



Rushen Parish Magazine

February 2021



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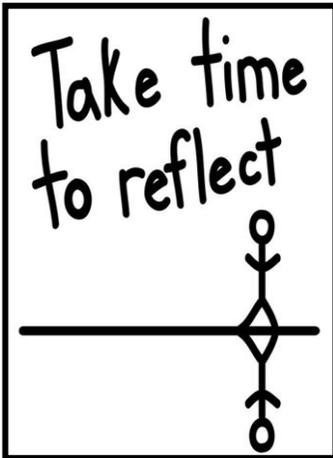
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Do your days rush by at a hectic pace?

Have you ever stopped to think that your mobile phone and emails have not given you *more* time? Just *more things to do* in the same amount of time.

We leave our messages in one place while we take our bodies elsewhere. Instead of doing one thing after another, we shoot out a variety of tasks, and then swoop down on them later, needing to deal with them all at once.

In a four-minute clip from a street scene from an old Orson Welles film and a similar clip from a more recent film, you will see an amazing difference. In the early film, the camera records ‘real time’ – people get out of their cars, walk across streets, wait for lights, speak to other people, enter a bank. In the more recent film, a similar sequence was reduced to a half a dozen quick cuts. Transition time was eliminated.

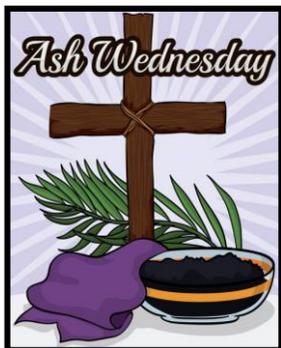
Modern life teaches us that ‘down time’ is wasted. Time is money. So mobile phones, emails, etc, enable us to ‘waste’ less time. The tempo of cultural life picks up, the heartbeat of daily life races, and our own body rhythms respond with adrenaline, cramped muscles and heart attacks.

To take time out for daily prayer, for a quiet walk that is not to the next meeting, for daydreaming or for Bible study becomes a cross-cultural act. Following Christ, waiting on Him, is a countercultural act.

One lovely biblical phrase is ‘in the fullness of time, it came to pass’. This suggests four things: that time crests like a wave; that there is a right moment for things to happen; that it’s not ours to plan that moment, but to recognise it; and that we are not the primary agents of what happens in the world.

So, feel free to accept God’s offer of rest when you are weary; receive each moment of your life as a gift from God’s hand; pray to discern what each new encounter you make requires of you, and freely entrust everything else to God’s care.

Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle



Ash Wednesday; mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament. In it the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and it stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12-18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 - 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

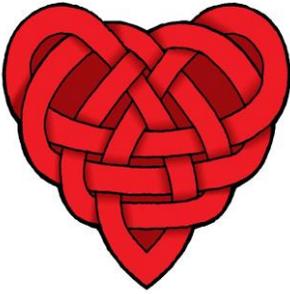
The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly, the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Love is.....



As we mark Valentines' Day this month, it's good to ask the question: *what does real love look like?*

The Apostle Paul says: *'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.'* (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8).

Love is unconditional:

At heart, love is not just feelings but action! Paul talks here about unconditional love, using the word *agape*, which demonstrated in God's love for us: *'We love, because He first loved us.'* (1 John 4:19).

Love is forgiving:

According to the film Love Story, *'Love means never having to say you're sorry.'* This is rarely true in our experience! According to Paul, love is being ready to forgive others and *'keeping no record of wrongs'* (5). We can only forgive others because we know God forgiveness in our own lives.

Love is sacrificial:

Paul says that agape love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of other people first. This is modelled by Jesus giving His life for us on the cross. Take the words from 1 Corinthians and instead of the word *love*, substitute your own name. Now substitute the word *Jesus*. This is the Jesus who is available to you to make your love for others grow and flourish.

Someone once compared love being like a group of porcupines huddling together on a cold night. The closer they get, the more they jab and hurt each other. *'To love at all is to be vulnerable.'* (C S Lewis).





Taking a mature look at Valentine's Day

You do not see many Zimmer frames, wheelchairs or hearing aids on Valentine's Day cards. They mostly seem to be full of young love, hearts, and roses. Young love is wonderful and beautiful, full of optimism, and plans and hopes for the future. But love in later life is precious too. It is a love that has been forged through years of shared experiences and joy, maybe raising children together, perhaps enjoying grandchildren. It's a love that's stood the test of time, and deeper, much deeper, than any shop-bought Valentine's Day card can describe.

That long-term love can also be shown by the devoted wife or husband who visits their spouse in a care home each day, gently talking with them when they are, perhaps, deep into dementia. Or sitting for long hours by a hospital bed. Or dutifully caring for them at home. Love is a marathon, not a sprint. It starts with white lace and promises and grows over the years. Mature love is about the commitment that spans decades and is seldom shown on the cards on sale in the High Street this Valentine's Day.

As a priest, when I marry a couple and take them through their wedding vows, I hear them make their lifelong commitment "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part..." It's so wonderful to see the bride and groom smiling, and enjoying this precious moment, making vows that will, hopefully, span the rest of their lives. I love taking weddings - it's an immense privilege to be part of a couple's special day. And I find myself pondering what the future will hold for them. I wonder what shape that lifelong commitment will take, as I pray a blessing on their marriage. How much wealth or poverty will come their way? Will it be sickness or health that will accompany them through the years? How will they support each other as the years go by?

'Love is patient. Love is kind.' These are familiar words from the popular wedding reading in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. That patience, that kindness are qualities that can develop over years of marriage. Just how much patience will be needed in the years ahead cannot usually be known on the wedding day.

So, this year, as I look at the rows of red or pink Valentine's Day cards on sale in the shops, I shall look out for cards that have a deeper message. I shall seek out cards that celebrate long-term love. Cards that say something about the joys and challenges of growing older together. Cards that go beyond hearts and roses to the deeper love that transcends love's first blossoming. I just hope I can find some...

Revd Peter Crumpler

Do me a favour?



I just had an email from a clergyman, saying, “Hi” and asking me to do him “a *favour*”. I replied to say yes, of course. I then began to wonder why he had not said what sort of favour it was, and why he was asking me. I decided to telephone him and find why he had not explained. His wife answered and said: “Is it about the fake email?” I could tell from her tone of voice that I was not the first caller.

This was a scam of some sort and probably the favour was to send money. The same day someone else in the same parish had their accounts hacked. The email addresses used were correct, but if had looked carefully I would have noticed he would not spell “favour” like that and not say “hi”.

This all makes me quite cross **because** these scammers are playing on church members’ kindness. A friend of mine also got the email and was upset that someone else was in trouble. We need to be aware of the risks and look out for messages of any kind which seem strange. Criminals target churches and pretend to send emails from people in authority such as clergy, churchwardens or treasurers. They prey on our credulity and charity.

What should we do?

If you get a telephone call or email you and you are not sure if it is genuine, use another form of communication to check. It is a crime, so report it to the authorities. If it is connected to a church, tell your diocese or governing body. The scammers must have got these addresses from somewhere. How easy would it be to get a list of the names and addresses of your minister, leaders and treasurer?

Lastly, carry on being generous and kind. These scammers should not stop us.

David Pickup

(A Solicitor considering email scams)

Portrait

A primary teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher blinked: "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



At Kirk Christ on 20th December the Parish Christmas Carol Service was held. The church was full to capacity. With the decorations and the candlelight there was a wonderful atmosphere of Christmas. The Christmas Day service was attended by over eighty people, and was well received. The service on the last Sunday of December was also well attended. I would like to thank everyone who led our worship, read the lessons and interceded throughout the Christmas period.

At St Catherine's on 6th December the annual Christingle Service was held. This was well attended as was the annual Port Erin Commissioner's Carol Service on 17th December. As usual there was standing room only. It was lovely to have the children reading and singing at this service.

The Midnight Communion Service on Christmas Eve was very well attended. The congregation was ninety five strong, the most it has been for some time. We were well supported with our Methodist friends and their new minister Rev Sean Turner who presented a wonderful Christmas message during the service.

Gerry Callister

February Wordsearch

Clues

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

Did you have a go at last month's wordsearch? See if you can find 22 words contained in the grid. To help you I have highlighted 14 of them in this passage:

*'February opens with **Candlemas** – the **naming** of Jesus in the **temple**. **Simeon** and **Anna** praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the **love** between a man and woman: **Valentine** cards and **romance** abound. 'Love' as in social compassion is also remembered: **Fairtrade fortnight**, **Holocaust Memorial Day**, **World Leprosy Day**, and **National Nest Box Week**.... Love is truly needed by everyone!'*

Answers next month

February Sudoku

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

January Sudoku Solution

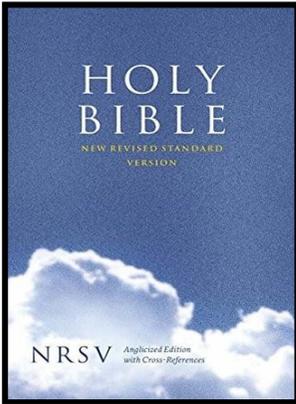
5	4	3	7	8	6	9	2	1
9	1	6	4	2	3	8	7	5
2	7	8	9	5	1	6	3	4
4	5	1	2	6	7	3	9	8
3	2	9	1	4	8	7	5	6
8	6	7	5	3	9	4	1	2
1	9	4	8	7	2	5	6	3
7	3	5	6	1	4	2	8	9
6	8	2	3	9	5	1	4	7

January Crossword Solution

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

Here are the answers to January's Wordsearch

Epiphany, Wise, Men, Camels, Baby, Jesus, Star, Herod, Worship, Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh, New, Resolutions, Bills, Work, Study, Running, Gym.



Celebrating 75 years of the RSV Version

The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published 75 years ago, on 11th February 1946. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

The RSV Old Testament followed in 1952 and the Apocrypha in 1957. The translation was a revision of the American Standard Version of 1901 and was intended to be a readable and accurate modern English translation. A ceremony to commemorate the publication of the New Testament was held in Columbus, Ohio, with the translation team saying they wanted it to supplement the ASV and not supplant it.

The RSV New Testament was mostly well received, but the Old Testament, which made use of Dead Sea Scrolls material, less so. One objection centred on the translation of a Hebrew word in Isaiah as ‘young woman’ instead of ‘virgin’, which was said to distort a basic Christian truth and encouraged many to go back to the King James Bible.

Some opponents went further, calling it a “master stroke of Satan”. One Southern pastor burned a copy with a blowtorch in his pulpit. The controversy may have paved the way for the now widely used and virginal New International Version, introduced in 1978.

Tim Lenton

Remembering John Keats

It was 200 years ago, on 23rd February 1821, that John Keats, the Romantic poet, died in Rome of tuberculosis, aged 25.

Keats was a generous, likeable and hard-working man who had much experience of suffering in his short life. He also had a love of civil and religious liberty. Most of his best work was done during the year 1819, when he was already sickening after an exhausting walking tour of the Lakes and Scotland the previous summer. In that same year he had also been nursing his brother Tom through tuberculosis – the disease that killed their mother. But in 1819, after Tom’s death, he moved to Hampstead and fell in love with a neighbour, Fanny Brawne, who was 18.

By this time Keats was devoting himself to poetry, having originally trained as a surgeon following his mother’s early death. He is most famous for his Odes, all of which (except the one to Autumn) were composed between March and June 1819. All of them ponder the clash between eternal ideals and the transience of the physical world. His most famous lines: “Beauty is truth, truth beauty, – that is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.”

A poem submitted by Maureen Hartley, poignant to both her, myself, and the many others who have lost their loved ones through the pandemic, or for another reason.

Don't be afraid of the year.
 Don't be afraid to begin.
 Just open your mind and open your heart,
 Let love and hope enter in.
 Don't be afraid to let go.
 Saying "Goodbye" to the past.
 Seek for a rainbow and search for a star
 And keep a few dreams, hold them fast.
 Don't be afraid to be glad.
 Tears are not only for sorrow,
 Welcome the future and step through the year –
 Look for the sunshine tomorrow.

Iris Hesselden





‘Being there’ for prisoners during Covid-19

Surely the most severe form of lockdown this past year has been in our prisons. Prisoners have been left in their cells for up to 23 hours a day, with all activities suspended.

Whereas prayer and chapel services usually provide some outlet for prisoners, even these were halted. That meant that many prisoners with personal problems and anxieties were left with no one to turn to for help.

In response, Prison Fellowship launched *Prayer Line*. It is a telephone service with a freephone number, where prisoners have been requesting prayers for something personal by leaving their request as an anonymous recorded message.

The messages have then been picked up by PF staff, distributed to PF volunteer prayer groups, and faithfully prayed for.

The requests for help have ranged from prayers for the victims of the prisoner's crime, to the prisoner's family, themselves, and other prisoners.

Helping you through the lockdown period

**By Perfect Plants Ltd. [Perfectplants.co.uk](https://www.perfectplants.co.uk)
Deliveries to your UK door: Houseplants, garden plants
and gifts for the garden lover**



We trod with trepidation into the first few weeks of 2021, but hey, we're all used to this new world now. It might not make the day-to-day routines any more pleasant, nor easy, but it's all feeling familiar. Those people who suffer regularly from mental health issues will probably be enduring more hardship than others, however. In fact, depression and mental health is one of the fastest-growing issues of these modern times.

Winter is never an easy season for those who find the short days and silvery weather a bit of a trial. Compounded this year by lockdown and the controlling measures that are governing us all, depression has become a heavy weight for many to bear. So what can be done to alleviate the gloom until spring is here?

Firstly, look to improve the interior of your home, seeing as that's where you are probably spending most of your time. Here's some top tips to take you through to the longer, brighter days of spring:

Bring the outdoors inside and fill your home with swathes of evergreens to clean the air and freshen up your lockdown life. There's no reason why you can't deck the halls with cuttings of grasses, foliage with berries and armfuls of growth from the natural world. It's a breath of fresh air, literally.

Then there are house plants. The bigger the better. We now all know that plants filter impurities from the air. It stands to reason that large plants have a greater capability than small. Big leaves, tall size, lots of aspirating holes on the underside of the leaves. These are called stomata, which means 'little mouths'. They take in carbon dioxide and oxygen, mixed with impurities and even bacteria. These are absorbed by the plant, which gives off oxygen - normally during the daylight hours. So the plant acts like a giant filtering system. What's not to love about inviting a dirt-busting beautiful dinosaur into your home?

The most popular 'room tree' house guests for modern times are as follows:

- Ficus lyrata. Also known as the fiddle-leaf-fig because each leaf looks a little like a violin. The large leaves offer a big surface area for air purification and they have become really popular this year. As these plants mature, they tend to lose the lower leaves and the shape becomes more 'tree-like'.
- The ever-popular rubber plant, but with a slight difference Did you know that Ficus elastica 'Abidjan' has rich, green leaves with a hint of burgundy? It is an exceptionally efficient air filtering plant and has oodles of lovely leaves that will help to clean your home. What's more, it doesn't mind sitting in a gloomy space.
- Scindapsus, also known as pothos, or devil's ivy. These house plant have green and cream variegated foliage which can be trained up a pole or downwards to trail. It's another extremely efficient air-cleaning plant that absorbs pollutants and toxins from the indoor air.
- The dragon tree, Dracaena marginata, is probably the most robust house plant you could imagine. Just give it medium light levels, a little bit of love in the form of regular water (not too much), and it will lend architectural style AND air-cleaning benefits to your home. There's probably no other house plant that has quite so much charm.

Lastly, the advice to all who suffer from any mental health problem is to be kind to yourself and to each other. Use some green energy as a first step towards a cure for this winter gloom. Nurture your innermost feelings, try to give yourself some comfort. Perhaps read some books to help take yourself away from the present. You could create a cosy nook in the corner of your home. Surround yourself with plants, sink into comfy cushions and listen to music or immerse yourself in something wonderful.

And remember - time passes, things move on. You won't always feel the way that you do right now.



All in the month of February

200 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1821, John Keats, the poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 25.

125 years ago, on 1st Feb 1896, the premiere of Giacomo Puccini's opera *La Bohème*, took place in Turin, Italy.

75 years ago, on 11th Feb 1946, The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

70 years ago, on 27th Feb 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. It limits the President to two terms in office.

65 years ago, on 11th Feb 1956, two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

50 years ago, on 15th Feb 1971, the UK's currency was decimalised.

40 years ago, on 24th Feb 1981, Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.

30 years ago, on 28th Feb 1991, the Gulf War ended at midnight when a ceasefire came into effect.

25 years ago, on 15th Feb 1996, the oil tanker *Sea Empress* ran aground near Milford Haven, Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

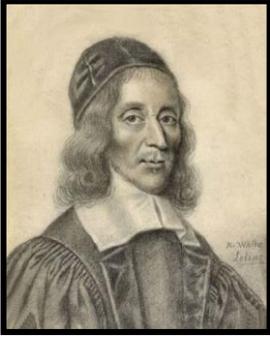
20 years ago, on 19th Feb 2001, the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex. The EU subsequently banned all British meat, milk and livestock exports.

10 years ago, on 22nd Feb 2011, the Canterbury earthquake in New Zealand took place. 185 people were killed and up to 2,000 injured., and there was widespread damage across the city.

Eyesight

A man went to his doctor to say that his eyesight was getting worse. The doctor asked the man to look out the window and to tell him what he saw. "I see the sun," the man replied.

The doctor replied: "Just how much farther do you want to see?"



George Herbert, priest and poet 27th February

If we were to name someone prominent from the 17th century, we might mention Rembrandt or Shakespeare. It is unlikely we would remember George Herbert. However, he was a prolific writer, a gifted speaker and musician. His hymns are still sung today.

Herbert was born into a wealthy family in Mid-Wales on 3rd April 1593. His father was a Member of Parliament who died when Herbert was three years old. His mother moved her large family to London where, aged 12, Herbert entered Westminster School. In 1609, his mother remarried, and Herbert left home to be a student at Trinity College, Cambridge.

By the age of 23, Herbert had graduated with two degrees. He was fluent in Latin and Greek and in 1620 was elected as the University's Public Orator. He held this position for seven years, and for a short time was MP in his hometown in Wales.

Although Herbert was securing an illustrious future and his speeches had gained the attention of King James 1, he was restless. He felt God was calling him to the priesthood and much of Herbert's poetry expressed his inner spiritual conflicts.

When the King died in 1625, and two influential patrons also died at about the same time, Herbert responded to God's call on his life and gave up his secular ambitions. He married in 1629 and became a priest in a small Anglican church in Bemerton in Wiltshire.

Here he found inner peace at last, serving God in the local community. His poetic talent continued to flourish along with his musicianship as a skilled lutenist. After only three years as a priest, he died of tuberculosis on 1st March 1633. He was 39.

Some ninety of Herbert's poems have been set to music by such composers as Ralph Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten. His most well-known hymns are *Teach me my God and King*, *Let all the world in every corner sing* and *King of glory, king of peace*.

A number of artistic commemorations of Herbert exists in several churches and cathedrals including a stained-glass window in Westminster Abbey and a statue at the front of Salisbury Cathedral.

Parish Pump

Fall down

One way to find out if you're old is to fall in front of a group of people. If they laugh, you're young. If they panic and start running toward you, you're old.

From the Registers

Funerals

Wednesday 2 nd December	@ 11.30am	St Mary's	Dorothy Kewley
Tuesday 8 th December	@ 2pm	Kirk Christ	Brenda Joan Smith
Monday 14 th December	@ 2pm	Kirk Christ	Helen Shephard
Tuesday 15 th December	@ 11am	Kirk Christ	Edwin Looney
Thursday 17 th December	@ 10.15am @ 1pm	Kirk Christ Kirk Christ	Douglas Corkish Peter Cowell
Wednesday 23 rd December	@ 11.30am	Kirk Christ	Adam Wilby

Memorial Services

Wednesday 9 th December	@ 1pm	Kirk Christ	Iris Eleanor Burton
Tuesday 22 nd December	@ 12noon	Kirk Christ	Judith Clark

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



How to Handle Temptation



"I can resist everything but temptation" (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when *'He was led by the Spirit.. to be tempted by the devil.'* (1). Temptation is a test of *obedience* whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially during this pandemic.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread:

Jesus' ministry was not about meeting His own needs, but being nourished by God's Word. *'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'* (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we are called to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test:

Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this is not God's way! *'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'* (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!

The third temptation was to worship Satan:

Finally, the devil took Jesus to a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was marked by suffering and honouring God. *'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only'* (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is often our experience in living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, we will find strength in the power of the Spirit and the victory of the Cross.

'If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest!' (Corrie Ten Boom).

Canon Paul Hardingham

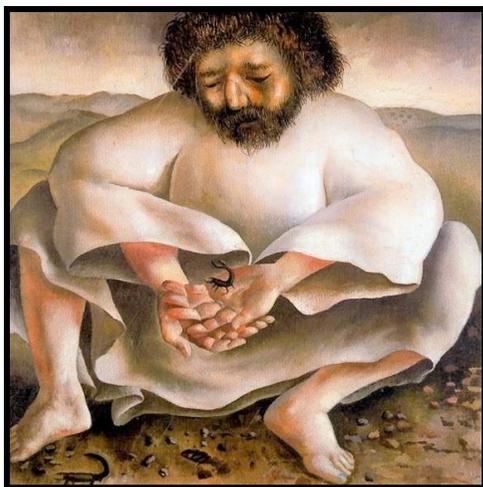
It's all in the spelling...

- G - God
- R - Ran
- A - Alongside
- C - Carrying
- E - Everything

Pray with grannie

A small boy went to church with his grandmother and joined her when she quietly slipped off the pew to kneel and pray. He even copied her example of burying her face in her hands. But after a few seconds his curiosity got the better of him. "Who are we hiding from, grannie?"

God in the Arts



The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.' by Stanley Spencer.

Forty days and forty nights

On the 17th of this month, we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory. In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine,

one of which is this month's painting from 1939: 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.' It is currently held in a private collection.

Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village's inhabitants his models. Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. 'Angels and dirt' he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with his head, his hands and his feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about him, apart from his tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail. Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert? During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God. He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.

Children's Page

The parable of the Shrewd Manager

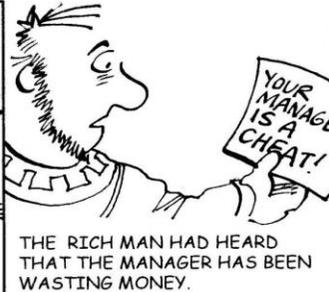


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



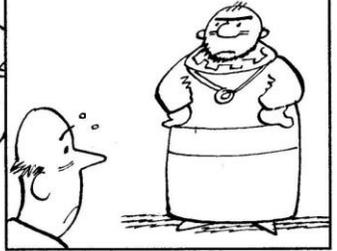
ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

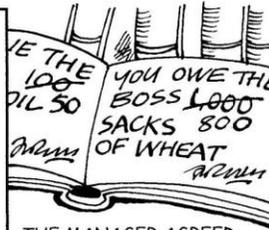


THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

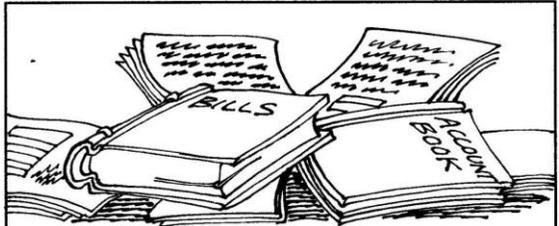
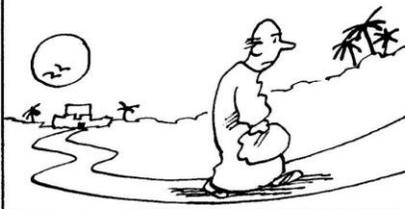


THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!



SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.



JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

The Story Behind the Hymn



Terrye Coelho Strom

Father We Adore You

Father, We Adore You
Lay Our Lives Before You
How We Love You

Jesus, We Adore You
Lay Our Lives Before You
How We Love You

Spirit, We Adore You
Lay Our Lives Before You
How We Love You

This is a simple song of three verses, no chorus. The first verse offers adoration to the Father, the second verse to the Son, and the third verse to the Holy Spirit.

The second and third verses repeat that verse, but begin with Jesus and Spirit instead of Father. Its simplicity is one reason for its popularity. It is easy to learn and easy to sing. No one needs a song book. Also, the subdued musical accompaniment creates the right mood for a song of adoration.

Terrye Coelho Strom, who wrote this song, was born in 1952 at Camp Roberts, California, located just off U.S. Highway 101 in an area that some would describe as beautiful and most would describe as God-forsaken. At the time that she was born there, Camp Roberts was being used for training U.S. Army soldiers for duty in the Korean War, so I assume that Terrye's father was a soldier there, and might have served in Korea. The California National Guard has used Camp Roberts as a training facility since 1971.

Terrye became a Christian in 1971 at age 19, and wrote this song the following year. The words and tune came to her as she was driving her car.

Of course, there was more to her story. She was a musician, and not long after she became a Christian she started singing with Maranatha!, the famous Christian musical group. Her experience with that group surely helped to inspire the creation of this song.

Terrye was a member of the Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, California at the time that she wrote this song, and it was at that chapel that it was first performed. To my knowledge, this is the only song that Terrye has written.

Richard Niell Donovan

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



Thank you, that you accept us as we are; that you love us as we are. So, may we love those around us. By your Spirit may we hold hands. May we rejoice with the rejoicing, weep with the weeping. And may we offer our all to you, together. Then we may be ourselves. Then we may be one.



Amen

February 2021

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Everyone who gives of their time, money and energy to charitable organisations
- 2nd The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas
- 3rd Pets which bring such comfort to the elderly and the lonely
- 4th The bereaved and the sense of loss that they feel when loved one's die
- 5th The children and parents who attend Play and Praise each month
- 6th The Queen, Lord of Man, as we remember her accession to the throne
- 7th Stephen Curtis and the work he does maintaining the finances of the parish
- 8th Grandparents who help their children through challenging times
- 9th Care workers who visit people who are lonely and/or elderly
- 10th Families attending morning services today and the fellowship they derive
- 11th The Mothers' Union meeting taking place this afternoon
- 12th Those preparing for marriage later this year and the excitement they derive
- 13th Children enjoying their pancakes and chocolate before Lent begins
- 14th St. Valentine, the patron saint of romantic love, remembered today
- 15th Those people in hospital awaiting treatment for life threatening diseases
- 16th The participants in Messy Church which takes place today
- 17th Homegroups in the parish and the fellowship derived from them
- 18th Children who attend nursery, primary and secondary schools across the island
- 19th All those who intercede during the services in the parish
- 20th Farmers as they prepare for springtime and the year ahead
- 21st Sidespersons who carry out their duties in our parish week by week
- 22nd All those who read the lessons at the services in the parish
- 23rd Children who have been baptised in the parish during the past year
- 24th Children who attend youth organisations such as brownies, cubs, scouts and guides
- 25th The Rev'd Joe Heaton, Vicar of the Parish of Rushen, and his ministry.
- 26th The head teachers of our local schools and the successes they bring to all children
- 27th PCC committees and the work they do in keeping the parish active
- 28th Those who administer communion to the housebound.

Services February 2021

3 rd February	11.15am 2pm	Southlands Holy Communion (CW) Play & Praise at St Catherine's
7 th February (Epiphany 5)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion(CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
14 th February (Sunday next Before Lent)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's All-Age Service (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
21 st February (Lent 1)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Morning Prayer + Baptism (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW) St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
28 th February (Lent 2)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
3 rd March	11.15am 2pm	Southlands Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's Play & Praise
7 th March (Lent 3)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion(CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
14 th March (Mothering Sunday)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's All-Age Service (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)

Dates and times of services/activities subject to alteration)

(CW)

Common Worship

(BCP)

Book of Common Prayer

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

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

St Mary's Hall Bookings:

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

St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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

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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.

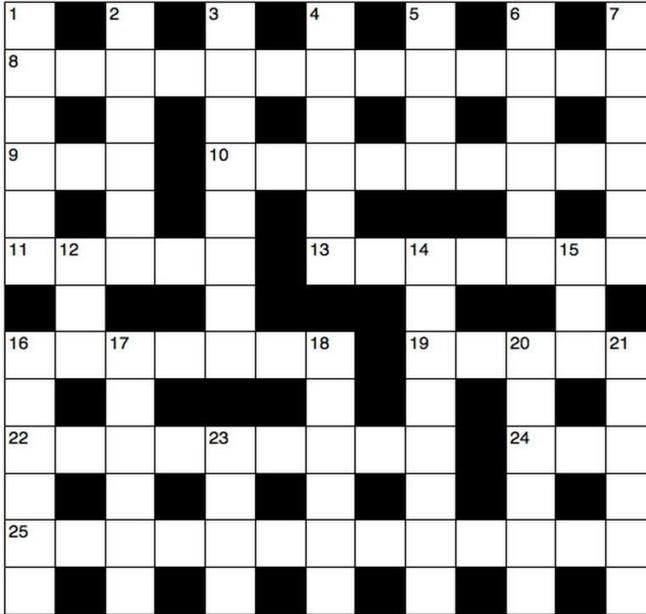
Parish Director of Music:

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

February Crossword



Across

- 8** Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1** Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

- 4** 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)