and as he tells me my children are too. So, we have no plans to live anywhere else. I am most definitely a Stop-Over! But as you are also aware I live in Douglas and so as my time of being a Curate draws to a close, I will be working closer to home in the future.

I am really happy to take this opportunity to tell you all what a wonderful Parish you have been for me to spend my three-year Curacy in. You have been so welcoming and provided me with a huge diversity of experience with your four very different churches and congregations as well as challenging my ability to learn new names!! For those of you whose names I haven't mastered yet I apologise as I am like a bear with a small brain as Winnie the Pooh might have said.

I really have enjoyed spending time with all of you in your different church settings and in our joint services together too, as well as with the Rushen Roamers and Soup Inn and the many other less frequent church social events.

Of course we all know what a challenging time this has been and I have felt very privileged to accompany many of you through some difficult journeys (as many of you have accompanied me on my own after the loss of my mother last year). And I have been blessed at getting to know some of you much more deeply as I have come alongside you at home with Home Communion, prayers and as you have said farewell to your own loved ones

I want to encourage you all to continue to be a welcoming parish and to walk alongside each other in faith and love.

Wishing you every blessing – God bless

Liz

The Transfiguration of Jesus (6th August)



It's an unusual story. One day, Jesus is with three disciples on a high mountain in Galilee, when His appearance dramatically changes. Also, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear, and from a cloud comes the voice of God. What is this all about?

This event was witnessed by James, Peter, and John. They were close friends of Jesus. In the future, they were to become prominent leaders in the Early Church. They needed to see something special that would help them remember Jesus in the difficult years ahead. They had a glimpse of Christ in His divine glory. His face shone like the sun and His clothes turned white as light.

While this was an extraordinary sight for the disciples, it served to encourage Jesus who once had glory and majesty in Heaven. One day He would have it again. But firstly, He had to fulfil His mission: to suffer on the cross and die.

Why were Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus? Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah represented all the prophets. They had pointed people to the promised Messiah. Jesus was about to complete God's plan of salvation.

God's voice was heard to remind Peter there was no need to build shelters. They were not going to stay on the mountain. God spoke to get the disciples to fix their attention of Jesus. The wonder of the Transfiguration was a short interlude before Jesus had to return to His work and subsequent death on the cross.

This story is a reminder that our times of spiritual blessing have to be followed by down-to-earth commitments and responsibilities. In the same way that Jesus gave His friends a glimpse of His awesome glory, to help them face challenging and traumatic times ahead, our special times in His presence are provided to encourage us and equip us for the trials we may have to face.

Our journey through life may sometimes rise to the peaks but we can't stay on a 'high' all the time – no matter how much we want it! We have to descend to face everyday challenges if we are to fulfil our calling in Christ. From *our* mountain-top experiences we all need to find a balance between times alone with God and serving Him in the company of others.

Lester Amann

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



Our last Tuesday afternoon meeting before breaking for the summer was held in St Mary's church on 13th July, with a reading and prayers, as always, followed by discussions which included: -

- the proposal of the building of a shed in the church garden for storage of tables and chairs
- the possibility of a visit in September from Paul Moores of the Leprosy Mission
- a fundraising coffee morning in October and
- a pre- Christmas lunch at the Falcon's Nest in November

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th September at 2.15pm in St Mary's church, and until then we wish the Beach Mission every success for their week in Port St Mary from 1st-7th August, and hope that everyone stays safe and well.

As the schools break up for the summer, we wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable time, and to those not in the best of health, our love and prayers.

Pat Thomson

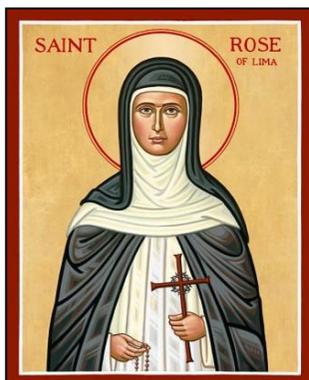
The new way of choosing candidates for ordination

From this autumn, if you want to go for ordination, you will be assessed against a new framework. The C of E is aiming to broaden the range of people who may have a ministerial vocation in the C of E.

No longer will you be evaluated against criteria, but instead you will need to demonstrate that you have 'six qualities to be inhabited'. Candidates will also now attend two national discernment events rather than one, and spend time preparing for both at diocesan level.

The changes are due to concerns that the existing framework risks missing the vocations of people of 'the unseen-and-excluded called'. Diocesan bishops, diocesan directors of ordinands (DDOs) and others have warned that the existing framework favours middle-class candidates.

The 'qualities' that the selectors will be looking for are: Love for God; Call to Ministry; Love for People; Wisdom; fruitfulness; potential. A seventh quality – 'trustworthiness' will be also looked for.



Rose of Lima - nothing was ever enough

How will you become a better person than you are now? Have you ever denied yourself in order to try and please God? No matter what your dedication, it is unlikely that your efforts will ever have outshone those of Rose of Lima (1586–1617), who in 1671 became the first saint of America, and patron of South America. Her whole life raises the issue: how do you draw closer to God?

Rose was born in Lima, Peru, in 1586, into a Spanish family that had once been rich. Her beauty earned her the name, and her character was just as attractive. She was eager to please, produced exquisite lace and embroidery, and was known for her charity.

Her parents hoped for a good marriage for her, but it was not to be. Rose did not want a husband and a place in the corrupt and wanton society of Lima at the time. Rose was an intensely spiritual person, and spent hours in contemplation of Jesus and St Mary, and took the 'Blessed Sacrament' on a daily basis. She devoted herself to prayer and simple acts of mortification. In those days 'mortification' of the flesh was seen as a way of keeping your earthly appetites under control, and therefore drawing nearer to God.

At 20, Rose joined the Third order of St Dominic, taking as her model Catherine of Siena. Her love of God continued, as did her charity to others, but now a darker side to her spirituality began to grow. Rose lived as a recluse in a hut, and increased her acts of mortification. She wanted to suffer, because she thought it would bring her closer to God.

She cut off her hair and rubbed pepper and lye into her face until it was raw and blistered. She fasted until she could hardly stand. She drank gall mixed with bitter herbs. She filled her bed with broken glass, thorns and sharp things. She wore a tight iron chain around her waist.

She embraced every penance that she could think of, and yet still she suffered at times a feeling of terrible loneliness and desolation, for God seemed far away. Then she would pray: "Lord, increase my sufferings, and with them increase your love in my heart." Sometimes she would indeed feel God near her, and then she would be in ecstasy for hours.

It is hard to explain why Rose thought she needed to inflict needless suffering on herself in order to get closer to God. One scholar has suggested that perhaps Rose wanted to "make reparation for the widespread sin and corruption" in her society at the time. She had said once that she wanted to pay for the sin of the idolatry of her countrymen.

St Mary's Sunday School



We have finished this year with our Sunday School Anniversary on 11th July. Ruth Walker from SUMT led the service on the theme of Praise (based on the alternative OT reading from 2 Samuel), and engaged the children in a variety of ways. As Ruth told the story of how David brought the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem, the children acted out the story (Ruth had brought a very fine model of the golden Ark). They carried the Ark with wooden poles, poles, played music on different instruments, danced as David did, and even gave out treats to the people (just as David had done)! The Sunday School led the congregation in singing a very upbeat Praise song "I'm gonna jump up and down" and showed the congregation how they can praise God in a variety of ways, eg by singing, by playing music, by dancing, by jumping, as well as by being creative and by using their God-given gifts to the best of their ability, including playing football or rugby!

Ruth then asked the congregation to think about and write on a post-it note 1 particular way in which each of us could praise God during the following week, and the collected notes were later offered to God as our collective praise offering. The Sunday School also led the intercessions, all reading very well, and Thomas very capably read the long epistle from Ephesians about our adoption into God's family through our faith in Christ.

Towards the end of the service, the children received their well-deserved anniversary prizes from Ruth, and we also thanked Sam Bowman with a small gift for all his help with St Mary's Sunday School over several years. We finished the service by joyfully praising God with "Jubilate!" in song and with instruments. After the service, we all enjoyed refreshments at the back of church, and we thank the members of the Ladies Working Party for providing them for us every week.

To round off the year, we had a very enjoyable and very sunny family picnic with games and plenty of yummy food at Silverdale last Sunday. We are now looking forward to our summer break, as well as Port St Mary Beach Mission, and we wish everybody a safe and blessed summer.

With love and blessings
Claudia König

Flies

A woman went into the kitchen to find her husband swatting flies. "I killed three female and two male ones," he said triumphantly. She asked him how on earth he knew that.

"Easy. Two were on my beer can, and three were on the phone."



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



Two Memorial Services were held at Kirk Christ during July. The first was for one of our former churchwardens Arthur Cregeen on 7th July. The second, held on 9th July, was for David Gawne.

For the Parish of Rushen Glenda Murphy kindly constructed a beautiful floral display for the Island's Annual Flower Festival held at the Mill, St John's, during Tynwald weekend. The event was a huge success, and on behalf of the parish I would like to thank Glenda, and those who may have helped her, for representing the parish in this way. The floral display was brought back to St Catherine's Church for those who couldn't get to St John's to see it. Visitors to the church, and those attending the weekly concert, were able to view this delightful piece. The organisers of the event are now sending a questionnaire to islanders for their opinion as to whether the event in future should be held, as this year at St John's, or as it has been in the past at churches around the island.

Services in the two churches have been well attended, and the weekly concerts and Soup Inn equally well supported.

Gerry Callister

Summer Concerts St Catherine's Church 2021 August

- 5th Val Cowley's Concert Party
- 12th Musicale
- 19th Gareth Moore & Friends
- 26th Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band

September

- 2nd Lon Dhoo Male Voice Choir
- 9th Sheeanyn Millish
- 16th Lon Vane Ladies Choir
- 23rd Rushen Silver Band

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



Sudoku August 2021

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

The purpose of the font

That Sunday our Family Service included two baptisms and many young children were there. In his talk, the Vicar asked the children if any of them knew what the font was for – and the answer came back: “For washing babies’ hair”!

July Sudoku Solution

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

July Crossword Solution

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

Anne Alexander (1938-2021)



Anne Alexander died peacefully at home on Monday 19th July after several months of increasingly debilitating illness. Her funeral will be on Tuesday 3rd August and will be followed by a Thanksgiving Service at 12.30pm later that day. It is hoped that the service will be streamed live on YouTube which can be accessed through cclh.org.uk/virtual. It is hoped that this service will include a recorded tribute from the Port St Mary Beach Mission.

Anne was born in January 1938 and adopted later that year by a cousin Miss Kathleen Turnbull of West Lodge Port Erin. Some of her earliest memories were of passing through the barrier near in Station Road into the Port Erin Alien Internment Camp for access to the shops and the beach. This would have been in about 1943 when the enclosed area of the Camp had been reduced to reflect the reduced numbers of remaining internees.

Anne was educated at the Buchan School in Castletown before leaving the Island to go to Homerton College in Cambridge at the start of a two-year Teacher Training Course. Within a few weeks she had met her future husband Nick Alexander. They met as they left a service organised by the Christian Union and their shared faith was a vital element of their subsequent 63 years of married life.

Anne and Nick were married at Kirk Christ Rushen in August 1958 and a week later Anne started her probationary year in a school at Islington in North London. Their only son John arrived a bit too soon for her to complete this probationary year. In 1961, the family moved to Potters Bar where Anne resumed her interrupted teaching career, initially at a private Pre-Preparatory School and then in a State Primary School.

Towards the end of 1965, Nick was moved up to Leeds with Anne and John joining him there in the following April. Anne found a teaching post in the same school as the where John was enrolled as a pupil. Early in 1968, Nick's work was moved again this time to British Rail Headquarters in London. The family moved back to a different part of Potters Bar and Anne started teaching at Stormont, a private primary school in the town. They joined Christ Church Little Heath and soon became involved Anne with youth work and pastoral care and Nick leading worship as a Reader.

They made annual holiday visits to the Island usually staying with Miss Turnbull at West Lodge and timing their visits to coincide with the Port St Mary Beach Mission. After Miss Turnbull died in 1994, Anne inherited West Lodge and other property in the south

of the Island and in August 1996 she used a major part of this inheritance to buy Mallmore. This was to become a replacement for the former Scripture Union base at Dublin House which could no longer accommodate the growing number of workers needed to cater for the increasing number of children attending the Mission.

Mallmore was transferred to a newly-formed Gansey Charitable Trust with Anne and Nick working together to raise money and to manage its repair and improvements to its facilities to meet current Tourist Board regulations. They ran it as a Guest House in the months when it was not being used by the Beach Mission Team. After ten years they handed over their Trusteeship to the Beach Team leaders and they were delighted to see how use of the building flourished when it became the base for SUMT's work on the Island.

Meanwhile across in England, Anne participated fully in ecumenical work with the Potters Bar Council of Churches, of which she was twice Chairman, and many other less formal contacts between Christians in London and the South-East. In April 2011, Anne and Nick attended the Royal Maundy Service in Westminster Abbey as guests of the Diocese of Sodor and Man and had the pleasure of witnessing friends from the Island receiving their gifts from the Queen.

After retiring from the Gansey Charitable Trust, Anne bought a house in Ponyfields Port Erin as a base for frequent visits to the Island. The house provided much-appreciated accommodation for summer visitors for several years but her increasing difficulty in travelling made it necessary to sell the house and she was fortunate in completing the sale in January 2020 shortly before the Covid-19 restrictions came into force.

Anne will be fondly remembered not just by her family but also by the many people benefitting from her pastoral care in and around Potters Bar and by many of the older generation in the south-west of the Island.

Nick Alexander

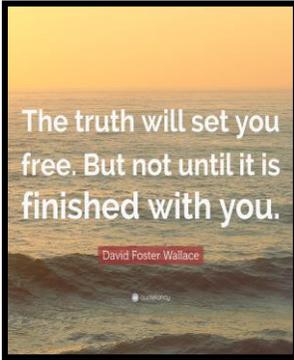
The Queen on York Minster

York Minster is to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year with a statue of the monarch, placed in a niche high on its medieval west front.

The figure of the queen will be slightly larger than life, and she will be holding the historic symbols of monarchy: the orb and sceptre. She will be the first British monarch to have reigned for 70 years.

The statue will be the centre point of a makeover of the open space in front of the Minster, where a new Queen Elizabeth Square is to be created. More details are expected in the autumn.

Five things we've learnt about Truth in the pandemic



I'm involved in a project rooted in the Church of England's St Albans diocese, north of London. We bring together people from a range of backgrounds and faiths to address the question 'Where is Truth now?' A vital issue for us from recent months has been 'How has truth fared during the pandemic? Here are five key points:

Truth can save your life.

Knowing the truth about the Covid-19 virus and vaccines gave vital protection during the pandemic. The advice of scientists, health professionals and researchers has been widely sought out and debated. But we've also seen a rise in conspiracy theories, anti-vaccination campaigns and growing confusion as people challenge the extent of the pandemic, and whether Covid-19 is really a threat. Social media algorithms stand accused of spreading misinformation faster than reliable facts and corrections.

Truth comes from trust.

Knowing who to trust is one of the fastest growing challenges facing anyone wanting to know more about the pandemic and its causes. While faith in doctors and scientists is generally good, trust in politicians has remained low, and scepticism and confusion are growing.

Truth can be found on your doorstep – but not always.

Local information has become more important, especially during lockdowns. But with local newspapers and radio in decline, neighbourhood social media networks have been taking their place, spreading information – not all of it verifiable and sometimes incorrect. Often, it's fear that drives our response to the stories we read. We eagerly consume stories highlighting a new 'threat' from Covid or scapegoating people not keeping to the lockdown rules. We respond emotionally, 'with our gut' – rather than our brain or intellect.

Truth has to be valued and protected.

Reliable, trusted journalism has been at a premium. ITV News journalist Julie Etchingham defended the role of the media during Covid-19. The news presenter, a practising Roman Catholic, explained: "Many in our front-line services and the wider public are demanding answers. We are there on their behalf." In December 2020, Yorkshire Post editor James Mitchinson, published his response to a reader who believed social media posts over his newspaper's reports. The open letter, headlined 'Do not believe a stranger on social media who disappears into the night' sets out the contrast between verified public interest journalism and disinformation posted online.

Truth can be complicated – and that's ok.

Throughout the pandemic, politicians have spoken about 'following the science.' This, they have said, has guided their decision making. Yet scientists can have a range of views, based on similar research findings. It's in the discussion and debate that scientific truth arises. People accept that the 'scientific evidence' is not always straightforward. We know that truth can be complicated, from our own daily lives. So politicians who level with their electors about the complexity of the decisions are often received with more credibility. In continuing to ask the question "Where is Truth Now?" our modest project is helping to keep the conversation going – and encouraging others to do the same.

Revd Peter Crumpler



Raymond Nonnatus – redeeming slaves from a living death – 13th August

Here's a name that we are familiar with, especially those who love the television programme 'Call the Midwife'

Raymond Nonnatus (1204–40) is a good patron saint for anyone who does not take life for granted. The account of his own life begins with the story of how his mother died just before his birth, and of how Raymond was somehow extracted from her dead body just in time to save him. ('Nonnatus' means 'not born').

Raymond grew up in Portello, Catalonia and became a monk, joining the Mercedarian Order. Perhaps because of his gratitude for his own life having been spared, Raymond developed a passionate desire to see other people set free to live the lives God had given them. Whatever the reason, Raymond made the difficult and dangerous journey out to Algeria in order to redeem many slaves from a living death. So passionate was he to free them, that he even offered himself as a ransom for others' liberation.

While in Algeria, Raymond preached Christianity to the Muslims, and was put into prison, before eventually being sent back to Spain. The Pope sent for him, but Raymond was so weakened by his suffering in Algeria that he died on the way to Rome. But by then Raymond was content. Just as his life had been given back to him, so he had used it to give life back to others.

Parish Pump

All in the month of August



250 years ago, on 15th August 1771, Sir Walter Scott, Scottish historical novelist, poet, and playwright was born. His best-known works include *Ivanhoe* and *Rob Roy*. **Also on 7th August 1771**, the first recorded ascent of Ben Nevis was made. Scottish botanist James Robertson ascended Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles. Nowadays, 100,000 people per year make the ascent.

125 years ago, on 17th August 1896, the death of the first person killed in a motor accident in the UK took place. Bridget Driscoll was crossing a road in the grounds of London's Crystal Palace when she was hit by a car giving demonstration rides. By way of contrast, Brake.org.uk report that nowadays, an average of five people a day die on UK roads.

90 years ago, on 19th August 1931, the Yangtze River and Huai River floods peaked in China. It was one of the worst natural disasters of the 20th century; up to four million people died, and the floods lasted from July to November.

80 years ago, on 15th August 1941, the German spy Josef Jakobs became the last person to be executed at the Tower of London. (He had parachuted into Britain during WWII.)

75 years ago, on 16th August 1946, the Great Calcutta Killings took place in Kolkata India. Muslim and Hindu mobs rioted across the city following the Muslim League's demand for the creation of Pakistan. More than 4,000 people were killed and 100,000 left homeless. The riot sparked further religious violence in other provinces, leading to the Partition of India in August 1947.

60 years ago, on 13th August 1961, East Germany sealed off the border between East and West Berlin to prevent the exodus of refugees to the West. Initially barbed wire fences were erected; construction of the Berlin Wall began on 15th August. The border reopened in 1989.

50 years ago, on 9th August 1971, Northern Ireland introduced internment, the power to detain suspected terrorists indefinitely without trial.

40 years ago, on 25th August 1981, the US space probe Voyager 2 reached Saturn and sent back images and data. It travelled to Uranus (1986) and Neptune (1989) before reaching interstellar space in 2018. 43 years after launching, it is more than 11.8 billion miles from earth, but remains operational.

30 years ago, from 19th to 21st August 1991, there was an attempted coup in the Soviet Union when hard-line members of the Communist Party tried to seize control from President Mikhail Gorbachev. The coup failed after three days and eventually led to the collapse of communism and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. On 29th August the Supreme Soviet suspended all Communist Party activities.

25 years ago, on 23rd August 1996, Saudi Arabian-born terrorist Osama bin Laden issued a fatwa entitled *A Declaration of War Against the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Places*. Few people knew who he was at the time, and it received little attention.

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Also on 28th August 1996, Prince Charles and Princess Diana were divorced after 15 years of marriage. No longer a 'Royal Highness', Princess Diana was now called Diana, Princess of Wales.

20 years ago, on 6th August 2001, US President George W Bush received a daily briefing that warned Osama bin Laden was determined to strike in the USA. (This was six weeks before the 9/11 terrorist attacks.)

10 years ago, 21st-29th August 2011, Hurricane Irene hit the Caribbean and made landfall in North Carolina. 49 people were killed and over \$14 billion worth of damage was caused.



‘Shall we not love thee, Mother dear?’ (15th August)

The Church responds with a resounding ‘Yes’ to that question, as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary on 15th August. (Usually her feast day is on the 16th.) An ancient name for this day is the transition of Mary – her crossing over to eternal life – or the assumption of Mary. But her story begins in the Gospels, in Nazareth and Bethlehem.

At the Annunciation, Gabriel announces the good news to Mary. She becomes a mother and embarks on a journey that takes her to the temple in Jerusalem, a wedding feast at Cana, the Cross of Calvary, and the upper room of Pentecost. Through Christian history her story has spoken to people in every age and culture and land.

As we look at her life now, there are two qualities that stand out. The first is thanksgiving. Mary came from a people that realised the importance of thanking God, and her response to the good news is to raise her heart in the words of the Magnificat. ‘My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour.’

The second quality is trust. Rowan Williams has written that despite the years of controversy about the place of our Lady, we still need to hold out our hands to her for guidance and succour. “For at the very least she is the first person to put her trust in God who is shown in Jesus.” Through all that happened to her – the amazing news of Gabriel, no room at the inn, the worry over wine at the wedding – Mary ponders and trusts. To the servants at Cana, she says, “Do whatever Jesus tells you. It will be all right. You will see.”

Thanksgiving and trust: easy enough to see in our Lady, but perhaps more difficult to own for ourselves. Yet Mary assures us that with God all things are possible. Holding on to that faith, we can journey with her Son through life and death to eternal life.

From the Registers

Funerals June 2021

Thursday 17 th June	@ 12 noon	St Peter's	Valerie D Grant
Friday 25 th June	@ 11am	Ashes Burial	Alec West
Friday 25 th June	@ 11.30am	Kirk Christ	Margaret Qualtrough

Fewer wasps

Noticed how peaceful your garden is this summer? Noticed that you have been able to hold summer barbecues and picnics in relative peace? That is because the very cold and wet Spring was disastrous for our wasp population.

But while we may enjoy their absence, scientists at University College London have pointed out that wasps play an important role as nature's pest controllers, and that our countryside will be the poorer without them this year.

Safeguarding

The Parish of Rushen is committed to the safeguarding, nurture and care of **everyone** within our church community. If you, or someone you know, are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk or has been harmed, or are concerned about the behaviour of someone towards children or vulnerable adults, please contact:

Rushen Parish Safeguarding Officer, Claire Jennings (Tel. 830850)

The **Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser** has now been appointed. For more details contact the diocese.

A copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy is available on the Diocesan website: http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion



Rushen Mothers' Union



At the last JMP South & West Committee meeting, we were reminded that this year sees the 145th anniversary of the founding of Mothers' Union, and also 100 years since Mary Sumner's death. The Triennial Elections will take place later this year, at which the positions of Diocesan President and Secretary need to be filled. Copies of the first edition of the Mothers' Union magazine, "Connected" and the MU Summer Newsletter have been collected and

distributed among members. Mrs Elsie Faragher has organised the printing of our Rushen branch programme from September, and will distribute copies to members.

Some dates for diaries:

JMP South & West Committee Meeting: Tues 3rd August at 10am in St John's Chapel.
(Pat will attend)

Founder's Day: Monday 9th August at 7pm in Kirk Michael, Revd Jeanette Hamer presiding and preaching.

Autumn council Meeting: Monday 20th September in St George's Church

JMP Corporate Communion jointly with Rushen Branch Opening communion: Monday 13th September at 2pm in Kirk Christ, Revd Liz Hull presiding and preaching.

Advent Service: Tues 7th December at 7pm in St Thomas's Church

With love and very best wishes to all for a happy and healthy summer

Pat Thomson

Prayer for the new day

Dear Father,

In this strangest of summers, with its traffic-light travel restrictions and on-going concerns about Covid 19, help us to remember that You never change. Your light is constant. Your love continues. Your presence is assured, whether we stay at home, or travel within the UK, or further afield. There are no restrictions on Your Holy Spirit.

Thank You, Lord, for the gift of each new day, wherever we may be. Thank You that by Your grace, we share all our days with You, secure in all circumstances, when we put our trust in Your precious son, Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

God in the Arts

The **Revd Michael Burgess** continues his series on God in the Arts with 'Jacob's Dream' by Ribera. It now hangs in the Museo del Prado, Madrid, Spain.

'The Lord is in this place'



In the 3rd century a Chinese philosopher, Chang Tsu, had a very vivid dream. He dreamed he was a butterfly, happily flying here and there. When he awoke, he thought to himself, 'Did Chang Tsu dream that he was a butterfly, or did the butterfly dream that it was Chang Tsu?' Dreams are often like that: crucial experiences which cause us to ponder and wonder about their meaning. The prophet Joel suggested that it was old men who dream dreams, while young people see visions. But dreams invade and colour our sleeping hours, whatever age we are.

In the Bible dreams are vital events. Think of Joseph in the Old Testament dreaming of his superiority among his brothers, the dreams of the cup bearer and baker at Pharaoh's court, Daniel interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dreams, and Joseph's dreams in the Gospels that were so crucial for the safety of the Holy Family. This month in our paintings we focus on 'Jacob's Dream' by Ribera.

Jusepe de Ribera was a Spanish artist, whose most productive years were spent in Naples, where he died in 1652. This painting from 1639 is based on Genesis 28. After depriving his brother Esau of his birthright, Jacob is sent to Laban. At Bethel he rested and in his sleep received the vision of God's angels on the ladder to heaven with God's reassuring words of promise and blessing. When he awoke, Jacob set up an altar at Bethel, which he declared was the house of God and the gate of heaven.

To baroque artists, this scene in Genesis was seen as a prefiguration of the coming of Jesus, and in John's Gospel Jesus Himself told Nathanael that he would see the angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man. For Ribera the subject of Jacob's dream is treated with great tenderness as Jacob sleeps beneath the luminous expanse of sky, which occupies a major part of the canvas. Not for him the depiction of winged messengers; no, the light of heaven falls down upon the sleeping figure, casting shadows on the ground. The angels, ethereal and insubstantial, are contained in the glory of light. The tree at the other side looks like a fallen cross, and Jacob almost like a sleeping disciple in Gethsemane. But here, he is in deep repose as his face is lit up with the golden glow of the heavenly messengers.

For Jacob, the dream is the golden assurance of God's blessing. As his saga continues in Genesis, he marries Laban's daughters, wrestles with the divine stranger, is given the name Israel, and his 12 sons become the ancestors of the 12 tribes of God's people. So, the blessing of the dream is worked out in his life and the life of Israel.

Dreams can come to give visions of the way life should be. Like Jacob, or perhaps like Martin Luther King and his prophetic words in 1963. In this month of August many of us will go on holiday to enjoy rest and recreation. As we end the days with sleep, we pray that like the Psalmist we will lie down in perfect peace and safety and know the refreshment Jacob found at Bethel: a repose which will restore our souls and bodies to bring life and vision wherever we may be.

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

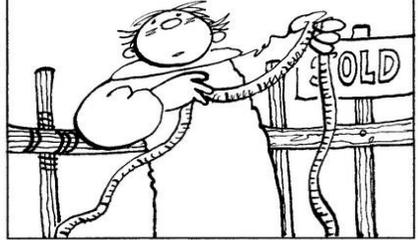


OH!
NO!!

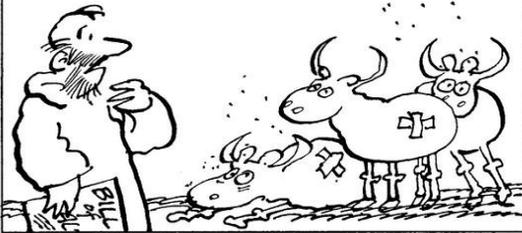


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

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



Robert Gillman

Bind us Together

**Bind us together, Lord
Bind us together
With cords that cannot be
broken
Bind us together, Lord
Bind us together
Bind us together with love**

**There is only one God
There is only one King
There is only one Body
That is why we sing**

**Made for the glory of God
Purchased by His precious Son
Born with the right to be clean
For Jesus the victory has won**

**You are the family of God
You are the promise divine
You are God's chosen desire
You are the glorious new wine**

Hymns of Christian unity are essential to the life of the church. "Bind Us Together" is a story of seeking unity amidst theological and liturgical diversity.

Robert Gillman (b. 1946), raised in the East London Borough of West Ham, calls himself "an East Ender." He received his education in the borough, including the local Catholic junior school followed by South West Ham Technical School, finishing his education at Abbs Cross Technical School in Hornchurch. His career has been as a performer, composer, and manager of a printing company.

Bob Gillman was encouraged by his parents to attend nearby Central Baptist Church in West Ham, where he made a profession of faith at age thirteen. He has had a sustained interest in music, including guitar and banjo playing as well as composition. He has authored stories for children, ages 4-7, "Tales of Upchurch Station," reflecting his interest in steam trains, that encourage children "to be kind and helpful to each other." His congregational song compositions, including "Bind Us Together" and "Jesus, You're Terrific," are in a folk style.

"Bind Us Together" was the result of a revelation in the early 1970s. He describes the story behind the song:

I was in my 20s and had been writing songs since I became a Christian at the age of 13. One evening in 1974 at a friend's house, I remember a group of us were all praying together; I had such an emotional feeling come over me, and I felt a real need to do something concerning the unity of God's people. It was then that the words "Bind Us Together" dropped into my mind; they were immediately followed by "With cords that cannot be broken," and "Bind us together with love."

Gillman wrote three original verses. The first verse, available in all sources, paraphrases the final verse of (Ephesians 4:6): "one God," "one King," "one body." The last verse of this scripture passage reminds us that through our baptism, we are all children of God, siblings in faith, because we share one parent. The final phrase of the verse "that is why we sing," articulates a theology of congregational song as a way of expressing and encouraging Christian unity, a message that never is out of date. Verse two emphasises Christ's redemption, we are "purchased by his precious Son." Verse three echoes the theme of the family of God in verse one. "You are the family of God." He concludes the third verse with the evocative phrase, "You are the glorious new wine," a reference to Luke 5:37-38.

**HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?**

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

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

**HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?**

August 2021

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

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

Services August 2021

1st August (Trinity 9)	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)
4th August	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
8th August (Trinity 10)	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)
15th August (Trinity 11)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
22nd August (Trinity 12)	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)
29th August (Trinity 13)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW) (With Bishop Peter Eagles)
1st September	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
5th September (Trinity 14)	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)
12th September (Trinity 15)	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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(Mobile: 07808254356 email: lesley@pharmaconsulting.co.uk)

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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.

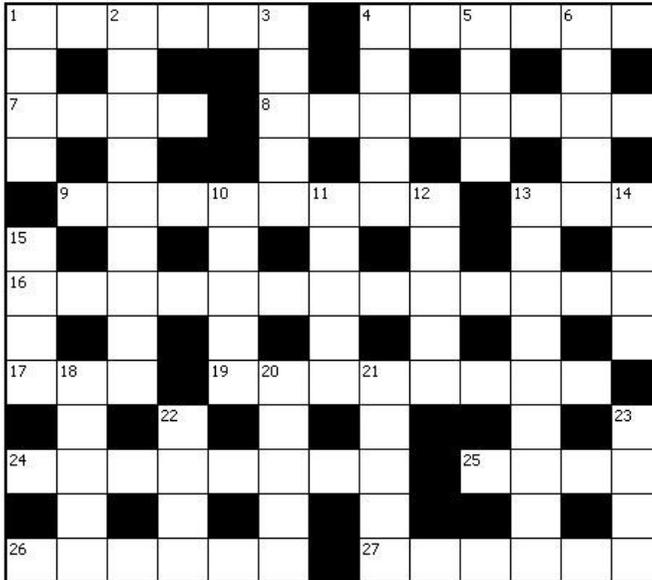
Parish Director of Music:

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

Crossword August 2021



Across

- 1** Of Moses (6)
4 'You have been weighed on the — and found wanting' (Daniel 5:27) (6)
7 Where Jesus performed the first of his miraculous signs (John 2:11) (4)
8 Roman emperor who ordered all the Jews to leave Rome (Acts 18:2) (8)
9 Member of a conservative Jewish party in the Sanhedrin which believed there was no resurrection (Acts 23:8) (8)
13 South London Mission (1,1,1)
16 Sure of one's own ability (2 Corinthians 11:17) (4-9)
17 'At this the man's face fell. He went away — , because he had great wealth' (Mark 10:22) (3)
19 Airs used (anag.) (8)
24 'The Lord is my — , I shall not be in want' (Psalm 23:1) (8)
25 'He has sent me to — up the broken-hearted' (Isaiah 61:1) (4)
26 At or towards the rear of a ship (6)
27 Cross-carrying evangelist and world traveller, — Blessitt (6)

Down

- 1** Ridicule (Luke 18:32) (4)
2 Encased in strapped-on light shoes (Song of Songs 7:1) (9)

- 3** Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union (1,1,1,1,1)
4 'Father, give me my — of your estate' (Luke 15:12) (5)
5 Assistant (4)
6 On a par (John 5:18) (5)
10 Credo (anag.) (5)
11 Beaten with a rod (5)
12 The fourth of Job's 'comforters', who deferred making his contribution because of his junior status (Job 32:6) (5)
13 Chosen as a temple attendant, he was described by Ezra as 'a capable man' (Ezra 8:18) (9)
14 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where — and rust destroy' (Matthew 6:19) (4)
15 Employs (4)
18 Associated with penitence for sins, along with sackcloth (Matthew 11:21) (5)
20 Association of South-East Asian Nations (1,1,1,1,1)
21 Sub-continent to which Baptist missionary pioneer William Carey devoted his life (5)
22 Recess at east end of a church (4)
23 One of the nine sons of Beriah (1 Chronicles 8:15) (4)