



March
2021

Rushen Parish Magazine



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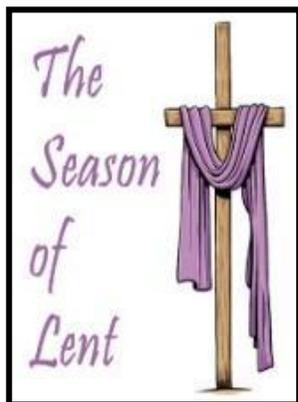
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'One Year On'

It was just over a year ago that the WHO discussed the coronavirus that was starting to spread around the world. None of us could have foreseen the devastating effect on our world, with over 80 million people infected and nearly two million deaths. How has the pandemic challenged our faith, as we look back over the last year?

Firstly, it has forced us to face up to the **reality of our situation**. We cannot underestimate the health, social and economic effects of the virus on our lives, churches and communities. We have learned how to do church online, but the future shape of church life is uncertain!

As the apostle Paul writes: *'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus'* (2 Cor 4:8-10).

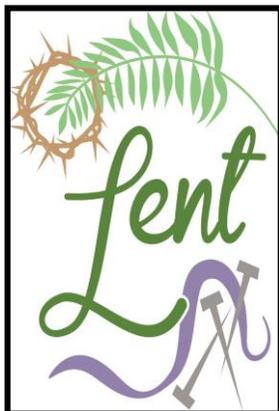
The pandemic has challenged so much of what we take for granted, but also demonstrated that God is alongside to help us in these circumstances.

Secondly, alongside the fear and uncertainty of this year, we have also learned to find **new faith and hope in Jesus**. The experience of Jesus' death and His resurrection provides a pattern for us in facing the future: *'so that His life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.'* (2 Cor 4:10-12).

During the season of Lent, as we anticipate the events at Easter, it's good to focus on the promise of sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus. As we consider our present struggles, are we ready to surrender them to Jesus? May the hope of Easter Day take us forward into the coming year.

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham





Finding God in Each Moment of the Day

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham offers the following for Lent...

Do you know the popular series of books entitled *Where's Wally?* These books are filled with very detailed cartoon drawings in each of which is hidden Wally. He is dressed in a red and white striped ski cap and glasses and the challenge is to find Wally. You have to search for some time to pick him out of the crowd, but Wally is always there!

In many ways, like finding Wally, we need to develop the skill of identifying God's presence in our daily lives. One approach that can help us to find God throughout the day is to do a daily review of our day with God. It can provide us with a means of seeing where God has been at work during our day. It's an opportunity of remembering how God has been at work and how we have responded to Him. As the psalmist says, *'On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night'* (Ps 63:6).

What does this look like in practice? Here is a step by step guide:

1. Be still for a moment, and quiet your mind.
2. Acknowledge that Jesus is present. Invite Him to guide you.
3. Recall the beginning of the day when you first woke up. Watch that scene, as if on film. What is your reaction to what you see? Talk to God about it.
4. Continue through the film of your day, going from scene to scene. As you reflect on each one, some scenes may fill you with gratitude, others with regret. Speak directly to God about this. You may also want to pray for those you encountered during the day.
5. End your review with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's mercy and love. Ask him to refresh you as you sleep.

As you begin reviewing your day with God regularly, you can expect to see two things beginning to happen:

Firstly, you will become more aware of recurring negative patterns in your life, which will challenge these wrong attitudes and habits and increase your desire to grow and change.

Secondly, you will become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of your life. And when you start experiencing the reality of God's presence with you every day, it's not ordinary anymore!

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



We held our first meeting of 2021 in St Mary's church at 2.15pm on January 5th, when we warmly welcomed a new member Claire Slagter, before taking down all the Christmas decorations and removing the poinsettia plants. Our planned discussions were postponed as we knew that Mr Howard Quayle was to make an announcement at 4pm regarding the COVID-19 situation on the island. A circuit breaking lockdown was announced, to start at midnight on the 7th, and which was hoped would last 21 days.

The lockdown ended on February 1st, and on 9th we were able to meet again, once again thanking Margaret Moore for her inspirational daily "Thoughts" which she emailed throughout our lockdown. We were also grateful for the weekly podcasts which meant we could worship, virtually, each Sunday, and thank Liz and Joe for their hard work. We caught up with news of those whose health is poor, prayed for them, and heard from Margaret about Jean Kershaw's funeral service, held on 2nd Feb in St Catherine's. Margaret and Claudia kindly gave us all a booklet entitled "In Pursuit of Jesus", and The Word for Today booklets were also passed round. Thanks to Lesley and Jude for producing the new Flower Rota for 2021, and to Inger for a delicious waffle afternoon tea at her house on Shrove Tuesday, after our meeting. Thanks also to Peter and to Gerry for all they do for us.

Our coffee morning and meal out have been postponed, the visit from the Children of Chernobyl has been cancelled for 2021, but we do hope to hear a talk from Elly Duchars of the Leprosy Mission, IOM, at a date to be arranged, in March. We also look forward to making up bouquets on 13th and to serving teas on 14th March in the hall, after Mothering Sunday Service. The postponed LCC meeting due to be held in January to discuss the re-ordering of St Mary's church will now take place on 28th February when we hope to raise the matter of a shed for the storage of tables and chairs from the hall.

We send our love and warmest good wishes to everyone, but especially those who are experiencing difficulties at this time. The well organised rollout of vaccines across the island is raising hopes that an end is in sight to our present situation.

Pat Thomson

World Day of Prayer Service 2021

This year's World Day of Prayer ecumenical service is being held on Friday 5th March 2021 at Castletown Methodist Church, Arbory Street, Castletown. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of **Vanuatu** **VU** an archipelago of eighty Islands in the South Pacific. The Islands are vulnerable to frequent tropical storms, earthquakes, cyclones and tsunamis and so their theme of the parable "Build on a Strong Foundation" seems particularly apt. Everyone (men and women) are warmly invited to attend this special service. Tea/coffee will be served from 10am prior to the service starting at 11am.

Sheila Preston

How to gain Contentment



Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ... Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4,6-7)

I've been thinking a lot about contentment in the past couple of years, and have been struck by the fact that we can *choose* to be content.

As Paul says in Philippians 4:12, "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation ... whether living in plenty or in want." He doesn't explicitly tell us what the secret is – but the word 'learned' is significant.

Contentment isn't something we have to hope we might be given, or something that would blossom in our lives if only we received or achieved all the things we're longing for. Contentment isn't the result of everything being the way we want. Nor is it a gift randomly given to some people to enable them to bear difficult circumstances. Rather, it is something we can learn, something we can actively pursue. We do that by choosing to *seek Christ's glory* over our own, to emulate His life of grumble-free humility, and to learn from others how to press on towards the goal of becoming more like Him.

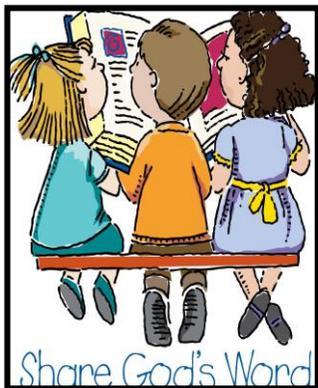
And we do it by *choosing to rejoice*. Paul doesn't say 'Rejoice in the Lord when things work out', or 'Hang in there; we'll be able to rejoice one day'. No, he commands us to rejoice in the Lord *always*. God is always good. There are always things to praise him for, in our plenty and in our want, in promotion or demotion, on a luxury holiday and in a long, lonely lockdown. (Isn't it interesting that Paul had to learn how to be content with plenty as well as with want? Even the dream job, ideal home, and perfect partner won't bring automatic contentment.)

This doesn't mean denying the reality of our situations. We can and should 'present [our] requests to God', we just do it in an attitude of thankfulness not anxiousness. And as we play our part, God will respond by giving us something greater than what we have asked for – He'll give us His peace, 'which transcends all understanding, [to] guard [our] hearts and [our] minds'. True contentment is a gift from God – as indeed is everything good in life – but God in His goodness allows us to choose whether to receive it or not. So, make the choice: rejoice!

Jennie Pollock

(London Institute for Contemporary Christianity)

St Mary's Sunday School



At the beginning of this year, the circuit-breaker lockdown meant that we couldn't resume our usual Sunday School meetings during January. However, thanks to the wonders of modern technology, most of us were able to meet online via Zoom. We had three enjoyable Sunday School Zoom meetings with Bible quizzes and games etc. It was great to see that everybody was doing okay.

As our first service after lockdown was a joint service at Kirk Christ, we have not yet had a 'proper' Sunday School meeting this year. but we were able to come together at St Mary's to celebrate our February all-age service on Valentine's Day. Although we had been unable to meet for a practice, the Sunday School very confidently contributed to the service with Thomas reading the epistle (2 Corinthians 4:3-6) and Lukas reading Mark's gospel account of the Transfiguration. The children also led the congregation in singing 'Our God is a great big God,' accompanied by Lukas on the mandolin.

Rev Liz got us all thinking about what superpowers we might like to have, with answers ranging from 'levitation' (so that we could be carbon neutral and wouldn't need to burn fuel to get places) via 'spawning things into being' (inspired by Minecraft) and being able to 'pick things out of thin air' to being able to climb mountains without getting tired and having our childhood innocence back. While Jesus didn't have 'magical' superpowers, God gave Him amazing Holy Spirit power to perform wonders and miracles, such as turning water into wine, healing people, multiplying food and even raising dead people back to life. On the day of transfiguration, the disciples got to see a glimpse of who Jesus really was – the Son of God, shining in all His glory, and their own faith was strengthened and 'transformed' that day.

Liz also led us in a meditative prayer activity. Each member of the congregation was given a tealight and a picture of the transfiguration (as painted by German artist Sieger Köder) – the younger church members were given a picture of the risen Jesus sitting in the middle of a crowd of superheroes, telling them "And that's how I saved the world!" As we were holding the tealights and looking at our pictures, we were encouraged to think about times in our lives when God helped us understand something about Him a bit differently, just as the disciples saw Jesus in a different light on the day of His transfiguration. When we had all brought our tealights to the front, lit them and placed them in trays of sand, we could see how the many small lights combined to create a bright concentration of light, reminding us that God sometimes takes the little things we know and transforms them into something far more significant. Jesus invites us to draw close to Him, spend time in His presence and allow Him to transform us into the person He wants us to be, so that His bright light can shine through us to the world around us.

We give great thanks that by the grace of God we are currently able to gather and worship together on the IOM, and we pray that this will continue. We are now looking forward to our Sunday School meetings during Lent, leading up to Mothering Sunday and Easter.

Due to other commitments, Sam is taking a step back from Sunday School as a regular leader, but he will still be available to help out on occasions. Thank you, Sam, for all your help and support over the years, and especially for the 'fun factor' you have always added to our meetings, outings and parties. We will miss you!

**May the Lord bless you and keep you,
Claudia König**



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



Lent Commenced at Kirk Christ with Parish Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday at 7pm. During the service the Imposition of Ashes, a sign of penitence from the middle ages, was re-enacted to those who attended.

A new venture in the parish is to hold the annual Mariner's Service. This is to take place on 7th March at Kirk Christ. The service commences at 6.30pm and will be followed by refreshments and a sing-along.

Throughout March, Mothering Sunday, Passion, and Palm Sunday services will be held throughout the parish.

The first Soup Inn of the year was held in St Catherine's Church Hall. Details of the concerts being held in St Catherine's Church during Spring can be found on page 16 with Rushen Silver Band opening the season on Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7.45pm. As usual refreshments will be served in the hall after each concert. Details of subsequent concerts will be advertised in the magazine each month.

After what has been a cold and dreary opening to the year we can now look forward to warmer days and new life springing up around our churches in preparation for the season of Easter.

Gerry Callister

Wordsearch Grid and Clues March 2021

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

Life is full of ups and downs: after blessings, hard times often follow. They are not meant to destroy us but to help us grow spiritually by deepening our faith and dependence on God. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil – to give Him the opportunity to stand fast against the enemy. The devil's temptations were based on half-truths, which Jesus rejected by standing firm on the whole truth of Scripture. The truth sets us free!

See if you can find: *Holy, Spirit, Jordan, Wilderness, Tempted, Devil, Fasted, Hungry, If, Bread, Alone, Kingdom, World, Authority, Glory, Worship, Me, Serve, Jerusalem, Pinnacle, Temple, Stone, Foot, Angels, Bear, Strike, Test, Temptation*

Sudoku March 2021

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

Peace

After a very long and boring sermon the parishioners glumly filed out of the church past the minister. Towards the end of the queue was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons. "Vicar, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God."

The vicar was thrilled. "Nobody has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why."

"Because it endured forever."

February Sudoku Solution

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

February Crossword Solution

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

Let's clap for Mothers!



As Mother's Day approaches, let's hear it for all the mothers who have been on the frontline of helping our country survive the Covid pandemic! Just as we've clapped on our doorsteps for the NHS and other heroes, let's applaud all that mothers have done – often balancing home and employment – during these long lockdown months.

Research shows that mums have carried out most of the home schooling and household tasks – with many also holding down important frontline roles in the NHS and other essential services. Women spent more than twice as much time as men on their children's home schooling and development during the lockdown, according to a study by University College London. It measured how parents responded while schools and nurseries were closed to most families. The survey, reported by the Guardian newspaper, found that women across several age groups took the major share of childcare and home schooling. Those with primary school-aged children "were considerably more likely" to have given up working than fathers with children of the same age. The pressure on families was further increased as many grandparents and other carers were unable to help. Family and friendship networks were put under strain with contacts restricted to online Zoom or Facetime calls that are often difficult with younger children.

Launching a Children's Society report into children's welfare during the lockdown, chief executive Mark Russell said: "We are living in unprecedented times. Months of national lockdown, only small numbers of children in school, and many families experiencing real crisis. Coronavirus has impacted every area of our lives and The Children's Society has been deeply concerned about the impact of this crisis on children, especially the most disadvantaged." He added: "Our survey found a higher proportion of young people experiencing low well-being than we are used to seeing. Whilst we know that most children's well-being will 'bounce-back', there will be some who do not." Mothers are at the frontline of helping our children cope with – and then recover from – the effects of the Covid pandemic and the extended lockdowns.

Many working mothers lost their jobs because of the pandemic, and families will be hard-pressed to make up for the income lost. Food bank provider, the Trussell Trust has warned churches to prepare for a 'tidal wave' of poverty and to be ready to help their local communities. This Mother's Day, daffodils and chocolate may seem very thin reward for the major contribution of mums across our nation. In normal times, they have a challenging and demanding job to do. Through the pandemic, they have risen to the challenges and sought to ensure children thrive despite the lockdowns.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let's recognise the amazing efforts made by mothers in the home with their children. Let's also celebrate the vital roles many also play – as do those without children – in the NHS, in education, in the government and civil service, in keeping vital supplies flowing – and in our pulpits and across our churches.

The Revd Peter Crumpler



Jesus and His mother

When Jesus was at a Galilean wedding (John 2:1-11), He was there with His disciples and Mary, His mum. During the celebrations, unknown to the groom, the wine ran out. Mary was quick to spot the problem. She knew this could be an embarrassing moment for the groom if people couldn't have a drink, and the married couple would face ridicule and shame.

So, Mary asked her Son for help. Although we know that Jesus responded by turning water into wine, she didn't know this was going to happen. At that time Jesus had not performed a miracle! Whatever she thought, Mary simply showed concern and trusted Jesus to do the right thing.

At first Jesus seems to respond to His mum with a rebuke. This dilemma was not His concern. Even so, Mary says to the servants "Do whatever He tells you." Jesus instructs the servants to fill six large stone jars with water. A sample is taken, and it has become the best wine to conclude the festivities. Jesus had met a human need and prevented a ruined wedding day.

The servants obeyed Jesus and a miracle followed. Later, through His ministry, many people obeyed Jesus and their response brought healing or some other beneficial change.

In this story, only Mary, the servants and the disciples were aware of this miracle. It was not a public spectacle such as Jesus feeding 5000 people with a handful of bread and fish. We too should be alert to what God is doing *amongst us* while others are oblivious of a divine hand.

"Do whatever He tells you" Mary said. What wise words! When we do this our lives will be transformed. It took a mother to know the right thing to say in a troubled situation. Mary knew Jesus would not let her down. So must we.

Lester Amann

Pause Again



More Poems
by
Margaret Couper

'Pause Again'

This was the latest of anthologies written by Margaret Couper. I am pleased to report that the 100 copies that were printed have now been sold and that £500 has been donated to Rushen PCC. Thank you so much to everyone who supported this project.

Welcome to Early Spring

By Perfect Plants Ltd. [Perfectplants.co.uk](https://www.perfectplants.co.uk)
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 and gifts for the garden lover



Phew... we made it! March has arrived and if you adopt the meteorological calendar, it's spring – whatever the weather. Let's do that, as we all need as many positive thoughts as we can muster. Hopefully the alarming experience of the pandemic will soon be fading and some sense of normality will resume. Meanwhile, just look outside! Everything in the garden is completely normal, and whatever turbulence you have endured over the past year, perhaps your outside space can help you to heal.

Let's look at some jobs to get you into the gardening mood:

- Early March is a great time to prune roses. There are different pruning regimes to suit various types. For example, it's best not to prune rambling roses too hard as there is a possibility they might die back completely or send out lots of non-flowering growth. You can be a little more thorough with a climbing rose, however, as these should send out flowering shoots after pruning. If your rose is a hybrid tea or floribunda, it's a good idea to remove very old stems completely, then shorten others by up to a half. They should respond by putting on some luscious new, flowering shoots.
- It's a great idea to start feeding shrubs including Rhododendrons, Camellias, Acers, Pieris and roses now. There are ericaceous fertilisers suitable for acid soil-lovers.
- It's the perfect planting time. The soil will be warming and new roots will be able to start their growing season in fine fettle. Always keep an eye on the weather, however, as you might need to water new plants regularly during dry spells.

- You can plant summer-flowering bulbs such as lilies.
- Cut down any deciduous ornamental grasses if you haven't done so already. This will enable the new growth to come through, ready for its late summer glory.
- Tidy your beds, remove annual weeds before they race away from you, and consider applying mulch to keep that precious moisture in the soil for the entire season. It will save you from needing to provide water later in the year.
- You should be able to mow your lawn if the weather is mild and there's no frost on the grass.
- Check your tree stakes, make sure they aren't rocking around and ensure the ties aren't too tight. The tree should be encouraged to stand on its own around three years after planting. A certain amount of rocking is a good thing as it strengthens the roots.
- In the vegetable garden, you can plant onion and shallot sets now. Weed your patch ready for a great growing season.
- Plant early potatoes. If you don't have much space, consider using big bags or tubs.
- Feed cabbages and brassicas so that your vegetables will grow strong and healthy. They appreciate nitrogen-rich fertiliser as they are hungry crops.
- Plant asparagus crowns in a sunny and open position.
- If the weather is mild, you can plant strawberries this month too.

A visit from the R.N.L.I. to the Mothers' Union Meeting on Monday 8th February 2021 – See Page 17 for more details



All in the month of March



300 years ago, on 24th March 1721, Johann Sebastian Bach dedicated six of his concertos to Christian Ludwig Margrave of Brandenburg-Schwedt. They are now commonly known as the Brandenburg Concertos.

150 years ago, on 29th March 1871, the Royal Albert Hall in London was officially opened by Queen Victoria.

75 years ago, on 5th March 1946, Winston Churchill gave his famous 'Iron Curtain' speech in Fulton, Missouri. He used the term to describe the separation between Soviet and Western countries.

Also on 25th March 1946, London's Heathrow Airport was opened, as London Airport. It was renamed Heathrow in 1966.

60 years ago, on 6th March 1961, George Formby, the 'ukulele king' died. A British comedian, singer and actor, he was best known for his comic songs, including 'When I'm Cleaning Windows'. **Also, on 8th March 1961**, Sir Thomas Beecham, British conductor and impresario died. He founded several major orchestras and transformed the operatic and orchestral scene in Britain.

50 years ago, on 8th March 1971, the 'Fight of the Century' took place at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Two undefeated heavyweight boxers fought each other for the world title, with Joe Frazier defeating Muhammed Ali.

40 years ago, on 1st March 1981, IRA member Bobby Sands began a hunger strike at Maze Prison, Northern Ireland. He was elected as an MP to the British parliament on 10th April, and died on 5th May. **Also, on 29th March 1981**, the first London Marathon was held.

30 years ago, on 14th March 1991, the convictions of the Birmingham Six were quashed by Britain's Court of Appeal and they were released from prison after 16 years. They had been convicted of carrying out pub bombings in Birmingham in 1974. **Also on 21st March 1991**, the British Government announced that the controversial poll tax (officially called the community charge), which had sparked riots, was to be scrapped and replaced by a new property tax (council tax) from April 1993.

25 years ago, on 13th March 1996, the Dunblane Massacre took place in Scotland. A gunman killed 16 children and a teacher

20 years ago, on 8th March 2001, British racing driver Donald Campbell's speedboat Bluebird was recovered from the bottom of Coniston Water in Cumbria. (It had crashed and sank during a record attempt in January 1967 in which he was killed.)

10 years ago, on 11th March 2011, the great Tohoku earthquake and tsunami of Japan took place. It shifted Japan's main island, Honshu, 2.4 metres to the east. 15,897 people were killed, 2,533 went missing, and nearly a quarter of a million were made homeless. Three reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant went into meltdown, leading to the second-largest nuclear accident in history. **Also on 15th March 2011**, the Syrian Civil War began. It still continues today.

150 Years of the Albert Hall



Joyce Grenfell wrote a wonderful song, *Joyful Noise*, about three lady choristers: Miss Clissold, Miss Truss and Ivy Trembley. Their greatest delight was to sing in an oratorio at the Royal Albert Hall. 'It may be like a gasworks with a green-house roof above it, and it may lack convenience, but all the same we love it.' That love has marked the life of the Royal Albert Hall over 150 years as this month we celebrate its opening on 29th March 1871.

After the success of the Great Exhibition, Prince Albert dreamed of creating a more permanent cultural area in London to promote and popularise the arts and sciences. On his death in 1861 at just 42 years, it was decided to erect a memorial and a 'Central Hall.' And so the Royal Albert Hall was built. At heart it is an impressive concert hall promoting classical music with an annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* from 1876, and from 1941 the BBC Proms: 8 weeks of concerts in the summer welcoming musicians from all over the world and culminating in the memorable *Last Night*. Composers from Wagner and Verdi to Bernstein and Britten have conducted and had works performed there.

But the Royal Albert Hall has also hosted an amazingly wide variety of events through its life: the Beatles in 1963, Ella Fitzgerald in 1990, poetry evenings, sport (boxing, tennis and basketball), the *Cirque de Soleil*, Teenage Cancer Trust concerts, and the 25th anniversary performance of *The Phantom of the Opera* in 2011. It has provided a platform for Winston Churchill, Einstein and the Dalai Lama. Many of us will have poignant memories of the annual RBL Festival of Remembrance held every November since 1923: a moving occasion that culminates with the shower of poppy petals.

Sadly, because of the restrictions with the pandemic, the Hall's programme of events has had to be limited in scope since last year, but the frieze on the outside of the building remains to inspire. There we see a celebration of the rich variety of arts and sciences that include music, sculpture, painting, astronomy and navigation, and the words *Thine O Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty* - a reminder that all our creative work here reflects the wonder of God the Creator.

'He will never forget at all the day he played at Albert Hall'. That line from the Kinks' song *Session Man* invites us all to celebrate and give thanks for the richness of the life and work of the Royal Albert Hall as we look back over its 150 years and as we look ahead with hope and faith to a richer future.

The Revd Michael Burgess

From the Registers

Funerals January 2021

Wednesday 13 th January	@ 11am	Burial	Michael J Taylor
Tuesday 19 th January	@ 2pm	Burial	Daphne M Harrison
Tuesday 26 th January	@ 1pm	Kirk Christ	Iris Whitehurst
Tuesday 26 th January	@ 10.30am	Burial	Kenneth Cregeen



Forthcoming Concerts at St Catherine's Church

11th March 2021 Rushen Silver Band at 7.45pm

8th April 2021 Sheeany Millish at 7.45pm

13th May 2021 Manx Children's Choir & Schoill Purt Le Moirrey at 7.00pm

Admission Free - Retiring Collection

Refreshments in St Catherine's Church Hall following Concerts



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



Perhaps he's heard that we're losing our churchwarden



Rushen Mothers' Union

We had a lovely meeting on Monday 8th February, our first since November, and Mrs Peta Mills, in the chair this month, warmly welcomed a large turnout of 23 members and guests, including our speaker Mr Morgan Guy, his wife Helen and son Evan.

Peta led us in prayer, Mrs Margaret Couper played our hymns, Mrs Pat Thomson gave the readings, and Mrs Jane Gunn presented birthday flowers to Mrs Elsie Faragher for all the work she does for MU and a thankyou gift to Mr Gerry Callister whose invaluable help

is much appreciated. Mrs Sue Maddrell had sent apologies as she is in constant pain from her hip and we send her our love and prayers and hope that soon an operation date will be set.

Peta introduced Morgan, full time mechanic and 2nd Coxswain at Port St Mary Lifeboat, who treated us to an extremely interesting and informative talk, culminating in his inviting a volunteer to don the brand new protective clothing worn by members of the station which he had kindly brought along. That volunteer was me, and having put on all 5 layers of clothing, with just a little encouragement from Evan, and tried to move, I can attest to its weight and express admiration for the speed with which the crew are ready! Thankfully Helen agreed to wear the lifejacket which was duly, and suddenly inflated. An excellent demonstration from Morgan, Helen and Evan. Mrs Lesley Scott gave Morgan a most appreciative vote of thanks and a book token.

Peta intimated the date of our next meeting in St Catherine's Hall at 2pm on Monday 8th March when we shall hear all about gardening from Mr Eddie Perkins. Guests are always welcome. After our final hymn we all enjoyed much missed fellowship, tea, biscuits and a delicious cake from Jane.

With love and very best wishes to everyone,

Pat Thomson

Forthcoming dates

Spring AGM & Council Tuesday- 2nd March at 7pm at St Ninians

World Day of Prayer, especially for women of Vanuatu, including MU members – 5th March

Mothering Sunday – 14th March

Festival Service (Lady Day) Thursday 25th March at 2.30pm at the Cathedral. Bishop Peter to preside and preach

Quiet Evening - Monday 14th June 6pm for 6.30pm (Evening Prayer is to be Livestreamed at 5.30pm) venue Cathedral led by MU Chaplain Revd Ruth Walker

Founders Day - Monday 9th Aug, 7pm Kirk Michael. Revd Jeanette Hamer to preside and preach

Royal Manx Agricultural Show - Friday 13th and Saturday 14th August

Autumn Council - Monday 20th September 7pm St Georges

Advent Service - Tuesday 7th December 2021 7pm St Thomas'

God in the Arts

Behold the handmaid of the Lord

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'Ecce Ancilla Domini' by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. It hangs in the Tate Gallery.

'*Ecce Ancilla Domini*' (Behold the handmaid of the Lord) is the title of this month's painting of the Annunciation by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. We shall hear those words in the Gospel for this feast on 25th March, when Mary responds to Gabriel's message that she is to be the mother of our Saviour.

It is a scene that has inspired artists throughout the history of Christianity. Over those years certain traditions emerged: in many paintings Mary was often shown at prayer, dressed in blue, in a room that was filled with elaborate furnishings of the period, all opening out onto the wider world.



Rossetti's painting of 1850 is very different. He was a founding member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and as both a poet and a painter, he soon became its recognised leader. But the work of the Brotherhood was not without its critics. When Rossetti's painting was exhibited, it was dismissed as 'absurd, affected, ill-drawn, insipid, crotchety and puerile' because it was such a contrast to the more traditional portrayals of this scene in Luke's Gospel.

Here there is a claustrophobic feel to the painting. Mary and Gabriel fill the tiny, cell-like room. There is a window, but it does not open out to scenery and nature: just a solitary tree. Rossetti called '*Ecce Ancilla Domini*' his 'white picture.' That is the colour that dominates: the robes of Mary and the angel, the stones of the floor, the paint on the walls, the flowers that Gabriel offers. Blue, the traditional colour for Mary, is relegated to the screen behind and the sky outside. Other colours are provided by the yellow flames of Gabriel's feet and the tapestry in the foreground on which Mary has embroidered lilies. These flowers, like the whiteness, are symbols of purity.

The model for Mary was Christina, his sister, the author of 'In the bleak mid-winter', and in portraying her, Rossetti has captured the adolescent vulnerability of Mary. A small dove linking the two characters is a sign of God's spirit coming to bring new life to this young girl. How does she respond? What is the expression on her face? Does she see the adult world of responsibility and motherhood opening up before her? Is it anxiety or wonder or awe? Or are all of these responses captured in her expression?

The stillness of the scene, the whiteness of the room – they are like a blank canvas on which God can paint His Gospel, His Good New of life and hope. Just as it opened up a new world for Mary, so the Gospel can open up a new world for all of us. We may respond with anxiety and worry, or with wonder and awe to that invitation. Or those feelings may be transformed into trust and service like Mary in Luke's Gospel: 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord: let it be with me according to your word.'

Children's Page

The Widow's little coins



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS WAS WATCHING PEOPLE BRINGING GIFTS TO THE TEMPLE



HE SAW THE RICH PEOPLE BRINGING THEIR MONEY



THEY MADE A BIG FUSS

THE PROUD PEOPLE WANTED EVERYONE TO SEE HOW RICH THEY WERE.



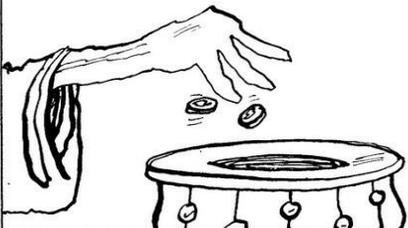
THEY MADE SURE EVERYONE COULD SEE THEM PUTTING THEIR MONEY IN THE BOX



BUT THEN JESUS WATCHED A POOR WIDOW CREEP UP TO THE TEMPLE...



...AND DONATE TWO SMALL COPPER COINS.



"THE WIDOW HAS GIVEN THE GREATEST GIFT", EXPLAINED JESUS. "IT IS WORTH SO MUCH MORE THAN ALL THE RICH PEOPLE'S GIFTS!" see Luke 21.1-4

The Story Behind the Hymn

Lina Sandell



Day by Day

Day by day, and with each passing moment,
Strength I find, to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He Whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what He deems best—
Lovingly, it's part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day, the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He Whose Name is Counsellor and Pow'r.
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.

Help me then in every tribulation
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation
Offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.

Lina Sandell (1832-1903), the author of this hymn, was a Lutheran pastor's daughter in Froderyd, Sweden. She was a "daddy's girl", very close to her father. As a child, she enjoyed playing quietly in her father's study as he worked.

Lina began writing hymns at an early age. Then, when she was 26 years old, tragedy struck. She and her father were passengers in a boat crossing Lake Vattern when the boat lurched and her father fell overboard. As Lina watched in horror, her father drowned before anyone could mount a rescue effort. When tragedy strikes, some people allow it to destroy them, but Lina's faith saw her through the tragedy. Her grief gave her music a depth and sensitivity that had been missing earlier.

During her lifetime, Lina wrote 650 hymns. "Day by Day" is familiar to many English-speaking congregations. Many people will also recognise the hymn that begins with the words, "Children of the Heavenly Father," a hymn of quiet assurance. The hymn, "Day by Day," offers that same kind of assurance. It speaks of finding strength to face trials and having no cause for worry or for fear. It encourages us to live with the promise of "a special mercy for each hour" (v. 2). It asks God's help in tribulation, to trust God's promises (v. 3) "till I reach the promised land."

This sort of song readily becomes popular because it provides comfort to people in distress. That describes most of us at some time or another. We need strength to meet the trials that we encounter. We need the assurance that God is with us, and loves us, and will help us, even when our circumstances are grim. We need to know that God will help us "till (we) reach the promised land." Those are the assurances that this hymn provides.

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

*My dearest Lord,
be thou a bright flame before me,
be thou a guiding star above me,
be thou a smooth path beneath me,
be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
today and for evermore. Amen*



March 2021

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st** Farmers as they prepare their land for the seasons ahead
- 2nd** The work of the Social Committee and its commitment to raise funds for our parish
- 3rd** Those bereaved recently or who are remembering the death of loved ones
- 4th** People who are housebound, unable to enjoy the pleasures of outdoor life
- 5th** Families as they begin to prepare for the weekend together
- 6th** Residents and helpers at care homes on the island preparing for their daily activities
- 7th** Michal Kewley for organising the summer concerts at St Catherine's Church
- 8th** Children returning to school after a busy weekend
- 9th** The Mothers' Union and the good work it does in our parish
- 10th** Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, whose birthday it is today
- 11th** The emergency services in their effort to bring relief to those in distress
- 12th** Those in financial difficulty
- 13th** Parents and children buying presents for their mothers in preparation for tomorrow
- 14th** All mothers on Mothering Sunday
- 15th** Those responsible for maintaining the highways on the island
- 16th** Voluntary helpers in schools who give their time to help the children
- 17th** The works of agencies such as the Samaritans and Alcoholics Anonymous
- 18th** All saints and martyrs who have remained steadfast in their faith
- 19th** Actors and Actresses who provide such pleasure to theatregoers
- 20th** Those who prepare for and participate in the activities during Messy Church today
- 21st** Those who intercede at our services in the parish
- 22nd** Students in colleges undertaking courses to further their knowledge
- 23rd** For the springtime and the signs of new life in the trees, farms and gardens
- 24th** Chaplains in hospitals, prisons and the armed forces, and their ministry
- 25th** Those families hoping that they will be able to have a summer break
- 26th** Shopkeepers in Port Erin and Port St Mary
- 27th** All participants in sporting activities taking place today
- 28th** Palm Sunday, the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem
- 29th** The work of the Church Army
- 30th** Headteachers in schools within the Southern Mission Partnership
- 31st** The safety of children at play now the lighter evenings are upon them

Services March 2021

3 rd March	11.15am 2pm	Southlands Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's Play & Praise
7 th March (Lent 3)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion(CW) St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
14 th March (Mothering Sunday)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's All-Age Service (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
21 st March (Lent 5)	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)
28 th March (Palm Sunday)	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)
4 th April (Easter Day)	6.30am 9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Dawn Service Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's All-Age Holy Communion(CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
7 th April	11.15am 2pm	Southlands Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's Play & Praise
11 th April (Easter 2)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW) St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW) St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)

Dates and times of services/activities subject to alteration)

(CW)

Common Worship

(BCP)

Book of Common Prayer

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

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

St Mary's Hall Bookings:

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

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

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

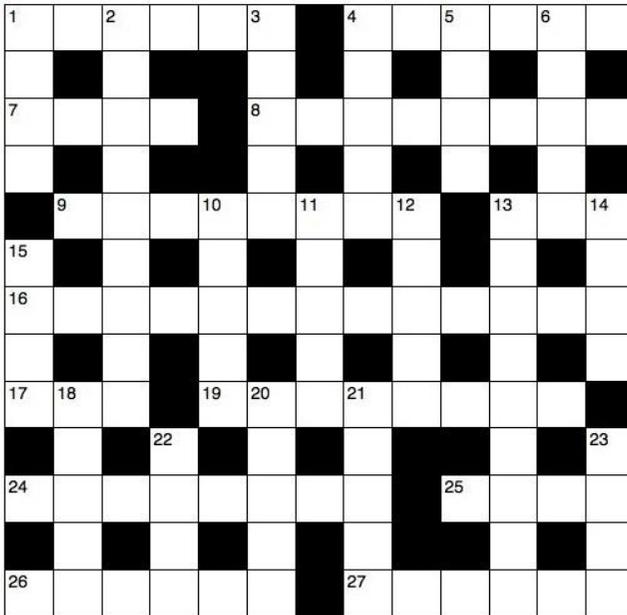
Parish Director of Music:

Mr M D Porter, 10 Fairway Drive, Rowany, Port Erin 832143

Churchyard Enquiries:

Please contact	Mr Harry Dawson: or Mr G Callister:	478050/835770 474924/834627
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Crossword March 2021



Across

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 The earth is one (6)</p> <p>4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)</p> <p>7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)</p> <p>8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)</p> <p>9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus'(Philippians 2:5) (8)</p> <p>13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)</p> <p>16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)</p> <p>17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)</p> <p>19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)</p> <p>24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)</p> <p>25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)</p> <p>26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)</p> <p>27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)</p> | <p>3 Gospel leaflet (5)</p> <p>4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)</p> <p>5 Tugs (anag.) (4)</p> <p>6 To put forth (5)</p> <p>10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)</p> <p>11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)</p> <p>12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)</p> <p>13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)</p> <p>14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke22:34) (4)</p> <p>15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)</p> <p>18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)</p> <p>20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)</p> <p>21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)</p> <p>22 Does (anag.) (4)</p> <p>23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)</p> |
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Down

- 1** Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2** Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)