

July 2021

Rushen Parish Magazine



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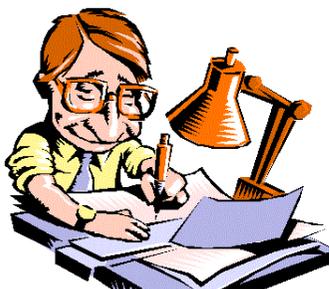
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From the Editor

Some of you will know that for many years I have been assisting one of the teachers at Rushen Primary School. This year I have been asked to help with literacy on three mornings each week. During a recent visit I was working with children of nine and ten years of age. The task they had was to read through a passage and then to choose the answers from five questions on which it was based. The theme was gorillas. As with all tasks asked of children we had a brief discussion about the text, and the clues within it which needed to be considered. The children were given ten minutes to answer the five questions.

Inevitably some of the answers given by them were different, and this prompted further discussion. One of the children referred to a film he had seen which was based on a famous fictional gorilla. Just out of curiosity I asked whether the film was suitable for children of their age and was told that the censors had classified it as being suitable for those of 12 years of age. Further discussion followed about the number of films all the children had seen, many of which I felt were unsuitable for such young children.

It made me wonder whether children of a young age are affected by the films they watch, and the influence that what they see has on their lives. To be honest I'm appalled at some of the material that is available for such young individuals. Not only can it show graphic images, but can also include language which, when I was a boy, would see me punished if ever it was used. Mobile phones and the internet have given children a means of accessing information in an instant, and I'm sure that some of this could be harmful, and cause undue stress to such young minds. I certainly wonder about what the future may hold for them.

To add to this concern I read an article in the Daily Express recently, written by Anne Widdecombe. It was headed 'A gross insult to Christians'. It was about the British Board of Censors which has released a guide suggesting that films with a 'U' classification, suitable for all ages including the very young, may now include a number of swear words one of which was 'Jesus Christ'. I was appalled and wondered just what these people are thinking. Imagine what you would do if a young member of your own family used the Lord's name in vain during the course of a conversation?

There is no doubt that the world in which we live is changing fast. It is no longer the green and pleasant land that we were born into. I don't fully blame the British Board of Censors, even though this is an organisation entrusted to maintain decency in what we see on the television, cinemas, computers and other such media. There are many other factors at work which influence the young. Nevertheless, the organisations entrusted in maintaining respectability have an enormous task on their hands. Otherwise the future could be bleak, and the green and pleasant land that we have built, suddenly become impossible to repair.

David

Can comedy point the way to faith?



Truth can come from a range of places. In Shakespeare, it's the fool who often has the insight that the main characters lack. In the Old Testament, it's the prophets that proclaim the truth from God's perspective.

Maybe today, we should be listening more to the comedians – to the people who stand back from our day-to-day happenings and see the world from different angles. They can make us laugh, but they can also teach us truths about ourselves that can be distinctly uncomfortable.

Take the new book by comedian, and Catholic, Frank Skinner. It's called 'A Comedian's Prayer Book' (Hodder & Stoughton) and runs to just over a hundred pages. Yet in that thin volume, Skinner – who is very open about his devout Christian faith – poses serious questions for both believers and atheists. It's far from being a comfortable read, though it never ceases to be amusing and thoughtful.

Setting the scene for the book, Skinner, an award-winning comedian, television and radio host, explains: "Imagine someone on a pilgrimage, stopping at churches, martyr-related tourist spots and sacred wells, while dressed in a medieval jester outfit. "The intention is serious and completely devout, but the pilgrim just feels more at home in the motley than in sackcloth and ashes. He feels jest is an integral part of who he is, and it seems wrong to deny that part."

Skinner sees his role as a comic as integral to this faith, although some 'fellow pilgrims' may be uncomfortable with someone who seems to see humour all around him – and can easily make others laugh. Yet Frank Skinner raises deep issues in the chapters of this slim volume, including questions that will connect with people both within the Christian faith, and those standing outside.

He describes his prayer life as "a telepathic dip into a long, ongoing conversation with thousands of tabs left open and no helpful 'new readers start here' summaries or simplifications for the neutral observer." Skinner's 'prayer book' is on my bookshelf alongside '10 Second Sermons,' written by fellow comedian Milton Jones in 2011. Again, the comedian's quirky view on life brings fresh insights and challenges.

Jones, a master of one-line jokes, describes gossip as "bullying people who are not there," lust as "rehearsing for a play in which you shouldn't have a part" and salvation as "like being returned to the factory settings – but you have to admit there is a factory, and that there could be some settings."

One of my favourites is Jones's description of the Holy Spirit as "a real person you can invite in. But watch out – in time He will go over, pull the fridge from the wall and say, 'What's all this mess under here?' But at least He helps clear up."

Both Milton Jones and Frank Skinner are comedians of faith – comedic commentators with a gift of making us see the world with fresh insight. And, as importantly, making us laugh.

Rev'd Peter Crumpler

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



We continue to meet each Tuesday afternoon in St Mary's Church but had a change of venue on 15th June when 12 of us, and our guests Liz Hull, Gerry Callister and Peter Hayhurst, enjoyed a delicious lunch at Douglas Golf Club, which Sue Bould had kindly booked for us. We all enjoyed the occasion very much, and the sun shone throughout.

Unfortunately, we were not so lucky weatherwise on 23rd May, when we held our Parish Pentecost BBQ and Faith lunch, in St Mary's Church Hall, with rain and wind making outdoor cooking very challenging indeed. We are extremely grateful to Michael Kewley for braving the elements, and to his gallant helpers, Jane Gunn and Brian Coole, who together succeeded in cooking delicious beef burgers and sausages, and these, combined with the groaning table of food generously provided by members of the congregations, meant we had a really lovely celebration, with a very happy, well fed company. All contributions, including the effort involved in the setting up and dismantling of the tables and chairs in the hall, were very much appreciated. Thank you to all who helped in any way.

Each summer, we look forward to the visit of the children from Belarus, organised by The Friends of Chernobyl's Children, IOM, but sadly this will not take place in 2021. Mr Norman Rivers made the difficult decision with the welfare of everyone in mind, and expressed his thanks for our patience and understanding. The committee of FOCC (IOM) are still hopeful that the work will carry on next year, and we pray that this will be so.

We send our love and prayers to everyone, especially those who are unable to get about as once they might, who are experiencing difficult times, who have lost a loved one, who are facing an operation or have worrying health concerns.

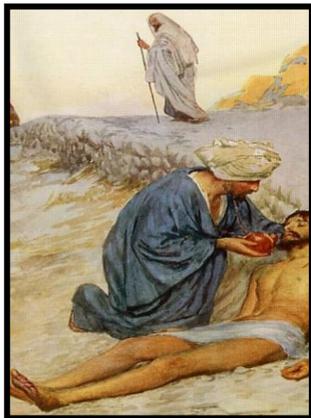
With warmest good wishes

Pat Thomson

Coronavirus – warning about vaccine

This happened recently and is an important lesson for our friends and family in the older age group. A friend had his second dose of vaccine at the vaccination centre. Shortly afterwards he began to have blurred vision and struggled to get home. He rang the vaccination centre and asked if he should go straight to the hospital for help. He was told NOT to go to the hospital, but instead to return at once to the vaccination centre and pick up his glasses....

The Good Samaritan



This month we are looking at the Parable of the Good Samaritan. This familiar story tells of a man who is mugged on the road between Jerusalem and Jericho and rescued by a Samaritan. Jesus tells it in response to a lawyer's question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" When Jesus calls for a life of total love towards God and neighbour, the lawyer comes back with the question: 'who is my neighbour?'

The plight of the man and the indifference of the priest and Levite would have horrified Jesus' hearers. They assumed that the hero of the story would be a Jew! However, Jesus presents the Samaritan, a sworn enemy of the Jews, as a model of integrity and an example to follow: "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?...Go and do likewise." The challenge of the story is that often our neighbours can be our worst enemies, yet these are the very people we are called to love as ourselves.

Of course, we can all think of people to whom we are called to be a Samaritan in our lives: those we try to avoid and don't want to get alongside. If we are honest, we know that we don't have it in us to love as Jesus says here. We all need somebody who will be our Good Samaritan, to rescue us and enable us to love others as ourselves. Jesus is that Good Samaritan for us.

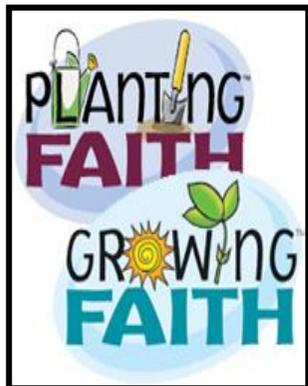
"By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbour."

Canon Paul Hardingham

Five fun things to do during boring sermons

- 1 *Pass a note to the organist asking whether he/she plays requests.*
- 2 *See if a yawn really is contagious.*
- 3 *Slap your neighbour. See if they turn the other cheek. If not, raise your hand and tell the minister.*
- 4 *Try to take the handbag of the lady in front of you by putting your toe through the handle.*
- 5 *If all else fails, look up at the ceiling, point, and scream.*

St Mary's Sunday School



Since the end of lockdown, the Sunday School has finally got back to meeting regularly again in St Mary's Hall. It was lovely to be able to celebrate Pentecost together with games and crafts in the hall (making flame headbands and Pentecost windsocks) followed by our annual BBQ (thanks to Michal Kewley and his helpers) and faith lunch. Despite the rather poor weather, everybody had a great time, and the Spirit of God seemed to be moving among us.

In June we prepared for our all-age service about the growth of God's kingdom with activities focusing on growth, change and transformation, e.g. how we all grow up and look very different to how we looked as a baby, how caterpillars turn into butterflies and tadpoles into frogs, and how the tiniest seeds can grow into the most beautiful flowers and the biggest trees. We also planted mustard seeds and were able to see the following week how much they had grown. It is absolutely amazing how God makes all these things happen!

In our all-age service led by Liz, the Sunday School accompanied the reading about the parable of the mustard seed with a variety of sound effects, and the children also led the congregation in singing "The farmer sows his seed" with appropriate actions. During her talk, Liz led the congregation with several questions to think about the Kingdom of God and how we can help it to grow here on earth, because the Kingdom of God is already here among us, wherever people show the love and kindness and forgiveness that Jesus showed while He was on earth. The children also led the congregation in the prayers of intercession, which they all read very well.

In our most recent session, we learnt about Jesus calming the storm. We thought about the things that we are afraid of and what might help us calm down when we are scared. We used white vinegar and bicarbonate of soda to illustrate how we can get very agitated when we are afraid, and it can be difficult to calm ourselves down, but when we ask Jesus to help (illustrated by cooking oil), He calms us down and gives us peace. To help us remember that Jesus keeps us safe in the storm, we made paper boats and Jesus stick figures with pipe cleaners. We also learnt the song "With Jesus in the boat, we can smile in the storm."

We are now looking forward to our Sunday School anniversary in July and hopefully a Sunday School picnic/outing to finish off the year.

With love and blessings

Claudia König



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



On 25th May the Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held at Kirk Christ. The attendance was relatively good. Two new PCC members were elected to represent St Mary's Church, and one to represent St Peter's Church. This means that there is a full complement of PCC members for the year to April 2022. Other positions were elected although there is still a vacancy for the position of churchwarden, and for a member to serve on the Diocesan Synod for the next three years, although since the APCM an interest has been shown by a church member in filling this position.

The joint service at Kirk Christ on 30th May had a good representation from all four churches in the parish. The singing was good ably supported by the choir.

Soup Inn returned to St Catherine's Church Hall on 10th June. The fellowship from the few people who attended was good, and as usual the food was excellent. The funds raised were added to the parish finances

Gerry Callister

***Concerts Commence
At 7.45pm***

Admission is Free

Retiring Collection

***Refreshments in
Church Hall
following
each
concert***

St Catherine's Church Summer Concerts 2021 July

- 1st Ballafesson Brass
- 8th Manx Voices
- 15th Meadowside Choral Society
- 22nd Manx Saxophone Ensemble
- 29th Women in Song

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

Sudoku July 2021

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

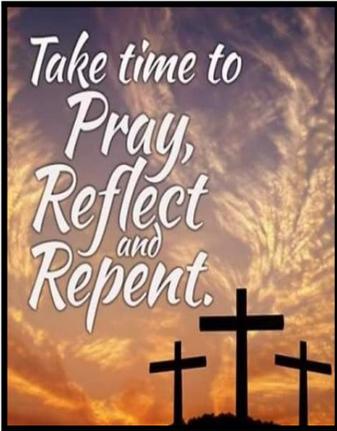
June Sudoku Solution

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

June Crossword Solution

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

Reflected Faith The Spaces Between



Most of us have been in situations where we are not in control, and we don't know how to feel or how to react to our situation. We need help.

The most valuable gift you can have at those times – is time itself. Time to be 'listened to'. Really listened to. But it is not easy to find someone who will 'actively listen' to you.

Think of the last time you were in the reverse position with a friend or a colleague, and they were talking to you. How easily do you recall what they actually said? Most of us are so busy getting our replies ready for when the person has finished speaking, that we don't clearly hear their punch line.

With God it is different. We can take everything to Him; all our worries and cares and failures and faults. And He listens.

He doesn't necessarily jump in with an instant, easy solution, but rather He promises to always guide us, if we ask Him, through life's challenges, and He promises to never leave us. He often speaks to us through his written word, the Bible.

This last year, when many of us have been communicating with others by phone or Zoom, we get nervous if it all goes quiet. We feel the need to 'nudge' the other person, to make sure they are still there. Silence is not a natural state for many of us – and yet it is in the quiet we can hear ourselves and God most clearly.

So, when we talk with God, our conversation should not be rushed and one-sided. We need to give space to our silence before Him, to wait and listen for Him to speak to us.

This month:

Next time you worship in church, listen to the silences: the spaces between the words, the music and the actions. Listen to all the prayers that are spoken.

Look at your surroundings and reflect that they have absorbed thousands of prayers – and holy silence – down the centuries of their existence.

Look out the window and see the vastness of the sky above you – and let your prayers join with those that have gone before you. May the knowledge that you are not alone encourage and strengthen you.

Jo White



Queen's Platinum Jubilee a celebration of Faith & Service

A four-day Bank Holiday from 2-5 June 2022 will mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year. This is an amazing opportunity to bring our communities together for the celebrations, which end on Pentecost Sunday.

HOPE Together, the Church of England, the Methodist Church, Biblica and other key partners are currently planning for the

Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with a specially commissioned souvenir book for us to give away; a new anthem for communities and churches to sing; a '70 Acts of Service' community challenge for us to adapt to use together with churches and other organisations in our area, and lots of resources for children and schools.

Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE's executive director said, "Churches are in an ideal place to bring communities together for national celebrations. We have the tables, chairs, crockery and PA systems – and we love making cakes!

"It is so appropriate that the nation and Commonwealth should be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the same weekend as Pentecost, the day when the church celebrates the gift of God's Holy Spirit."

The anointing of God's Holy Spirit was central to the Coronation and, in preparation for the day, The Queen prayed: 'Come, Holy Spirit, and daily increase in all of us, and in me, thy humble servant, thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spirit of counsel and strength; the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill us, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear, now and forever. Amen.'

The beautifully illustrated souvenir book to be published for the celebrations uses rarely seen prayers, which the Queen prayed in preparation for the Coronation, and highlights how God has answered those prayers over the past seven decades.

The 'Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Faith & Service' will build on the successful partnership facilitated by HOPE Together, which enabled local churches to bring their communities together for the Diamond Jubilee and the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

Over the next year HOPE will provide churches across the country with all the resources and ideas they need to run a great all-age community event that will celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service.

We could plan to get our parish involved, invite our community to a party, and round off the weekend with a special guest celebration service for Pentecost. If you are interested in involving our parish in the jubilee celebrations please inform the vicar or the churchwardens. Find out more at hopetogether.org.uk/jubilee

How Collective Worship is the heartbeat of the Church of England



*As a retired headteacher of a C of E primary school I thought you might like to read this comment from the Church of England's Chief Education Officer, the **Rev'd Canon Nigel Genders**, in connection with updated guidance on collective worship in Church of England primary schools. The picture above is of my school in Bapchild, Kent. (Editor)*

“One of the most rewarding parts of my role is the opportunity to visit schools across the country and join in inspirational and uplifting collective worship, led by children and young people.

“This Spring the Church of England published updated guidance for collective worship in schools. This is mainly a resource for Church of England schools, but one which can be helpful to all schools.

“State schools in England are required to provide a daily act of collective worship which is ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’. Although there is scope for schools to apply for an exemption to that depending on their particular circumstances, very few overall seem to do so.

“That’s perhaps not surprising as schools tell us that, whatever the legal obligations, daily collective worship has proved a powerful tool in bringing pupils together. For Church of England schools that means Christian worship and that will remain the case.

“The guidance builds on the Church of England’s Vision for Education, which is to be ‘deeply Christian’ while ‘serving the common good.’ In collective worship terms, this means opening the rich traditions and modern expressions of Christian worship to people of all faith backgrounds in a way which does not presume a particular starting point, so is invitational and inclusive as well as inspiring.

“Children can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be formational; to enable pupils and adults to consider big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should call us to action, to thinking and behaving differently. We suggested that schools take care that pupils and adults do not feel ‘compelled to sing strongly confessional lyrics’. But it became clear that the word ‘confessional’ had been misunderstood - one rather over-the-top newspaper column even tried to claim that this meant we were ‘purging’ hymns of Christian content. Far from it.

“Christians often speak about ‘confessing’ their personal faith in God. The use of ‘confessional’ here was simply meant to recognise that whilst most will enjoy singing their heart out, schools should not insist that everyone must join in and should take care with what is appropriate, depending on their context.

“So, for example, insisting all pupils sing ‘All to Jesus, I surrender’ in a school where the majority of pupils are devout followers of another faith, as is the case in some of our Church school, might seem unnecessarily exclusive when there are lots of other inspirational Christian content to choose from. We have changed the wording of the guidance to make this clear.

“Parents value this approach, as it encourages thinking differently, and reflecting the behaviour and actions of individuals and communities. Inspirational collective worship should lead pupils to become courageous advocates of causes and encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

“We want pupils to leave school with an understanding of Christianity having encountered Jesus Christ through worship in a way that enhances their lives, whatever their faith standpoint.

“Around one million children attend Church of England schools which shows that parents and pupils clearly welcome what is on offer. Collective worship is at the heart of this, and we are committed to providing this in a way which is accessible to all.”

Rev’d Canon Nigel Genders



All in the month of July

100 years ago, on 1st July 1921, the Chinese Communist Party was founded. **Also, on 10th July 1921**, Belfast's Bloody Sunday took place. Protestant loyalists attacked Catholic enclaves and set fire to homes and businesses, sparking rioting and gun battles. At least 17 people were killed and more than 70 injured. 2,000 people were left homeless. **Also on 30th July 1921**, the hormone insulin was discovered by Frederick Banting and Charles Best at the University of Toronto.

80 years ago, on 19th July 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill launched his 'V for Victory' campaign.

75 years ago, on 22nd July 1946, the King David Hotel bombing took place in Jerusalem. The Irgun (a militant right-wing Zionist group) bombed the hotel which housed the British administrative headquarters for Palestine. 91 people were killed.

60 years ago, on 1st July 1961, Diana, Princess of Wales, was born. (Killed in a car crash in 1997) **Also on 2nd July 1961**, Ernest Hemingway, American novelist and short story writer, died. Winner of the 1954 Nobel Prize in Literature. Best known for 'For Whom the Bell Tolls, A Farewell to Arms, and The Old Man and the Sea'.

40 years ago, on 4th July 1981, the Toxteth riots broke out in Liverpool. **Also on 17th July 1981** the Humber Bridge, linking Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, was officially opened. It was the world's longest single-span suspension bridge at that time. **Also on 29th July 1981**, the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer took place at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

25 years ago, on 5th July 1996, the first cloned mammal was born. Dolly the sheep was born at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh. (Died 2003)

15 years ago, on 15th July 2006 Twitter, the micro-blogging social network, was launched.

10 years ago, on 23rd July 2011, Amy Winehouse, British soul/R&B/jazz singer and songwriter died. (Alcohol poisoning, aged 27)

Cry baby

A woman took her four-month-old baby to visit her neighbour, but the baby began to fuss as soon as they arrived. The neighbour's five-year-old son asked where the baby had come from. "He was sent down from Heaven," the mother replied, above the screams.

The little boy watched the baby crying for a few more minutes, and then turned to his mother. "I bet I know why he was sent from Heaven. God wanted some quiet up there!"



Bishop challenges the BBC on its religious broadcasting

A Church of England bishop has recently called on the BBC to be more imaginative in its religious broadcasting. The Bishop of Ripon, Helen-Ann Hartley, urged the BBC to go beyond ‘preaching to the converted’ to producing documentaries and dramas that challenge and inform people’s world views. Writing in a recent edition of *Radio Times*, Bishop Hartley noted that the BBC is promising ‘more content than ever before’ but added: “If most of it fails to get beyond the ‘God slot’ normally reserved for ‘Songs of Praise’, what’s the point, beyond keeping the faithful happy?”

Bishop Hartley chairs the respected Sandford St Martin Trust, which “promotes thought-provoking, distinctive programming that deals with religion, ethics and spirituality.” By running annual awards, the Trust “promotes excellent broadcasting about all faiths, from major networks, independents and online sources, at local and national level.” In the hard-hitting article, she asked “Where are the documentaries that challenge us to rethink the world we live in? Or the dramas that ask us to re-imagine the human relationships? Instead of congratulating itself on producing more content than ever, I wonder if it’s time for the BBC to ask just what *is the point of religion on the telly*, or the radio for that matter?”

Bishop Hartley described the BBC as focusing unduly on ritual “because that’s what the BBC thinks religious people do or are interested in.” She said “I’m far more motivated by programmes that explore the big questions in life. You can’t really understand the world and what motivates people if you’re not able to interpret or understand religion.” Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley issued a strong challenge to the BBC to up its game on what the Corporation describes as ‘religious broadcasting.’

She does so from an influential position, as the Sandford St Martin Trust has long championed insightful, imaginative programmes that go beyond stereotypes and superficialities to depict the role played by faith in the lives of millions of people. Bishop Hartley makes clear in the article “I don’t just want to watch a multi-platform worship service at Easter. I’d like to ask hard questions and explore what the answers might be.” She applauded the Channel 4 drama series, ‘It’s a Sin’ set in the AIDs crisis of the 1980s, commenting “Drama can shine a light on how generations have faced issues and challenges, many of which resonate with our current pandemic crisis.

“We all have world views, the question is how much these help us understand one another, and the things that motivate us. That’s what great TV like ‘It’s a Sin’ can do.

Rev’d Peter Crumpler

From the Registers

Funerals May 2021

Tuesday 18th May @ 2pm Ashes Burial (RBG) Lesley Macready

Friday 21st May @ 3pm Ashes Burial (RBG) Rita Jean Wilson

Wedding May 2021

Saturday 8th May @4pm St Peter's Church
Shirley A Crebbin & James M Keggen

Baptisms May 2021

Sunday 16th May @9.30am Kirk Christ
Isla Louise & Noah John Hargreaves

RBG – Rushen Burial Ground

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



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."

1st July - Henry Venn of the CMS



Most Christians in the UK have heard of the Church Mission Society or CMS. Far fewer have heard of the Revd Henry Venn (1796-1873), whose father, the rector of Clapham, founded CMS in 1799, and who himself became the greatest missionary strategist of the 19th century.

Not that Henry Venn ever became a missionary himself; after Cambridge he served his curacy at St Dunstan's in Fleet Street, and then an incumbency at Drypool in Hull, before becoming vicar of St Johns, Holloway in 1834. But Henry Venn's parish-based ministry did not obscure his passionate interest in overseas evangelism, and in 1841 he accepted an invitation to become the honorary secretary of the Church Mission Society. That decision was to shape the history of overseas missions, and to make CMS into the most effective force in Britain for delivering effective overseas mission.

For Henry was an outstanding administrator, and his wisdom and management of the missionaries enabled CMS to grow and flourish. When Henry first began work on CMS, it employed 107 European clergy and nine local indigenous people. When he died in 1873, there were 230 European clergy and 148 local people in service.

After his resignation from St Johns Holloway in 1846, Henry devoted himself almost exclusively to the work of CMS. He was directly responsible for sending out 498 clergymen, all of them chosen by him, and with most of whom he continued in regular correspondence. He also established eight or nine bishoprics for the supervision of CMS missionary clergy and was usually involved in the appointments made.

Henry and a missions colleague in America were the first to use the term 'indigenous church', and they were way ahead of their time in seeing the necessity for creating churches on the mission fields that in time would become not only self-supporting, but also self-governing and self-propagating. In fact, Venn wrote with enthusiasm on this "euthanasia of missions," meaning that missionaries were only ever meant to be temporary, and not permanent.

All in all, Henry Venn's exposition on the basic principles of indigenous Christian missions was so powerful that much of it was later adopted by the Lausanne Congress of 1974.

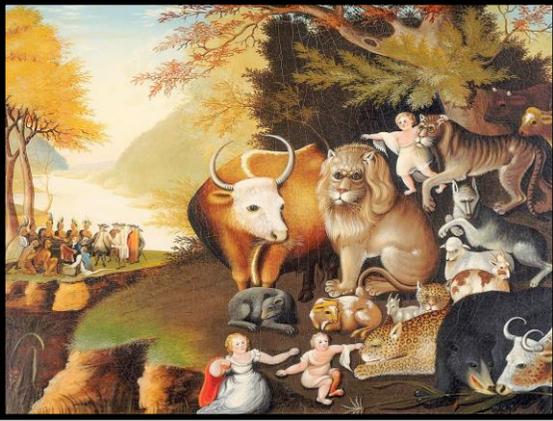
But alongside Venn's passion for evangelism was his concern for social justice, and he frequently lobbied the British Parliament, especially the closure of the Atlantic slave trade.

In 1873, when he was 76, Venn died at his home in Mortlake, Surrey. He is buried in the churchyard.

God in the Arts

The **Revd Michael Burgess** continues his series on *God in the Arts* with 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks. It now hangs in the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC.

Promise and Fulfilment



When St Peter preached his first sermon on the day of Pentecost, he showed how the life, death and resurrection of Jesus had to be understood in the light of the Old Testament. The promise of the Old was granted fulfilment in the New. This is how we understand the unity of the two Testaments: the messianic hope in one finds full expression in the other. We read of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah and look to the life-giving sacrifice of Jesus. Earlier in that prophet we read of a wondrous Child who is granted the spirit of the Lord to bring Paradise once more to the world:

'The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them....They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.' (Isaiah 11:6,9)

That vision of peace and harmony inspired this month's painting, 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1780 and worked as a carriage and sign maker. After a rebellious adolescence, he became a Quaker, living as a preacher and minister before taking up his brushes. His fellow Quakers were uneasy with this pursuit of such a worldly profession, and so Edward Hicks tried his hand at farming. His efforts proved unsuccessful, and he returned to painting, creating a whole series of canvases on this single theme. He painted almost a hundred versions of the Peaceable Kingdom of which over 60 still exist. This one is from 1834.

The foreground is occupied by not just one child, but several. They are innocent and free, playing with the animals around – lion, tiger, leopard, bear, wolf, cow and lamb. There is no sign of 'nature red in tooth and claw' here for all is peace and tranquillity. The bear and cow nudge each other in the bottom corner with no fear and no assertion of strength. That vision of peace is being realised in the distant scene, where we see William Penn and his fellow Quakers working on a treaty of co-existence with the Indians. The animals in the foreground symbolise the human traits we see at work in the background: leadership and strength, sensitivity and gentleness.

As he worked on later versions of this painting, Edward Hicks knew that such peace was not an easy and simple achievement. Arguments and misunderstandings divided his own flock, and as a result the animals he painted look tired and anxious with sad eyes and white whiskers.

But here in 1834 there is a freshness and a promise of paradise restored. The cow and the calf, the bear and the bear cub, and the other animals are at one with the children playing. That harmony can be realised in human affairs also, the artist is saying. 'Follow the Inner Light' and Isaiah's prophecy can be fulfilled in our world. It needs both the innocence and strength we see here; it needs action and waiting, it needs wisdom and gentleness as we take counsel one with another. Follow those qualities to be channels of God's peace to make this world the Peaceable Kingdom.

Children's Page

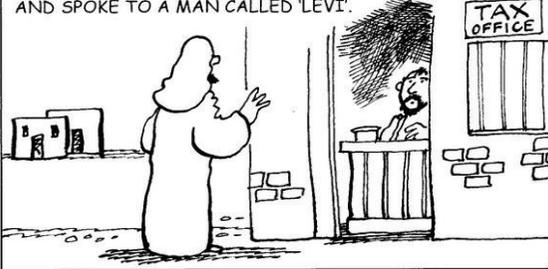
The Doctor and the Sick



THE PEOPLE JESUS CHOSE TO BE HIS CLOSE FOLLOWERS WERE OFTEN QUITE UNUSUAL.



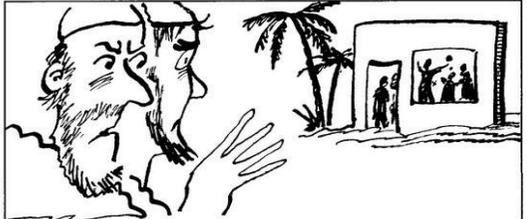
ONCE JESUS STOPPED BY A TAX-COLLECTOR'S OFFICE AND SPOKE TO A MAN CALLED 'LEVI'.



LEVI'S LIFE WAS CHANGED BY MEETING JESUS.



LEVI WANTED ALL HIS FRIENDS TO MEET JESUS TOO, SO HE CALLED A BIG PARTY FOR HIS TAX COLLECTOR FRIENDS



IN JESUS' DAY TAX COLLECTORS WERE VERY UNPOPULAR. THE PEOPLE THOUGHT JESUS WAS MIXING WITH A BAD BUNCH!

...BUT I AM HERE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY!



SURELY IT IS THE UNWELL PERSON WHO NEEDS THE DOCTOR - NOT THE WELL?!



see Luke 5:27-32

The Story Behind the Hymn



Kum Ba Yah

Kum ba yah, my lord, kum ba yah
Kum ba yah, my lord, kum ba yah
Kum ba yah, my lord, kum ba yah
Oh lord, kum ba yah

Someone's crying lord, kum ba yah
Someone's crying lord, kum ba yah
Someone needs you lord, kum ba yah
Oh lord, kum ba yah

Someone's praying lord, kum ba yah
Someone's praying lord, kum ba yah
Someone's praying lord, kum ba yah
Oh lord, kum ba yah

Someone hears you lord, kum ba yah
Someone hears you lord, kum ba yah
Someone hears you lord, kum ba yah
Oh lord, kum ba yah

Someone's seen you lord, kum ba yah
Someone's seen you lord, kum ba yah
Someone's seen you lord, kum ba yah
Oh lord, kum ba yah

Kum ba yah, my lord, kum ba yah
Kum ba yah, my lord, kum ba yah
Kum ba yah, my lord, kum ba yah
Oh lord, kum ba yah
Oh lord, kum ba yah

The origins of this song have been enveloped in mystery for nearly a century. Some have said that it came from Africa. Others have claimed authorship and even copyrighted it. Some grew up singing it around campfires at summer camp accompanied by folk guitar and three chords. It has been sung at protest marches and candlelight vigils. Those who came of age during the 1960s and 1970s during the Vietnam War heard Joan Baez (b. 1941) and Pete Seeger (1919-2014) sing this song, as well as Odetta (1930-2008) and the all-women, African American a cappella ensemble, Sweet Honey in the Rock.

Many recall the experience of a “Kum ba yah” moment – a fleeting feeling of unity or togetherness solidified while singing together. Sometime after the 1980s and into the current century, “Kum ba yah” began to be viewed as a simplistic children’s song, and the unified feelings it once symbolised became a sonic metaphor for cultural naïveté in a more callous and jaded era. Regardless of one’s earlier associations with this song, set them aside and take a fresh look at a spiritual that has a word for us.

Those who reduce this spiritual to a “feel-good moment” of ephemeral togetherness or cynically see it as simplistic and shallow in the current cultural and political context should call to mind the witness of Jesus, the Christ, who was present with those in times of need and promises to be with us always (Matthew 28:20). In addition, we should not be hesitant to incorporate specific instances of human need into the stanzas rather than relying only on the more generic verses that we find in current hymnals.

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

*Lord Jesus Christ, you have said
that you are the Way, the Truth and the Life.
Do not allow us to stray from you,
who is the Way,
not to distrust you, who is the Truth,
nor to rest in anything other than you,
who is the Life. Amen*



July 2021

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Children with special needs and their families
- 2nd Peace between peoples of different faiths
- 3rd The ability to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves
- 4th The NHS and its tireless work in caring for those affected by Covid-19
- 5th Tynwald and the festivities taking place today
- 6th Those who work in the legal profession, and the work they do for everyone
- 7th Local organisations for children and young people
- 8th Those known to us who are unwell and need our prayers
- 9th Families which have not been able to meet because of the coronavirus restrictions
- 10th Those who give help to vulnerable people
- 11th Each other as we endeavour to keep Covid-19 from infecting the others around us
- 12th The environment, and how we can ensure that it is not polluted by our waste
- 13th The kindness of those who have kept in touch with people who have been isolated
- 14th Fair trade and sustainable development in the third world
- 15th The charitable work undertaken by many of the island's organisations
- 16th Those who give of their time to help those who are less fortunate than themselves
- 17th The work of the Salvation Army
- 18th The Diocese of Sodor and Man and its links with parishes within its boundaries
- 19th The work of retreat houses and places of pilgrimage
- 20th Food and clothing for those afflicted by war and famine
- 21st Single parents, teenagers living alone and families on low incomes
- 22nd Chaplains in the armed forces, hospitals and prisons
- 23rd All pets and the pleasure they give to so many both young and old
- 24th Farmers as they look forward to the harvest of their crops
- 25th Good weather for all families if they go away on holiday during the summer
- 26th Those who have been bereaved recently or remembering the death of loved ones
- 27th Family life throughout the world
- 28th Those who have died for their faith in Jesus Christ
- 29th Those who work in the holiday industry and the difficulties they are experiencing
- 30th Victims of abuse, cruelty, and violence
- 31st The effect of the pandemic on peoples' finances, and in their future prosperity

Services July 2021

4th July (Trinity 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)
7th July	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise
11th July (Trinity 6)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
18th July (Trinity 7)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's All-Age Service CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
25th July (Trinity 8)	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)
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)
	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise
8th August (Trinity 10)	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

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

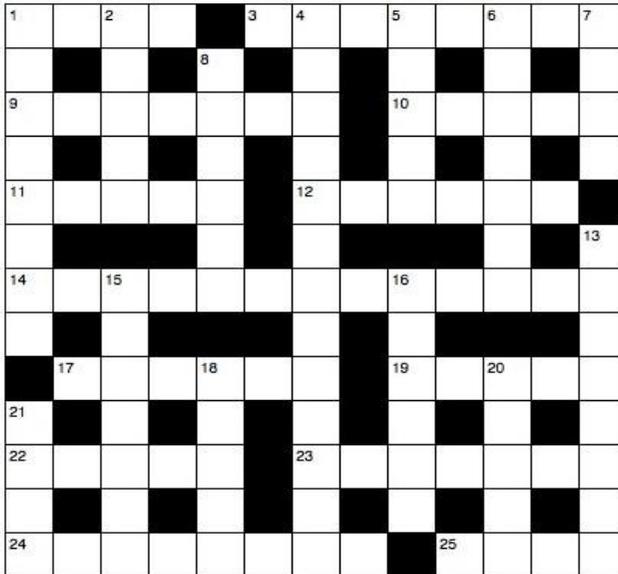
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Please contact	Mr Harry Dawson:	478050/835770
	or Mr G Callister:	474924/834627

Crossword July 2021



Across

- 1** Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8–12) (4)
- 3** 'The vilest — who truly believes that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
- 9** Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)
- 10** 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
- 11** King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
- 12** Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
- 14** The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
- 17** To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
- 19** A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
- 22** 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
- 23** I gain me (anag.) (7)
- 24** Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
- 25** Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

Down

- 1** Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
- 2** Church of England incumbent (5)
- 4** What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
- 5** Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
- 6** 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in — ' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
- 7** It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
- 8** It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
- 13** Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
- 15** Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
- 16** Real do (anag.) (6)
- 18** 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
- 20** 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day — ' (Romans 14:5) (5)
- 21** A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)