



June  
2021

# Rushen Parish Magazine

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Rose  
'Queen  
Elizabeth'

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# *A Letter from Liz*



Dear Friends

As we enter Ordinary Time in our Church year we are perhaps reminded, as we take faltering steps back to easing border restrictions and resuming life with travel on and off the island, that we are still not in ordinary time as we knew it before the pandemic.

And yet, and yet ..... we remember that all time is both ordinary and extraordinary for people all over the world. That many people in many parts of the world have faced all sorts of difficulties, wars, economic hardships, persecution, and their experiences collectively have had more widespread consequences than we have experienced as a community over the last year.

So, as we seek to resume more normal life and get things going again, perhaps we can spare a thought for those who consistently having harder lives than we do, and spare some of our resources to help them too.

And as we reflect on history, including the accounts' we have from the Bible, life has always had challenges; but in the midst of those challenges, prophets, people of God gave messages of hope - that God is with us in our challenges and the eternal message of hope, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But let us also remember, in that famous slogan from Christian Aid, we believe in life before death. So let us do what we can to support others in need.

Take care and God bless

Rev Liz Hull



## Churches stepped up support for their communities during pandemic

*Editor: Although this article relates to churches in the UK it is likely that we too, in the Parish of Rushen, could add to some of the support that has been given to vulnerable people during the pandemic.*

More than 4,000 Church of England parishes have stepped up their support to local communities in the face of rising levels

of poverty, loneliness and isolation since the Covid-19 pandemic, according to new research. Church volunteers have delivered food, shopped, walked dogs and collected prescriptions this past year, according to a report by the Church of England and Church Urban Fund.

Church volunteers have also done gardening projects, been ‘phone buddies’, aided with job-hunting, and helped people get online, as local people struggled with the social and economic effects of the pandemic. Despite restrictions on meeting socially, nearly a quarter of churches even started a completely new activity during the pandemic. More than of them adapted two or more of their existing community activities in order to meet local needs.

Overall, 37% of churches reported that they were providing *more* support to their communities, with this figure rising to 41% in rural areas. Food provision and pastoral support were by far the biggest area of support provided by churches, with nearly 80% of churches involved in running or supporting a food bank or similar service. Many opened food banks for the first time.

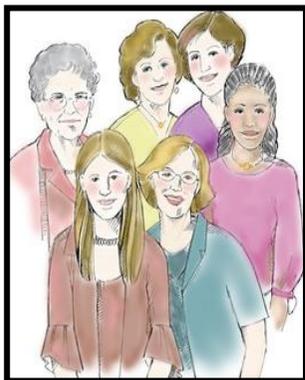
Church leaders reported that isolation, loneliness and mental health difficulties, food poverty, unemployment and debt are more widespread in their communities as a result of the pandemic. Church buildings, because of their size and ventilation, have been well used for activities from ante natal classes to socially prescribed exercise. In fact, many became ‘symbols of hope’, with flags, posters and artwork as a “form of visual encouragement”.

Church Urban Fund Chief Executive Rachel Whittington said: “2020 was a year like no other, and yet churches across the UK rose ... with undeterred compassion, displaying the love in action which lies at the heart of the Christian gospel.”

### **Talking**

*Bishop Douglas Feaver, the notoriously outspoken former Bishop of Peterborough, was presiding at his first Diocesan Synod and a man at the back had been droning on and on for some length of time. Finally, a lady called out to protest that she could not hear what he was saying. Bishop Douglas replied: “You should thank God and sit down.”*

## Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



It was lovely to meet up again in St Mary's church on 20<sup>th</sup> April, our last meeting having been on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, due to the restrictions of Lockdown. Margaret had once again emailed us with well researched and much appreciated "Thoughts of the Day" during the 7 week period, for which it is hard to find adequate words of thanks; it meant such a lot to each and every one of us.

We had to postpone our Open Afternoon for The Leprosy Mission, Isle of Man, but in order that we met the deadline date of 24<sup>th</sup> April, for the UK government to match donations to this charity, we had agreed (by email) that £150 be transferred to their account. The postponed event took place on 18<sup>th</sup> May, in St Catherine's Hall, and a huge thank you to everyone who helped: printing tickets and posters, setting up the hall, preparing the Bring & Buy and Plant stall, baking cakes, preparing and serving teas, washing up, and making donations. We are grateful to Rev'd Liz Hull who opened the meeting, to Jan Withey for the bible reading, and to all who brought stamps and their Leprosy Mission collection boxes. Mrs Elly Duchars gave us a very interesting and informative illustrated talk on the focus of the new appeal and shared memories of her visit to Nepal. Her talk was personal, touching, and her stories of people she had met really brought home how much good this charity does in the world. Pat gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the LWP. We are delighted that £520 has been raised for TLM and wish to say a very big thank you to all who made this possible.

Along with the many island charities who have accounts with the Isle of Man Bank, we were shocked by the announcement that new charges would be levied from the end of May. However, the Bank has since reported that this will now not take place until May 2022, which gives us some breathing space. Thank you to treasurer Lesley for all her work on our behalf. Thanks also to Jude for her update of the Flower Rota with changes resulting from lockdown, and to Sue Bould for arranging our much postponed LWP lunch at Douglas Golf Club, on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

We are looking forward to the Parish Pentecost BBQ and Faith lunch which will take place after morning service at St Mary's on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and we are extremely grateful for the many offers of help with food, and in particular to Mr Michal Kewley for agreeing again this year to man the grill outside.

During our weekly meetings, we always pray for those who are experiencing ill health, living with pain, facing an operation, going through difficult times, coping with the loss of a loved one, or more general concerns.

With our warmest good wishes to everyone.

**Pat Thomson**



## Ephrem the Syriac, prolific hymn writer

Here is a saint for you, if you have ever been touched by the words of a song.

Ephrem the Syriac was born 306AD in Nisibis, Turkey. Baptised in 324, he joined the cathedral school in Nisibis, where it was soon obvious that he had an outstanding gift for writing both music and lyrics.

Ephrem would have agreed with St Paul about the value of using music to express our faith in God. In an age of widespread illiteracy, he saw that hymns could be powerful carriers of orthodox Christianity, even when sung by uneducated people.

And so Ephrem wrote – and wrote. His poetry was so powerful, and his melodies so evocative, that soon his hymns were spreading far and wide across the Roman Empire. And wherever they went, his hymns took the Christian gospel along with them.

Some of Ephrem's hymns were written to refute heretical ideas, while others praised the beauty of the life of Christ. To Ephrem, everything around us could become a reminder of the presence of God, and thus an aid to worship.

Ephrem became the most prolific and gifted hymn-writer in all of eastern Christianity. His hundreds of hymns influenced the later development of hymn-writing in both Syriac and Greek Christianity.

Ephrem was also a well-respected Christian theologian and writer, always keen to defend orthodoxy from the widespread heresies of the time. Ephrem stressed that Christ's perfect unity of humanity and divinity represented peace, perfection and salvation.

After Nisibis fell to the Turks in 363, Ephrem fled to Edessa, where he continued to work. But plague struck the city in 373, and while nursing others with the plague Ephrem finally died of it himself on 9<sup>th</sup> June. But his music lives on - more than 500 of his hymns still survive today.

### Parish Pump

#### ***Don't forget the other half***

*When my daughter said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). Then one night, after we had finished the nightly prayer, she added: "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine. Finally, my curiosity got the best of me and I asked her why she had begun adding the part about all girls. Her response? "Because at church the minister only ever says 'all men!'"*

## A look at the Methodists today



The Methodist Church of Great Britain (MCGB) was formed in 1932 from a merger of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church (itself a merger of three groups in 1907), then with a total membership of 840,000 and 7,800 churches. In 2019 the MCGB had some 4,200 churches across England, Wales and Scotland, with membership of 170,000.

In terms of church buildings, it is the second largest denomination in England, second only to the Church of England (with 15,500 churches). There are 30 Districts currently (equivalent to Dioceses) which are sub-divided into Circuits, on average 12 Circuits in each District, but some have just one, like the Welsh-speaking churches, or those on the Isle of Man and Shetlands. The largest is London with 35. Each Circuit has on average 12 churches, or 140 per District (the Church of England has 380 churches per Diocese).

Numerically, Methodist attendance is not very dissimilar to its membership. In 2019 attendance was about 164,000, all but 20,000 attending. As with Anglican churches, they find Sunday attendance declining faster than weekday attendance, and children and young people attendance declining roughly twice as fast as adult attendance.

Individual churches naturally vary in size. A list of all 4,200 churches gave an interesting overview: Methodist churches are quite small, with two-fifths, 38%, having under 20 members per church and a further two-fifths, 39%, having between 20 and 59 members, leaving just under a quarter, 23%, with 60 members or over. The median size is 28, meaning that half the churches have 28 or fewer members while the other half have more.

The two largest Methodist churches, by congregational size, are Swan Bank, Stoke-on-Trent (465 members) and Wesley's Chapel, in City Road (464 members). Two others are over 400: Bournemouth Methodist Church (429 members) and Methodist Central Hall in Westminster (422 members).

**Dr Peter Brierley**

### ***Good Samaritan***

*A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."*



## News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



After the lockdown, Kirk Christ was opened on 19<sup>th</sup> April for private prayer. On the following Sunday, and subsequent two Sundays, Holy Communion was celebrated at Kirk Christ for everyone in the parish. Attendance on the three Sundays was reasonably good, especially with there still being some concern over the restrictions. The normal service pattern in our four churches resumed on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

The Rushen Roamers recommenced their weekly walks on 28<sup>th</sup> April and as they normally do after the walk, returned to St Catherine's Hall to enjoy coffee together.

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May, during the service at Kirk Christ, Isla Louise and Noah John Hargreaves were baptised by the Rev Liz Hull.

The weekly summer concert season commences at St Catherine's Church on 1<sup>st</sup> July. It is hoped that the weather will be kind on Thursday evenings to allow people to appreciate the walk to the venue, enjoy the entertainment, and look forward to the refreshments in the church hall which are served after the concert.

On 25<sup>th</sup> June there is another Murder Mystery Evening in St Catherine's Hall. Details will be published in the Parish magazine and Rushen News.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> July, at St John's Mill, the 2021 Flower Festival will be held. Our thanks must go to Glenda Murphy and Joyce Christian for offering to arrange a floral display at the festival on behalf of Rushen Parish.

**Gerry Callister**

### ***Children's Society Collection Boxes***

*I would be grateful if all Children's Society box holders could hand in their boxes to Gerald or to me so that your gift can be sent to this worthwhile charity. I do understand that in this Covid world you might not yet be ready to participate. However, if you have been able, your kindness and compassion will help to make it possible for children to escape from harmful surroundings and to lead the happier lives they deserve. Your boxes play such a huge part. If you have participated could you leave your box in St Catherine's Church. Alternatively, we will collect them from you if you would prefer it.*

*Thank you all so much*

***Doreen Callister***

### Sudoku June 2021

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

### Neighbourhood Watch

*In one small rural village the local vet also led the local Neighbourhood Watch group. Late one night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, "Is your husband there?" **The wife asked,** "He is, but tell me, do you need him as the vet or the Neighbourhood Watch?" **The reply was** "Both! We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it!"*

### Sudoku Solution May 2021

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

### Crossword Solution May 2021

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

## A prince's legacy on matters of faith



Just when we thought the last word had been written about the late Duke of Edinburgh, it emerged that he had a genuine interest in theology. That dashing young naval officer, who became the Queen's dutiful consort and accompanied her to thousands of church services, was someone who listened intently to sermons, thought through what was being said, and then asked questions.

Every Sunday when the royal couple were at Sandringham, a diocesan bishop was invited to preach in the parish church. Afterwards, they were grilled by the Duke who, we are told by one of them, showed that he "wanted to be intellectually and spiritually engaged". That's a polite way of saying he wasn't prepared to swallow what came out of the pulpit if he wasn't convinced by it.

Some Christians are suspicious of people who probe the faith. Should it not be taken on trust? Who are we to question the Almighty? For others, doubt hovers uninvited. Honest doubt won't settle for unbelief but will continue to persevere with its enquiries. The Russian writer and philosopher Fyodor Dostoyevsky wrote: "It is not as a child that I believe and confess Jesus Christ. My hosanna is born of a furnace of doubt." Dostoyevsky had lived a turbulent life, both personally and publicly, and wrestled mentally with himself and God. Some people are like that.

Prince Philip had been baptised into the Greek Orthodox Church and was received into the Church of England just before his marriage. He organised much of his own funeral, and if you followed it, you will remember how traditional it was. Many of the prayers were from the 17th Century Book of Common Prayer, the hymns were more ancient than modern, and the Bible readings confidently proclaimed the magnificence of God's Creation and Jesus' teaching about the resurrection. These are basic to Christianity and it was from such a foundation that he was able to explore.

So, if you wake up one morning questioning everything you have believed, take it is a spur to dig deeper and ask questions. Be encouraged by Philip, who shunned a second-hand faith because he wanted to know the truth for himself.

The next time you hear a sermon which you can't understand or disagree with, don't let the preacher get away with it. And if, in your private conversations with God, you find yourself praying, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief,' you won't be the first. See Mark 9, verse 24.

**The Venerable John Barton**

## Keeping faith in the local media



The vital role played by local newspapers and radio in encouraging greater understanding of faith has been highlighted in a newly-published parliamentary report. I say Amen to that.

‘Learning to Listen’, produced by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religion in the Media, praises the positive role played by local and regional media in reporting religion in a “balanced, nuanced and informative way.” It forms part of a wide-ranging review of

‘religious literacy’ across the press and broadcasting. The report contrasts this sensitive grassroots coverage with the way faith is often reported in the national press.

As someone who trained as a local newspaper reporter and has been involved in working with the media to cover faith issues for more than 45 years, I wholeheartedly agree with the report’s praise. But from conversations with editors and faith leaders, I know there still exists a divide to be crossed. Often, local journalists are unaware of the rich source of news and feature stories that lie within local faith communities. And the vicars, pastors, rabbis, imams and other faith leaders are either wary of their local media or are not aware that the local newspaper or radio station would welcome hearing from them. Where churches and other faith groups have built links with their local media, positive, informed coverage is often achieved.

In the 98-page ‘Learning to Listen’ report, the group of MPs and members of the House of Lords said, “We heard compelling evidence that local media continues to represent religions in a more balanced, nuanced and informative way than national media. “Reporting on local religious festivals, community events and local charities can represent the lively reality of religious practice and experience in a way that is very difficult for national journalism to achieve.” The parliamentarians also praised the role of BBC local radio in reporting faith, stating “regional broadcasting has an important role to play in representing everyday belief. It has the capacity to introduce new perspectives at the same time as creating a common narrative. It is an area where religious programming continues to be valued and prioritised.”

The report highlights the Sunday morning faith and ethics-based programmes broadcast by English BBC local radio stations, and comments “when prioritised, good local religious programming can be engaging, interrogative and enjoyable.” It commends especially the role played by the stations in covering faith issues during the pandemic. But the parliamentary report also spells out the challenges to local reporting. Advertising has been sucked away from regional and local newspapers by the social media giants, and BBC local radio is under pressure as the Corporation’s licence-based funding comes under attack.

In response to these challenges the report concludes, “This loss of local, public interest reporting is deeply worrying. Not only does local journalism play an important social and democratic role, we received compelling evidence that it fulfils a valuable function in representing religion and belief in an accessible and balanced way.”

### Rev Peter Crumpler

*(An Associate Minister at St Paul’s Church in Fleetville, has praised the Herts Advertiser for its role in sharing stories of the important work done by religious communities)*

## Reflected Faith: Sit and be Still



How do you 'sit' in church? I'm a wriggler and change my position on the seat often. I cross one leg over the other, then swap them over, stretch them out, then cross them at the ankles. I do the same with my arms. I lean one way and then the other. In other words, 'I'm a fidget.' But having been absent from a church building for so long, I wanted to think this month about simply *sitting and being still* before the Lord.

I'm well aware we've done little else this last 18 months – but if you manage to get into a church building, for whatever reason I'd like to encourage us all to just sit still and breathe in the place. To relish being 'back'!

To sit 'heavily' in that spot. To feel the solidity of the surface you are sitting on. Lean into it. Feel how it supports you. Feel each part of your body where it is touching the chair or pew.

Look around you at all the distinctive seating set aside for the different participants of the church: the choir, the worship leader, a deacon or curate, the priest and so on.

In an Anglican church there will be a chair especially dedicated for the use of the Bishop. However plain or fancy each piece of furniture is within your building, they all have the same purpose. To hold the person and keep them safe.

*This month:*

As you sit in the church building – or at home if you are not able to do so – think of all those people in the Bible stories who sat with Jesus. The number of times He taught in the Temple or in a synagogue, or to crowds gathered on a hill. Recall the Last Supper and His friends gathered sitting with Him to eat and share the Passover meal, and then recall the meal with the men from the Emmaus Road. So many meal times with the bold and the weak, the saints and the sinners. With you and me.

**Revd Dr Jo White**

### *Thankful*

*A minister said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says a prayer over you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?"*

*The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"*

## The Ancient Church



Sometimes I sit within my pew  
And gaze upon an ancient view  
Of stones, which, set by mason's line  
Have stood through centuries of time;  
Of glass, whose colours, vivid, bright  
Have told their wondrous tales of light  
And filtered sunshine's timeless rays  
To countless eyes through countless days.

The pulpit where, through long past years  
God's servants preached to faithful ears;  
The lectern and its Bible read  
Aloud to both the quick and dead;  
The feet, which down that aisle have trod  
To worship everlasting God;  
The angels, as they downward gaze  
Have heard ten thousand songs of praise!

Songs of joy, and infant cries  
As they gathered to baptize,  
Songs of love and celebrations  
In marriages and confirmations,  
Songs of sadness and of loss  
Sung before the Saviour's cross.  
So many lives have come, then flown  
Within this ancient house of stone.

So, as I sit and wonder how  
Such history should guide me now?  
Such faithful worship through the years  
May move me to shed humble tears.  
These ghosts bring me joy, not fear  
I know I'm just a tenant here  
And in one way they are my guide –  
They keep me free from pompous pride!

**Nigel Beeton**

## Summer Concerts

### St Catherine's Church 2021

#### July

- |                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Ballafesson Brass                  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Castle Rushen High School Big Band |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Meadowside Choral Society          |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Manx Saxophone Ensemble            |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Women in Song                      |

#### August

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

#### September

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

**Concerts commence at 7.45pm**

**Admission Free - Retiring Collection**

**Refreshments in hall following concerts**

### *Out to graze*

*A group of elderly British tourists were touring Holland by bus. They stopped at a cheese farm where a young guide led them through the process of making cheese from goat's milk. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing.*

*"These," she explained, "are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce." She then asked, "What do you do in Britain with your old goats?"*

*A spry old gentleman answered: "They send us on bus tours!"*

## All in the month of June



**175 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1846**, Belgian musical instrument maker Adolphe Sax patented the saxophone.

**125 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1896**, Henry Ford completed his first automobile, the Ford Quadricycle, and gave it a test run around Detroit Michigan. It was a simple frame with an engine, two gears, a tiller for steering and four bicycle wheels. It had a top speed of 20mph. Its success led him to establish the Ford Motor Company.

**100 years ago on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1921**, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was born on a dining room table in Corfu. He was the husband of Queen Elizabeth II.

**90 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1931**, Jesse Boot, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Trent, British pharmacist and philanthropist, died. He had turned his father's Boots Company into a national chain of chemists.

**80 years ago, from 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 5<sup>th</sup> December 1941**, Operation Barbarossa took place. It was the German invasion of the Soviet Union, the largest military operation in history. In the end, it was a Soviet victory, for the German invaders were repelled when they reached Moscow, and then driven out of Russia by a Soviet counter-attack.

**75 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1946**, Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery became Chief of the Imperial General Staff (head of the British army).

**65 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1956**, the first European Cup final (soccer) was held, in Paris. Real Madrid (Spain) beat Stade de Reims (France) 4-3. The European Cup is now known as the UEFA Champions League.

**60 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1961**, Carl Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and psychologist, died. He was the founder of analytical psychology.

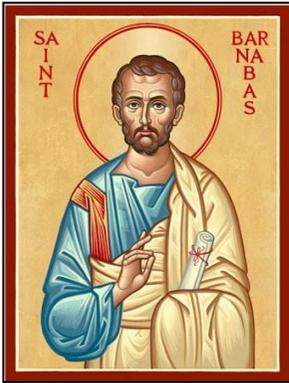
**50 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1971**, John Reith (Lord Reith), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Reith, Scottish business executive and politician, died. He was Manager and Director General of the BBC in its formative years. He also formed BOAC (now British Airways).

**40 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1981**, the first report of AIDS took place. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA reported that five homosexual men in Los Angeles were suffering from a rare form of pneumonia found in patients with weakened immune systems. These were later recognised as the first official AIDS cases. **Also on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1981**, American tennis player John McEnroe earned the press nickname 'Superbrat' when he threw a tantrum during his first-round match against Tom Gullikson at Wimbledon. He hurled abuse at the umpire, swore at the referee, and popularised the phrase 'you cannot be serious' when he disputed a line call. Nevertheless, he went on to win the men's singles championship that year.

**25 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1996**, the Second Severn Crossing was officially opened. The bridge spans the River Severn and links England and Wales via the M4 motorway.

**20 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2001**, two British schoolboys who murdered two-year-old James Bulger in Liverpool in 1993 were released from secret custody after 8 years. They were given new identities and moved to secret locations.

## Barnabas the Encourager



This month we remember the life of St Barnabas. His real name was Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he is known by his nickname '*Son of Encouragement*' (Acts 4:36). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

He was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we prepared to be generous to those in need around us?

He later *encouraged a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and aware of his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he '*saw the evidence of the grace of God*' (Acts 11:23). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new things in people's lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:8). It can be greatly undervalued, but it is still crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God's people and beyond and will we strengthen people to move beyond their own comfort zones to help those in need?

Be prepared to ask the following questions: '*Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?*' and '*How can we be encouragers to others?*'

**Canon Paul Hardingham**

### ***Egyptian this and that***

*A group of tourists was watching the re-enactment of an ancient Egyptian religious ritual. One pointed to the statue that was being praised, and asked a nearby local for the name of the god. "Why do you ask?" the local man replied.*

*The tourist shrugged. "Oh, just idol curiosity!"*

## *From the Registers*

### *Funerals April/May 2021*

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	@ 2pm	Burial Ground	Edna M Sutton
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	@ 11am	Burial Ground	Agnes Woodworth
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	@ 1pm	Kirk Christ	John Bregazzi
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	@ 11am	Burial Ground	Pauline M James
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	@ 11.30am	Kirk Christ	Freda McFee
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	@ 12.30pm	St Mary's	Nicola J Ogden
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	@ 2pm	Burial Ground	James J Shimmin



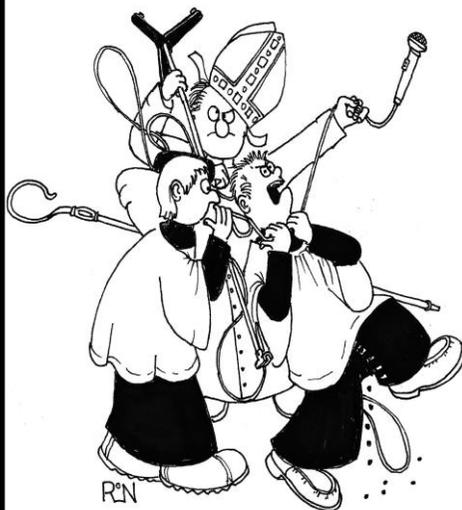
### **Safeguarding**

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](http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion)



*After months of lockdown, the Sunday procession probably needed some practise.*



## Rushen Mothers' Union

As we had been unable to meet in March and April due to lockdown restrictions, it was good to have 15 members attending our informal "tea and chat" meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May, in St Catherine's Hall. As usual, Gerry had everything ready for us. Thank you for all you do, Gerry.

Gerry had kindly brought along the Maundy Coins, purses and letters he had received from Her Majesty the Queen in recognition of his Christian service over many years, to churches in Kirk Michael originally, and for the past 36 years in the south of the island. Everyone agreed this was very well deserved!

Mrs Elsie Faragher led the meeting, beginning with prayers then lovely readings chosen and delivered by Mrs Margaret Couper, Mrs Jane Gunn, and Mrs Sue Bould. We discussed The Leprosy Mission Open Afternoon to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> May, as Margaret's poem reflected this subject, and then turned our attention to the matter raised by our treasurer Mrs Jude Sille, regarding the Isle of Man Bank's decision to levy charges on charitable accounts. It was agreed by the meeting that the MU Trustees should be approached with our suggestion that there should be a central, all island account to receive subs and that some petty cash be held at branch level. (Update: Isle of Man Bank charity charges will be deferred for a year, which gives us some breathing space). Jude was thanked for all her work for the branch.

Elsie led our discussions on proposed speakers and events for the forthcoming year, 2021-2022, beginning with our opening Communion in September, and asked for members to volunteer to lead each meeting, a system which has been working well for us for a few years. An interesting programme is taking shape. Thank you Elsie for all you do for the branch.

Two ladies who have chosen our hymns and provided our music for many years, Mrs Valerie Vaughan and Mrs Margret Couper, were thanked for their long service and each received an illustrated book entitled "Churches of Mann" by Jonathan Kewley- Manx National Heritage. (This is complemented by a 60 min CD of organ music performed by Gareth Moore.) We are very grateful that Mrs Iris Mitchell has agreed to play for us.

The postponed MU Festival Service took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> April in the Cathedral, Bishop Peter presiding and preaching and there was a good attendance considering it was only a few days after lockdown was lifted. Five members from Rushen were able to attend. The Quiet Evening will take place on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 6 for 6.30pm, in the Cathedral led by MU Chaplain Rev'd Ruth Walker. Founder's Day will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm in Kirk Michael, with Rev'd Jeannette Hamer presiding and preaching. The Autumn Council will be on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in St George's.

After our delicious afternoon tea of scones and cakes, Elsie closed the meeting with The Grace.

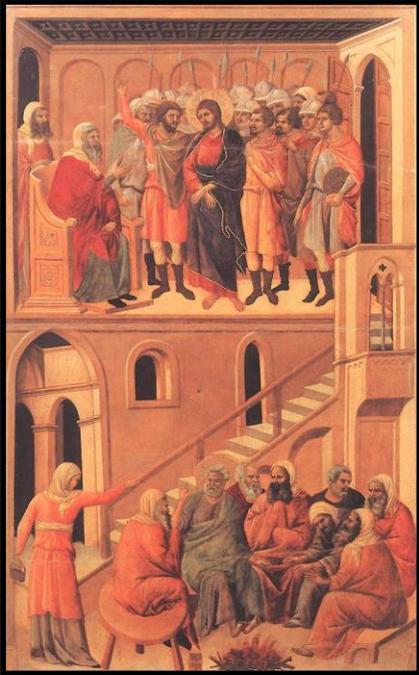
With very best wishes to everyone for good health and a happy, safe and sunny summer.

**Pat Thomson**

## God in the Arts

**The Revd Michael Burgess** continues his series on God in the Arts with 'Christ before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter'. This painting, done in tempera on wood, now hangs in the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Siena.

### 'I do not know the man', the fearful Peter said



At the end of this month, on 28<sup>th</sup> June, we celebrate two of the great saints of the early church: Peter and Paul. We might relate more easily to Peter because his humanity and vulnerability spill out of the pages of the New Testament in everything he said and did. Peter was a fisherman, who was impetuous and headstrong, not once, but over and over again, saying one thing, and doing another. And yet our Lord chose Peter as the rock on which He would build His church, and at Caesarea Philippi Peter acknowledges that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Then, when Jesus is arrested, the same Peter in the High Priest's courtyard declares with an oath, 'I do not know the man.'

That denial is in all four Gospels. We might have expected the evangelists would have had greater respect for this follower of Jesus. But they are not intimidated by his later fame and importance, and they record the episode in vivid detail.

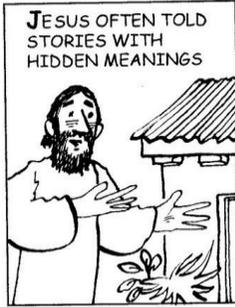
That episode is recorded by Duccio in this month's painting, 'Christ before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter.' Duccio worked in Siena in the late 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. In his paintings Jesus and the saints are no longer remote, austere figures: he portrays them in a natural, simple way. His greatest work was a series of 45 panels called the Maesta.

This month's picture is the first painting to depict Jesus' trial and Peter's denial together. The scene is a two-storey building: the figures above, apart from the High Priest, are all on their feet. Below, the figures are all seated, with the exception of the serving girl. Notice the wonderful array of hair styles and beards that are typical of Duccio's work.

In the painting Peter is recognisable by his halo, like Jesus above. He is in a direct line below Jesus, but just look at the contrast between the two. Jesus is standing with His hands bound in front of Him and His head to one side. Peter below is seated, looking straight at the girl, raising his hand to protest his ignorance and warming his feet by the fire. It needed courage for Peter to be there, but the Gospels tell us how quickly his vulnerability is exposed. As he answers the questions and reveals his Galilean accent, he starts to curse. He denies Jesus three times, and the scene ends in bitter tears. For all the bravado, a human, broken figure leaves the scene.

On his feast day we rejoice in that humanity of Peter, which brought him low, but encouraged him to try again. In Duccio's painting his denial takes place by the fire of the courtyard. It will be by another fire lit on the shore of the sea of Tiberias that Peter will be asked another three questions – not by a serving girl, but by Jesus. This time he will respond with affirmation, knowing that his Lord has come in resurrection glory to bring a new way forward for him and for everyone as He offers life in abundance.

Children's Page



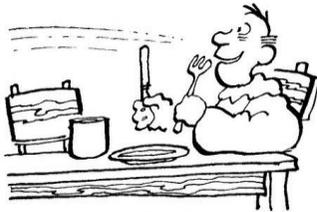
JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



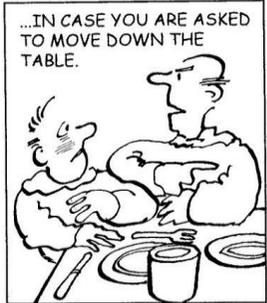
ON ONE OCCASION JESUS TOLD THE STORY ABOUT SOME PARTY INVITATIONS



HE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN YOU ARE INVITED TO A MEAL



DON'T RUSH TO SIT IN THE BEST SEAT....



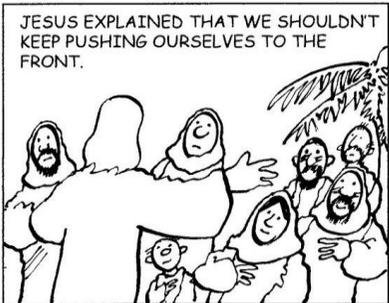
...IN CASE YOU ARE ASKED TO MOVE DOWN THE TABLE.



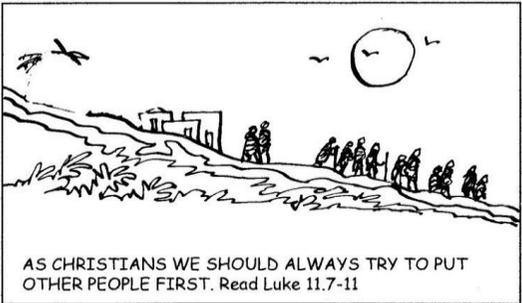
IT'S MUCH BETTER TO TAKE THE LOWER SEAT



...AND THEN FIND YOU ARE ASKED TO MOVE UP.



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT WE SHOULDN'T KEEP PUSHING OURSELVES TO THE FRONT.



AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD ALWAYS TRY TO PUT OTHER PEOPLE FIRST. Read Luke 11.7-11

## The Story Behind the Hymn



**Karen Lafferty**

### **Seek Ye First**

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
And his righteousness,  
And all these things  
Shall be added unto you,  
Allelu, alleluia.

Man shall not live by bread alone,  
But by every word  
That proceeds  
From the mouth of God  
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you.  
Seek and ye shall find.  
Knock and it shall  
Be opened unto you  
Allelu, alleluia.

The influence of Scripture on congregational song is unmistakable. Sometimes a song makes a brief allusion to Scripture; sometimes a hymn paraphrases a passage of Scripture; sometimes entire sections are cited almost verbatim. It is in the latter category that this well-known Scripture song falls – a direct quotation from two passages in the Gospel of Matthew. Karen Lafferty’s “Seek Ye First” is an example of a devotional Scripture song at its best.

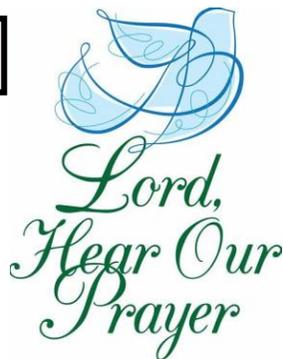
Lafferty was born in Alamogordo, New Mexico, in 1948. She received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Eastern New Mexico University in 1970. She became the worship leader and concert artist for Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, California, in 1971.

Lafferty explains her calling to music ministry in this citation from her website “I’m grateful for Christian parents and the Baptist church where I took my first steps with Christ. I’m also grateful for relationship with a Christian friend who in 1970 helped me understand the glorious truth of walking daily with Jesus. As I grew in the Word and became active in my church, I felt a call from God on my life to ministry. What adventures the Lord has had for me since that time!”

“Seek Ye First” (1971), Lafferty’s signature song, was written during her early years at Calvary Chapel, following a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. Its elegant and unpretentious melody reflects the text perfectly, which is taken verbatim from the King James Version. The acoustic sounds and uncluttered harmonies are a perfect vehicle for a scriptural passage that stresses how our priorities as Christians should be ordered. Published first in *Praise 1* in 1971, the second verse and the “Alleluia” descant were added in *Songs for Celebration* (1980). “Seek Ye First” has been included in almost every hymnal published in North America since 1980. It even found a place in more “liturgical” traditions such as the *Episcopal Hymnal 1982*.

## Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

*Lord Jesus, open our ears and hearts  
today to Your message so that through  
the power of Your death and  
resurrection we may walk in newness  
of life in accord with the teachings of  
Your Gospel  
Amen*



**June 2021**

***This is your invitation to pray day by day for:***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Those mourning the loss of loved ones in the UK and on the Island through Covid-19
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Our families, friends, and neighbours, and those we know living far away from us
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Technology and how it has helped to keep families together in recent times
- 4<sup>th</sup> All who seek to relieve hunger and suffering
- 5<sup>th</sup> Those still concerned about leaving their homes for fear of catching the Covid 19 virus
- 6<sup>th</sup> The works of agencies such as the Samaritans and Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7<sup>th</sup> People who are homeless, poor, and starving and in need of help
- 8<sup>th</sup> Everyone living in Port Erin and Port St Mary
- 9<sup>th</sup> All volunteers prepared to work with young people as they grow up
- 10<sup>th</sup> The police on the Isle of Man and the work they do to maintain law and order
- 11<sup>th</sup> Those whose jobs are in jeopardy as a result of the coronavirus pandemic
- 12<sup>th</sup> Doctors, nurses and all people helping to look after people who are ill
- 13<sup>th</sup> The work of the Church Army
- 14<sup>th</sup> Children having to catch up at school because of time spent at home during lockdowns
- 15<sup>th</sup> Those who minister within the Southern Mission Partnership
- 16<sup>th</sup> The five PCC committees working to enhance God's work within the Parish of Rushen
- 17<sup>th</sup> Those responsible for maintaining the highways on the island
- 18<sup>th</sup> Our Government and its responsibilities in keeping us safe during these difficult times
- 19<sup>th</sup> Being gracious and loving in our relationships with each other
- 20<sup>th</sup> People who have concerns over booking their annual holiday because of restrictions
- 21<sup>st</sup> Places in the world where lives have been lost and communities destroyed
- 22<sup>nd</sup> People who are lonely and rarely see or talk to anyone
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Those in financial difficulty
- 24<sup>th</sup> Young single mothers having to bring up their children in difficult circumstances
- 25<sup>th</sup> Guidance for leaders in industry and commerce
- 26<sup>th</sup> Those who look after the environment within the parish
- 27<sup>th</sup> The Isle of Man Foodbank and the help it gives to families short of money and food
- 28<sup>th</sup> Those living daily with domestic violence and the people who try to help them
- 29<sup>th</sup> All who work in dangerous and poor conditions
- 30<sup>th</sup> Volunteers prepared to work with young people as they grow up

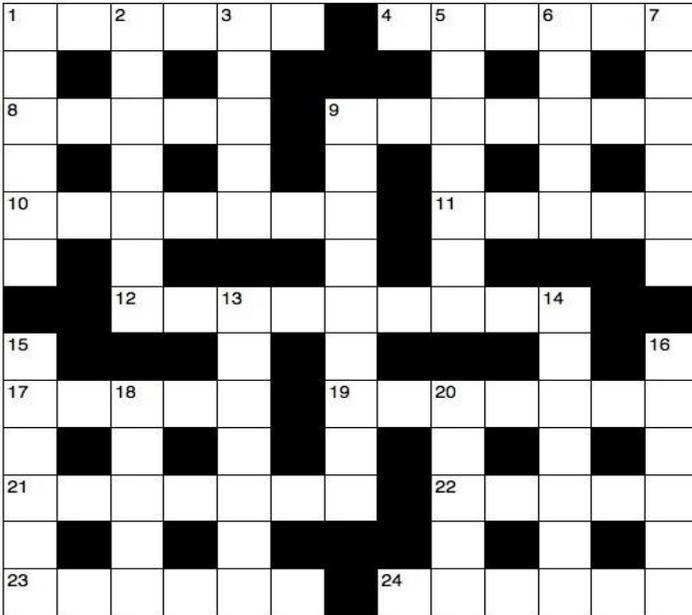
<b>Services June 2021</b>
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2 <sup>nd</sup> June	11.15am 2pm	Southlands Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's Play & Praise
6 <sup>th</sup> June <b>(Trinity 1)</b>	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
13 <sup>th</sup> June <b>(Trinity 2)</b>	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)
20 <sup>th</sup> June <b>(Trinity 3)</b>	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's All-Age Service (CW) St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
27 <sup>th</sup> June <b>(Trinity 4)</b>	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)
4th July <b>(Trinity 5)</b>	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)
7 <sup>th</sup> July	11.15am 2pm	Southlands Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's Play & Praise
11 <sup>th</sup> July <b>(Trinity 6)</b>	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/or cancelled  
 (CW) Common Worship (BCP) Book of Common Prayer



## Crossword June 2021



### Across

- 1** Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4** Place of learning (6)
- 8** 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9** Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10** Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11** Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12** Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17** Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19** So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21** 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22** Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23** Musical beat (6)
- 24** What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first

### Down

- 1** Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2** Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3** 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5** Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6** Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7** Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9** 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13** Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14** They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15** 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16** How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18** The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20** Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)