

2021

January
2021

Rushen Parish Magazine



The Lord God says, “Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the eternal paths, where the good way is; walk in it and you will find rest for your souls.” Jer 6:16

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A Letter from Margaret



Some thoughts for January 2021

Here we are on the threshold of a new year and I feel sure that we are all hoping for happier things than 2020 brought. We have come through a sad and difficult period which has affected everyone in one way or another. The discovery of vaccines holds great promise for a future where Covid 19 is under control and I thank God for the skills of scientists from across the world.

I hope that the good and kind acts that emerged during 2020 will still be evident in 2021. I am thinking of the kindness of family, friends and neighbours in supporting others, the appreciation of the work of health professionals and people who have made generous donations of time and money in supporting charities which help those in need. Even in dark times we can still find moments of joy. For example, the lockdown brought an increase in acts of kindness, fewer vehicles on the roads made the air cleaner and the world quieter so that we became more aware of bird song, spring still came in all its beauty and the sun shone. All these things and more were there for us to enjoy and perhaps even make us smile.

I came across this poem written by Thom M Shuman, an American associate of the Iona community. I found this very helpful and hope that you will too.

I pray that all our lives may be full of the love of God, that we do not lose hope and that we can find some small thing to make us joyful every day. God's grace surrounds us all the time and perhaps we are most aware of this gift when things are difficult...we simply need to listen for his voice.

We know the love of our heavenly Father through the coming of Jesus Christ. Let us try to share that love with others and help them to know the hope, joy and grace 'showered' on the world for all to share.

May God bless you each day.

Margaret Galloway

Answers

When eternity comes
maybe God will sort it all out:

the unanswered questions
that keep us awake at night;
the undeserved suffering
that pains us;
the brokenness which,
no matter how hard we try,
we cannot mend.

Someday,
When eternity comes,
maybe God will sort it all out
but until then
we know:

love showered earth
when Jesus came,
and flows from us to others;

hope was planted in our hearts
and we waited for the harvest;

joy became our companion
and years to walk with us;

grace was the gift
we cannot exchange;

and these are all the
answers
we have
until eternity comes.

Thom M Shuman

*From Acorns and Archangels
By Ruth Burgess*

Wild Goose Publications 2009



Five things I'd like to see in 2021

The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers the New Year ahead.

Five things I'd like to see in 2021

I keep hearing people say that 2020 was a 'year like no other.' Friends have been writing a special journal recording the year, so they can pass it on to their grandchildren. Others just want to leave 2020 behind and look to a happier new year. Both reactions are completely understandable. But I've been looking ahead to 2021 and thinking about the five top things I'd like to see in the year ahead. I wonder if you'll agree with them or not? Maybe you could put together your own list.

Let's make sure the vaccines are distributed fairly and speedily. Those who need the vaccine most urgently should receive it first, with a fair system for ensuring everyone else can be vaccinated quickly and efficiently. We need to ensure that everyone receives the vaccine wherever they live in the world – from the poorest to the richest. Especially, in those parts of the world where there is war, and people are living as refugees.

Let's learn the lessons of the pandemic – not just going back to how life was, as quickly as possible. Many of us learnt to appreciate our family so very much more – especially when we could not be with them for months on end. We learnt lessons about how important our neighbours and local businesses are, how precious our NHS, medical researchers, care providers and other frontline workers are. Let's not forget them.

Let's value nature. Those of us with gardens, or with parks or fields nearby, have been massively blessed. I've learnt to pay attention to birdsong, to the changing colours of the trees, and how unexpected plants have taken root in our garden. Pets have played a major part in helping us endure the lockdowns, especially for people who live alone. May we all learn to value the natural world on our doorsteps in the year ahead and beyond.

Let's bless technology. Without the use of the internet, meeting people 'online' or keeping in touch via email, Facetime, or other technologies, 2020 would have been a whole lot tougher. Churches across the country moved their Sunday services online, and soon adapted to a different way of worshipping – not the same, but still helping us to worship together and see familiar faces. Let's continue to give thanks for the science that made that contact possible in 2020.

Let's value our church family. Imperfect we may be, like any family. But the months without being physically able to worship with them, share communion with them, sing alongside them have been hard. I value so much how many churches have risen to the pandemic challenge and sought to serve their communities in all kinds of ways. May we take all this experience into 2021 and build upon it.

Whatever 2021 holds for you and all those that you love, I pray that you may know the love of God in your life and be able to pass it on to others.

Ladies Working Party



We were all very sad to learn of the death of a lovely lady, Dorothy Kewley, whose life and work in the church and in the community had been valued and appreciated for many years. She was warmly remembered in a lovely Service of Thanksgiving and Committal in a packed St Mary's Church, on Wednesday 2nd December, beautifully accompanied by The Rushen Silver Band. Canon Dr Hinton Bird officiated, joining sons John and James in a very moving tribute, and

thoughtful prayers were read by former fellow Sunday School teachers, Sue Maddrell, Carole Coole and Margaret Moore. Our love and sympathy go out to Michael and to all the family.

The church has been decorated for Christmas and we look forward in particular to the Crib Service in St Mary's on 24th December, after which we shall serve refreshments in the hall. We would like to say a very big thank you to Peter and Gerry for all their help throughout the year. We do appreciate it very much.

Our first meeting in 2021 will be on Tuesday, 5th January, in St Mary's Church, at 2.15pm, and at the time of writing, we are still hoping to have a coffee morning on 30th January – more information to follow.

With very best wishes to everyone for 2021.

Pat Thomson

Time to prepare for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th – 25th January

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic. Today the community has 50 sisters, spanning different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion.

Each year Christian Aid provides the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with 'Go and Do' action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.



We must become a 'simpler, humbler, bolder Church' - Archbishops

The momentous events of 2020 will have a “profound effect” on the future of the Church of England and our wider society, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said. In a recent joint address to the General Synod, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell said the Church of England must adapt and put its trust in God to become a “simpler, humbler, bolder Church.”

The archbishops’ comments came as they addressed the first online sitting of the General Synod following a legal change to enable it to meet remotely amid the coronavirus restrictions.

They outlined how the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout are providing the backdrop to huge social changes - here and around the world.

They also singled out how the Black Lives Matter movement and the publication of the IICSA report on abuse had exposed the Church’s own failings and the need to change.

Archbishop Justin told Synod: “2020 will be a year that registers in memory and in history. It can be compared with 1929, with 1914, with 1989.

“We are aware that this is a year in which huge changes are happening in our society and consequently in the Church.

“For let us be clear, there is no possibility of changes in society failing to have a profound effect on the shape, calling and experience of mission in the Church.”

Outlining the dramatic events of 2020, he added: “These crises are not signs of the absence of God but calls to recognise the presence of the kingdom and to act in faith and courage, simplifying our life focusing on Jesus Christ, looking outwards to the needy and renewing in our cells our call to wash feet, to serve our society and to be the Church *for* England.”

Archbishop Stephen went on to outline the work of groups set up to discern how the Church of England might respond and change in light of the recent challenges.

He told Synod: “If we put our trust in God, and if we learn to love one another, then I believe we can become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church, better able to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York

St Mary's Sunday School



Share God's Word

By the time you will read this article, we will have welcomed in 2021... so a very Happy and Blessed New Year to you all!

In early December, many of the Sunday School children enjoyed our annual Parish Christingle service in aid of the Children's Society (many thanks to all who helped with making the Christingles the previous day, including several children and young people). It was a lovely service which engaged all age groups in thinking about what we treasure

most, what gives us greatest joy and light in our lives, as well as what we can do for others to bring light and hope into their lives. As always, when the lights were turned off, the warm glow of the candlelight and the sweet smell of the oranges and sweets worked their 'magic.'

On the 3rd Sunday in Advent we had our all-age service at St Mary's focusing on John the Baptist who called the people of his time to 'repent' (turn away from the wrong things) and to 'prepare the way of the Lord'. By means of a fun game for the young people, Joe explained that we sometimes get so tangled up in the wrong things (our sins, e.g. lies or gossip, being unkind in what we think, say and do) that we can't untangle ourselves without God's help. That's why Jesus came into the world, to untangle us from our sins and to set us free. Thomas read the OT lesson from Isaiah beautifully, and the Sunday School dramatised the gospel reading about John the Baptist. We also led the congregation in singing 'Prepare the Way of the Lord' and in thoughtful prayers for all in need of love and hope, interspersed with verses from the beautiful hymn 'Christ be our light.'

In his talk, Joe engaged the congregation in thinking about superpowers we might like to have and superheroes from the Bible – some great answers from young and old! While John the Baptist may not be an obvious superhero (after all, he lived rough in the desert, wore clothes made from camel's hair and ate locusts and wild honey!), he was the messenger chosen and sent by God to fearlessly spread the word about the coming of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, the Light of the World! God often chooses the most unlikely (and seemingly least qualified) to accomplish His mission here on earth – all He is asking is for willingness and availability on our part to help spread the Good News and the love of Christ to those around us. Many thanks to our young people for all their contributions to the service.

We are now looking forward to our annual Christmas Party with fun and games and food, and of course the Parish Crib Service on Christmas Eve, where the children will be helping to act out the Christmas story as well as read some of the lessons.

We give great thanks that here on the IOM, we are able to gather and celebrate Christmas with family, friends and with our church family.

Keep praying, hoping and trusting for God's protection and for better days ahead globally.

Once again, we wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year!

Claudia König and Sam Bowman



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



I am writing this report prior to Christmas in preparation for the festivities, as well as informing you of the events that have already taken place.

Our joint service on 29th November was well attended with many positive comments on the advantages of having joint services.

We are now looking forward to the Port Erin Commissioner's Carol service on the 17th December at St Catherine's Church, and the Parish Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at Kirk Christ at 6.30pm. We are also preparing for the communion service at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve at St Catherine's Church, and the Christmas Day Service at Kirk Christ at 10am.

We had an excellent Christingle Service at St Catherine's on 6th December, and I would like to thank those of you who helped in preparing the Christingles, and those who attended on the day.

I would like to wish everyone a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

God Bless

Gerry Callister

'Quarantine' - the 2020 word of the year

The Cambridge Dictionary has named 'quarantine' as its 'word of the year' for 2020. Apparently, it was the word most looked up between January and October of last year. 'Quarantine' even beat 'pandemic' and 'lockdown'.

The Cambridge Dictionary has now added a new meaning to the word 'quarantine'. It runs: 'A general period of time in which people are not allowed to leave their homes or travel freely, so that they do not catch or spread a disease.'

The editors are also considering some possible new words for the dictionary. These include 'Quaranteam' (a group of people who go into quarantine together), Lockstalgia (a feeling of nostalgia for the lockdown period), and Coronial (someone born around the time of the pandemic).

Sudoku January 2021

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

December Sudoku Solution

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

December Crossword Solution

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

Order

Happy to visit his local pub before it closed again, a man found himself near two nuns. Eager to talk to anyone after weeks in Tier 3, he ventured: "What is your order?" (Meaning their religious community.) The nuns happily replied: "Sausage and chips."

Mary Slessor of Calabar



Courage, vision and leadership are found in the most unlikely of places.

Mary Slessor was born in December 1848 into a wretchedly poor family. Her father was an alcoholic who lost his job as a shoemaker. Mary was the second of seven children, and in 1859 they moved from Aberdeen into the fetid slums of Dundee. Her father and mother worked in the mills, and

Mary joined them there when she turned 11.

When Mary's father and both brothers died of pneumonia, Mary's mother struggled on to keep Mary and her two sisters alive. By the time Mary was 14 she was doing a 12-hour day as a jute maker.

But life was not all drudgery. Mary's mother was a devout Christian who read the family Bible to her daughters, and also the *Missionary Record*, a monthly publication from the United Presbyterian Church. The stories of the missionaries captivated Mary. When she heard that David Livingstone, the great missionary explorer, had died, she decided that she would follow in his footsteps. She wanted to devote her life to taking the gospel to Africa. She was 25.

In August 1876 the Presbyterians sent her out to Calabar, Nigeria, an area where no European had ever yet set foot. With her red hair and blue eyes, Mary grabbed attention wherever she went, but despite recurring illness and constant danger, Mary settled happily among the tribes. She learned their traditions, quickly becoming fluent in their language, Efik. Soon she won the confidence of their tribal leaders. She taught their children and was soon determined to put an end to some of their barbaric practises, such as the killing of twins (whom they thought were evil).

Over the years Mary put an end to many witchcraft practises, and she adopted every twin child she found abandoned. And she talked endlessly about Jesus Christ, the passion of her life.

Mary was tough – she made long trips through the jungles and took canoes up remote rivers. When her shoes gave out, she went barefoot. Her great passion was to go to 'the regions beyond' with the Gospel. She thrived in places and among people who would have terrified most women in her day.

It has been written of her: 'Practically singlehanded she tamed and transformed three pagan communities in succession. It is a question if the career of any other woman missionary has been marked by so many strange adventures, daring feats, signal providences, and amazing

Continued on Page 11

achievements." (Dr Robert H. Glover, *The Progress of World-Wide Missions*.)

When in 1901 Southern Nigeria became a British Protectorate, Mary was appointed the first ever female Magistrate in the British Empire. She became a skilful diplomatic emissary.

She was known for saying: "It is not Mary Slessor, but God and our united prayers that have brought the blessings to Calabar. Christ shall have all the honour and glory for the multitudes saved."

When she finally died of fever in January 1915 the native Christian girls and women wept bitterly: "Our mother is dead. Everybody's mother has left us."

Mary Slessor once wrote to a friend who had long prayed for her: "I have always said that I have no idea how or why God has carried me over so many funny and hard places, and made these hordes of people submit to me, or why the Government should have given me the privilege of a Magistrate among them, except in answer to prayer made at home for me. It is all beyond my comprehension."

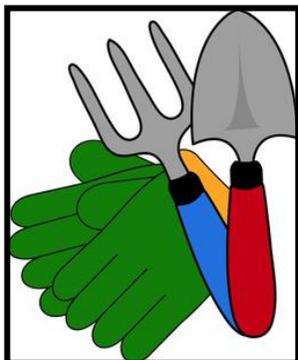
Parish Pump



Fire?

The team at the local fire station had assembled to hear their training officer discuss the behaviours of various kinds of fire. He began: "You pull up to a house and notice puffs of smoke coming from the eaves. But the windows are blackened out and there is little or no visible flame. What does this tell you?" he asked.

Hoping the men recognised signs of a possible 'back draft', a condition very dangerous to fire fighters, he heard instead: "It tells me I've got the right house."



Happy New Year from Perfect Plants

Most of us will be rejoicing the dawn of the year 2021, feeling positive that better things are forecast for us all. So there is little doubt that we will launch into January with a spring in our step, whatever the weather.

So here's a check list of jobs that can be done during this chilly month. You might be surprised that there's so much to do:

- Plant, plant, plant, bare root trees, shrubs and roses, including hedging. Just wait until the ground is frost-free. This is an inexpensive way to increase your plant stocks in the garden.
- It's a great time to move dormant plants around in the garden. You can see the bare structure of your patch and change the position of shrubs and perennials that don't quite work in the way you want them to.
- Prune climbing roses, shrubs, trees and grapevines during this dormant season.
- Deadhead any winter-flowering annuals and perennials such as pansies, violas and polyanthus. Take off foliage that is suffering from mildew. These will continue to produce new flowers if you care for them – but don't allow the soil to completely dry out.
- Use your compost heap if you have one. Apply a mulch to your soil, around shrubs and trees, even perennials, but take care not to smother them.
- Keep off a frosted lawn, or you'll be looking at yellow grass during the weeks to come.
- Be prepared to shake snow off tree branches as heavy weights can snap and damage them.
- Protect any plants that might suffer from cold or wind damage. Horticultural fleece makes an excellent wrapping.
- Clear the weeds, then cover over the ground on your vegetable garden to keep some of the rain away.
- Put nets over your brassicas to protect them from pigeons.
- You can place a cloche over any area in which you want to grow early crops. This will help to warm the soil.
- Early seed potatoes can be chitted this month.
- You can also sow onions, broad beans, carrots, spinach, leeks and Swiss chard under cover.

**Plants, garden products and garden gifts: Perfectplants.co.uk.
Delivery to your UK door.**

13 **Answers to quiz connected
with 2020 from
December's
Magazine**



1. Job applications from weirdos and misfits were invited from people to work at 10 Downing Street.
2. Kirk Douglas was the famous actor who died this year and is associated with the phrase "I am Spartacus".
3. In February the Church of England advised against the practice of 'intinction' – which is dipping the communion wafer in wine.
4. In a world "where you can be anything, be *kind*" wrote actress Caroline Flack on Instagram in December 2019.
5. We were supposed to wash our hands in March while singing the National Anthem or Happy Birthday twice.
6. This year was a leap year. We call other years common years.
7. Eyam is the village in the peak district is associated with self-isolation during a previous plague.
8. Quarantine is forty days long, literally, the word derives from the Italian expression quaranta giorni.
9. President Macron visited Britain on 18th July to commemorate De Gaulle's broadcast to France in 1940. It was also the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo.
10. The United States, Europe, Russia and China have all launched space rockets to Mars this year.
11. The Foreign Office cat, Palmerston, in his resignation letter in August on Twitter posted, "I have championed our work, built our relationships and celebrated the diversity of our staff... and will always be an ambassador for the UK and the new Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office" after a four year career in Downing Street which had included scraps with a neighbour. He was going to spend more time with a family in the country.
12. Boxing Day is the day furthest away from Christmas Day (because you cannot travel backwards in time - think about it)
13. The Battle of the Tennis Court was part of the Burma Campaign during the Second World War. It was remembered in August as part of VJ commemorations.
14. The BBC banned singing the lyrics from which Rule Britannia from the Last night of the Proms because it had a link in their mind with slavery and colonialism. The decision was since reviewed.
15. This year marked the 400th anniversary of the voyage of the *Mayflower*. Their celebration of harvest gave rise to Thanksgiving.

All in the month of January



500 years ago, on 3rd January 1521, German Protestant reformer Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X after he refused to recant his writings. A few weeks later, on 23rd January, the Diet of Worms was called by the Holy Roman Empire and ran until 25th May. This imperial assembly culminated in the Edict of the Diet of Worms, which branded Martin Luther as a heretic, and banned his writings.

150 years ago, on 26th January 1871, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) was founded in England.

125 years ago, on 28th January 1896, Walter Arnold of Kent became the first person in the world to be convicted of speeding. The speed limit was 2 mph and a person carrying a red flag had to walk in front of the vehicle. But Arnold drove at 8 mph without a flag bearer. He was chased by a policeman on a bicycle, arrested, and fined one shilling.

100 years ago, on 28th January 1921, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was installed beneath the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. It honours those who died in WWI (and later also WWII) who were never identified.

80 years ago, on 5th January 1941, Amy Johnson, pioneering British aviator, drowned in the Thames Estuary, aged 37. She had bailed out after her plane ran out of fuel and crashed in adverse weather conditions.

75 years ago, on 3rd January 1946, William Joyce ('Lord Haw Haw'), British fascist politician who broadcast Nazi propaganda from Germany during WWII, was hanged for treason.

70 years ago, on 9th January 1951, the United Nations moved into its present headquarters in New York City. It is a 39-floor building in the Turtle Bay area of Manhattan, overlooking the East River.

65 years ago, on 27th January 1956, Elvis Presley's hit song 'Heartbreak Hotel' was released. It topped the US charts in April and became his first UK hit in May of that year.

60 years ago, on 20th January 1961, John F Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States.

50 years ago, on 25th January 1971, Idi Amin became President of Uganda after deposing Milton Obote in a coup.

40 years ago, on 2nd January 1981, British serial killer Peter Sutcliffe (the 'Yorkshire Ripper') was arrested in Sheffield, South Yorkshire. He was charged with murdering 13 women. He died of Covid-19 in November 2020. Also, **on 20th January 1981**, Ronald Reagan was inaugurated the 40th President of the United States.

30 years ago, 17th January to 28th February 1991, the Gulf War's 'Operation Desert Storm' took place. Invading Iraqi forces were expelled from Kuwait and the Kuwaiti monarchy was restored. It was a decisive coalition victory.

25 years ago, on 27th January 1996, the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in Germany. It became International Holocaust Day in 2005 when it was adopted by the United Nations. It marks the day (27th January 1945) when the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration/death camp was liberated.

20 years ago, on 20th January 2001, George W Bush was inaugurated as the 43rd President of the United States. **Also on 31st January 2001**, a Scottish court in the Netherlands convicted Abdelbaset al-Megrahi of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988. He was the head of airport security for Libyan Arab Airlines and a suspected Libyan intelligence officer. He was sentenced to life imprisonment but released on medical grounds in 2009 and died in 2012.

10 years ago, on 4th January 2011, Gerry Rafferty, Scottish rock singer and songwriter, died. Best known for his solo hit 'Baker Street'.



The first man to get stopped for speeding...

It was 125 years ago, on 28th January 1896, that Walter Arnold of Kent became the first person in the world to be convicted of speeding. The speed limit was 2mph at the time, and a man carrying a red flag had to walk in front of the vehicle. But one day Mr Arnold took off at 8mph, without a flag bearer. He was chased by a policeman on a bicycle for five miles, arrested, and fined one shilling.

Mr Arnold was four times over the rather modest 2mph limit in the streets of Paddock Wood, near Tunbridge Wells in Kent. To achieve this feat today, a driver in most towns or cities would have to be travelling at over 100mph, which is probably a bit excessive.

The speed limit was changed later that same year to 14mph, but there is no record of Mr Arnold getting his money back. Nor is there any evidence that he was endangering life and limb, which used to be the criterion: the 1832 Stage Carriage Act introduced the offence of endangering someone's safety by "furious driving".

Just over 100 years later, the road safety charity Brake reports that male motorists are more than three times as likely as women to having driven at more than 100mph, because 'boy racers' believe they have more talent than the average driver. Police have caught one driver doing 120mph in a 20mph zone, another doing 152mph in a 30mph zone, and one doing an astonishing 180mph on a motorway. As Edmund King, AA president, points out: "Generally men have riskier attitudes towards driving than their female counterparts."

From the Registers

Wedding

Saturday 28th November @ 1pm

St Peter's

Gemma Louise Toher &
Graeme Paul Rodger

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

I'm sure that most of you will have tackled a wordsearch at some time. There are 19 words to find from this passage:

'The Christmas story carries on into the New Year, with Epiphany and the arrival of the wise men, led by the star in the east. Through the eyes of faith, they saw Messiah in that small baby, and worshipped him, giving gifts that foresaw his life and work. New Year is also a time of new beginnings for us – resolutions about diets and paying the bills and doing better at work... Happy New Year!'

Good Luck (Answers next month)

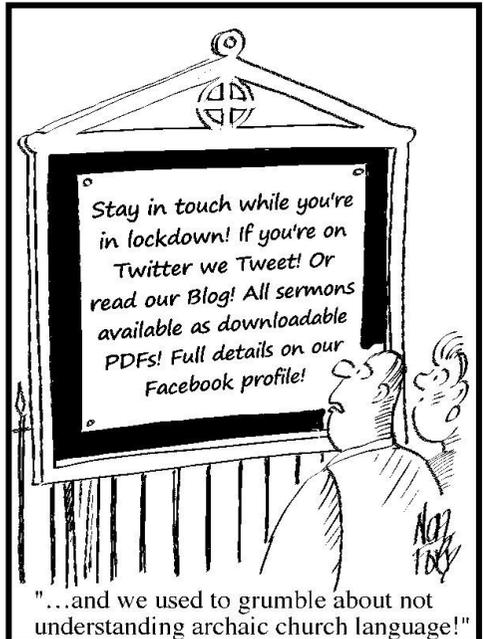
Safeguarding

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



It was a wild night, very wet and windy, on Friday 4th December when we drove to Kirk Braddan for the Mothers' Union Advent Service. Officiants were the Rt Revd Peter Eagles and the Revd Ruth Walker, and our speaker was Mr Nigel Fisher, Deputy Governor and Head of Regimes and Resettlement at the Isle of Man Prison. The service was well attended and we all learned much from the very interesting talk on rehabilitation at the

prison, for which we raised £504 in donations for this our MU charity for the year. Bishop Peter commissioned Margaret Cleater, Sarah Kewley, Joyce Kermeen and the Revd Ruth Walker to a variety of Mothers' Union offices within this diocese; a joyful and important occasion. The lovely supper afterwards was welcomed by us all, and the fellowship much enjoyed.

We had been expressing our concern for a lovely lady, good friend, and long-time MU member, Helen Shephard, whom we knew to be unwell, but we were greatly shocked and saddened to learn later that night that she had passed peacefully away. Our thoughts, sympathy, prayers and love go out to daughters Jenny and Judy who are now coming to terms with the loss of both parents in six months. At the time of writing, Helen's funeral service is planned for 14th December at 2pm, in Kirk Christ, when we hope there will be many of us able to pay our final respects.

I have received the MU Prayer Diaries for 2021 and will deliver them as soon as possible. Our first meeting of 2021 will be on Monday 11th January at 2pm in St Catherine's Hall, when Mrs Jane Gunn will be in the chair and our speaker, Mr Roger Pullin, will give us a talk on "Keeping the Irish Sea Clean". Guests are always very welcome.

With every good wish to everyone for 2021, and much appreciation to Gerry for all the help he gives us throughout the year.

Pat Thomson

The Cat

A vicar and his wife were going out for the evening, and carefully set the security lights and put the cat out. But when they opened the door to go to the taxi, the cat slipped back in and disappeared upstairs. Irritated, the vicar followed it. The wife waited with the taxi driver. Not wanting him to know that they were leaving the parsonage empty, she said: "My husband is just upstairs for a quick word with my mother." A few minutes later, the husband arrived, breathless. "Sorry I took so long" he said, "but she put up a fight! Stupid old thing was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger and grab her by the scruff of the neck to get her out."

God in the Arts



The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'St Joseph the Carpenter' by Georges de la Tour. It now hangs in The Louvre in Paris.

The Hidden Years

When St Paul wrote about the birth and humanity of Jesus to the Philippians, he described it as an emptying and a humbling. Jesus humbled Himself, he wrote, 'and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.' In obedience and love Jesus followed the will of His Father through His ministry from baptism to the cross and Easter beyond.

But what about that period called 'the hidden years', after the Holy Family's return from Egypt?

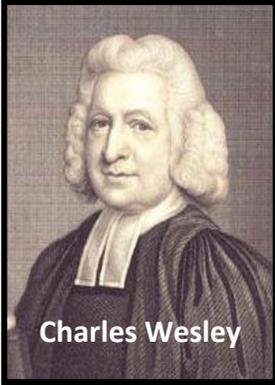
The Gospels tell us of only one event in that period leading up to adulthood: the pilgrimage to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12. For the rest of those 30 years, He lived with Mary and Joseph 'growing in wisdom and in divine and human favour.' Just as He followed His heavenly Father's will in His ministry, so in these growing years He followed the guidance and teaching of Mary and Joseph.

This month's painting highlights one moment in those years of growth: 'St Joseph the Carpenter' by Georges de la Tour. 'Highlights' is the right word because this painting captures the strong contrast of light and darkness. Georges de la Tour lived from 1593 to 1652 in Lorraine. He was part of a Franciscan-led revival in that area, and this work from the 1640s captures St Joseph and the Christ-Child with Franciscan tenderness and insight.

We can see the tools of Joseph's trade on the ground. He leans over them, hard at work on a piece of wood. Jesus is sitting by his side, his face lit by the candle, which lights up the carpenter's shop. As well as contrasting light and dark, there is the contrast of young and old, and the thought that the child learning from the old man is also the one who can teach us. De la Tour was particularly fascinated by light and shadows cast by a candle or a lantern. Here the artist shows the candlelight illuminating the face of the child Jesus who will grow up to the Light of the world.

As this New Year begins, we can think back to the light from the Bethlehem manger we celebrated at Christmas. We can look ahead to the light shining from the adult Jesus through His teaching and healing. Here in these hidden years, we can celebrate the light of wisdom and divine favour, as Luke calls them, shining on the face of the child Jesus. We pray for that light to guide us through this New Year. When the way ahead may look dark and uncertain, let us pray that God's light will make clear the path ahead.

The Story Behind the Hymn



Charles Wesley

Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley wrote seventy-five hundred hymns (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*) — roughly a hymn every other day for fifty years. I find that amazing! It would be amazing if he had written one verse every other day, but most of his hymns have several verses. I can scarcely imagine how he managed to do anything else — but he was a great preacher as well as a great writer of hymns.

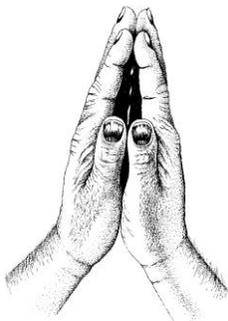
The hymn, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus,” looks forward to Jesus’ Second Coming. It begins, “Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.” Wesley looked forward to the time when Jesus would come again to set us free from fear and sin.

Wesley knew what it meant for people not to be free. When he was about thirty years old, he travelled to America on a mission, where he saw slavery in its rawest form. He recorded in his journal that he had seen parents give their child a slave to torment. Wesley was so shaken by the evil of slavery that he nearly had a nervous breakdown. It wasn’t long before he returned to England.

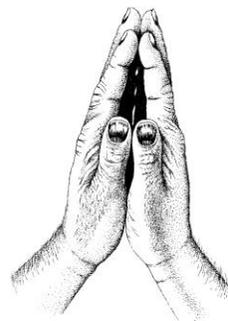
Some would criticise Wesley for not remaining in America to join the fight against slavery, but Wesley’s weapons were his sermons and his hymns. For the next several decades, his sermons and hymns lent their power to the efforts to make people free — free from slavery — free from fear — free from sin.

Richard Niell Donovan

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



Dear Father, as we stand together on the threshold of a new year, we ask that you watch over us in the year ahead; guide us when we falter; and re-direct us when we lose our way. But above all, pour down on the whole world Your Love and Peace, so that all may know that you are our Father, and Lord of all. Amen



January 2021

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st A happy and peaceful year ahead
- 2nd Preparations being made for the return to work and school
- 3rd All people who are expected to work outside in adverse weather conditions
- 4th People in residential care homes across the island
- 5th People awaiting treatment in our hospital
- 6th Play and Praise which takes place today in St Catherine's Church at 2pm
- 7th Wildlife throughout the island as it seeks food and shelter during the winter
- 8th Travellers having to drive on sometime treacherous roads during the wintertime
- 9th The work of the Royal Lifeboat Institution
- 10th People who live in isolation with little contact with the outside world
- 11th Noble's Hospital and the doctors and nurses dedicated to making people well
- 12th The Ladies Working Party and its charitable work in the parish
- 13th Those who entertain whether on the stage or on television
- 14th People who are suffering financial hardship after the Christmas season
- 15th Everyone who has a birthday this month
- 16th Messy Church and its continued success in bringing Jesus into people's lives
- 17th Those who enjoy watching and/or partaking in sporting activities
- 18th The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which commences today
- 19th Music and the part it plays in everyone's life whether it is modern or classical
- 20th All the Home Groups which meet each week throughout the parish
- 21st The beauty of this wonderful island on which we live
- 22nd People mourning the loss of loved ones
- 23rd New mothers and fathers looking after their children
- 24th The Diocese of Sodor and Man and the work undertaken by all employees
- 25th The Headteacher and staff of Rushen Primary School
- 26th The PCC meeting taking place at 7.00pm in St Catherine's Church Hall this evening
- 27th The Headteacher and staff of Scoill-Phurt-le-Moirrey
- 28th Those parishioners who read the lessons or intercede at services in the parish
- 29th The work of aid organisations at home and overseas
- 30th The Isle of Man government for its work in controlling the Corona Virus pandemic
- 31st Our determination to serve God in as many ways possible

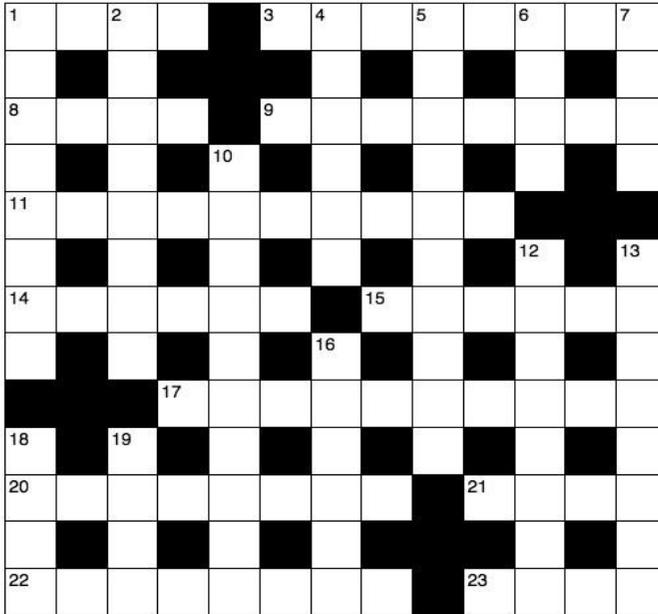
Services January 2021

3 rd January (Christmas 2)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion(CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
6 th January	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	Play & Praise at St Catherine's
10 th January (Epiphany 1)	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)
17 th January (Epiphany 2)	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)
24 th January (Epiphany 3)	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)
31 st January (Candlemas)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
3 rd February	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	Play & Praise at St Catherine's
7 th February (Epiphany 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)
14 th February (Last Sunday after the Epiphany)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)

Dates and times of services/activities subject to alteration)

(CW) Common Worship (BCP) Book of Common Prayer

January Crossword



Across

- 1** 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3** Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8** Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9** Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
- 11** Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14** Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15** Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17** Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20** Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21** One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22** For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23** United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1** Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2** Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4** Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5** Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6** Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7** Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10** One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12** Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13** Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16** He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18** British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19** Pans (anag.) (4)