

Rushen Parish Magazine

May 2021



...by faith we might
receive the
promise of the Spirit

Galatians 3:14

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A Letter from Liz



As we make a cautious return to our churches, I offer a welcome to you all. If any of you for any reason would like to return but want to do this in as safe and comfortable way as possible, let us know and we will make space available for social distancing. However, if you don't feel comfortable to return, please also let us know so that we can make decisions on our podcast services and offer an opportunity to all to join together in worship, whether in person or in spirit.

I hope that you are to celebrate the return of Spring, the beautiful natural world around us. As I write this I am bathed in glorious sunshine and can see the Forsythia flowers and the green of the leaves coming through behind them in the garden, and the fresh light green of new leaves on many shrubs and perennials.

Today, as I write this it is Earth Day, a day to love and reverence our natural world whilst also acknowledging our failures at times to care for it appropriately and our resolve to make informed choices that protect our natural world with all the challenges it faces.

As life slowly begins to return to some kind of normality after lockdown, we look forward to cautiously considering our parish activities and resuming those that people feel comfortable with. But please make decisions for yourselves about what level of risk you feel comfortable or even able to take; what is right for you.

If you need a pastoral visit either in person or support over the phone, please do get in touch and let us know. We have a team of people who have been offering loving and compassionate phone support to others over the periods of time that we have not been able to meet together and I'm sure that they will continue to offer it to those who need it. We also can visit with Home Communion for those not able to come to church.

Let us continue to hold each other in our thoughts and prayers and to trust in God for all our lives, now and on into the future, who is 'our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home.'

May God bless you

Rev Liz Hull

Pentecost



The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham considers how the Holy Spirit can change our lives.

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the Church, as we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts 2:1-13). What are we celebrating?

God's Promise:

The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised' (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God's promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

God's Power:

'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (4). The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples' experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God's love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but all are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.

God's Purpose:

The disciples 'began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' (4). The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own 'native language' (lit: dialect, v8). We all have a story to tell of God's activity in our lives and it's the Spirit who translates our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3,000 people were added to the church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

'Let the Church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (*Andrew Murray*).



The Jar and the Coffee



When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the jar... and the coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

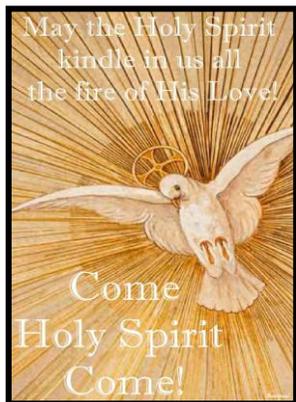
The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the Jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes'. The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor, as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things, your family, your children, your faith, your health, your friends, and your favourite passions, the things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter, your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff, if you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.'

'Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical check-ups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and wash the car. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.' One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. 'I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.'

Author Unknown





Reflected Faith: Hiding, waiting, hoping – FREE!

After many long months during the Covid pandemic we are at last beginning to be able to come together again. Some countries and some areas of some countries will be more open than others and we can only hope, pray and wait for all of us to be able to be 'free' again.

May, in the Church's calendar, is supremely the month of freedom.

During the first few weeks we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the Bible stories of those who met Him after His crucifixion and resurrection.

Then we celebrate His Ascension – Jesus' return to His Father.

And finally, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and all those locked in that Upper Room – with the subsequent birth of His Church.

Freedom indeed!

This last year has for most of us felt like a waiting time to see and hold friends and family again. We have some understanding of fear and the hope within us.

What a celebration there must have been when Jesus returned to His Father – and what a celebration also when the Holy Spirit so powerfully descended.

It is the story of those 'simple' men who were scared and hiding one day and the next day bold and outspoken that speaks to me of something outstanding happening.

As I received my anti-Covid vaccination I felt that same freedom from fear. Not that I would be 100% safe and never ill again, but rather that whatever happened now would be manageable.

This month: Have a think this month about fears that you may have held inside you in this past year and how you have been able to manage them. Have you known the Spirit of Our Lord by your side as you have walked these roads? I hope so, and I hope also that together we can help others to know His reassurance from fear. Freedom indeed.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Revd Dr Jo White

St Mary's Sunday School



Sadly, for the second year in a row, we were not able to celebrate Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday together in church. Nevertheless, the Sunday School had several enjoyable Zoom meetings during March, and on Palm Sunday we remembered the events of Holy Week together. All families had received a palm cross, and some had also brought palm leaves to our Zoom meeting.

We started by watching a short video about Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, with the people cheering him on, throwing their coats on the floor and waving palm branches. We then played an animal sounds quiz, which featured 2 animals from the Easter story (a donkey and a rooster) as well as 2 other Bible story animals (sheep and lion). Some of the animals were quite hard to guess, especially the quieter ones like the mouse and the guinea pig! Moving on with the events of Holy Week, we watched a video clip about the Last Supper, talked about the significance of the bread and the wine representing Jesus's body and his blood, and then we all ate some bread and drank some red juice together, just as Jesus had done with his disciples.

We continued our journey through Holy Week with a video about Jesus's arrest and his death on the cross, which led to the glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday and the great joy of the disciples when they found out that Jesus was truly alive! We talked about signs of new life in spring all around us, as the children had brought some items which represented new life, such as flowers, eggs, cuddly chicks, lambs and other baby animals. We also discussed the significance of the Easter egg representing the empty tomb, which reminds us of Jesus's resurrection.

After a short online Easter Bible quiz we finished our meeting by everybody joining in with "We have a king who rides a donkey," while waving our palm crosses or palm branches to celebrate "Jesus, the king is risen"! He is risen indeed – Alleluia! We concluded by thanking God for sending Jesus into the world to save us and to give us eternal life – the best gift ever!

As we couldn't have our annual Easter egg hunt around the grounds of St Mary's, all the children received some (hand-delivered) chocolate eggs and a small Easter story and activity booklet.

We all met again on Zoom the Sunday after Easter, when we looked at the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples, and especially to Thomas, so that even he could believe that Jesus had truly risen from the dead! We played a fun game of 'Two truths and a lie,' which showed how difficult it can sometimes be to know the truth. We talked about who we can trust and believe what they tell us, and that it is also OK to have questions and doubts; we can ask those we trust, and we can always ask Jesus himself for an answer. We also played a game of Pictionary, and the children decoded the messages 'Jesus is alive' and 'God can do anything,' which was also the song we finished with (we tried to keep up with the actions) before our prayers and the grace.

As I am writing this article, we have just heard the great news that Lockdown 3 is finally coming to an end this Sunday evening and we will be able to resume a more or less "normal" life from Monday! Hooray! We are now looking forward to being able to meet and worship together again in person, and we are also hoping to have a social get-together (outing/picnic) on one of the next few Sundays.

We praise God for His goodness and His faithfulness and for having kept us all safe during this last lockdown!

With love and blessings, Claudia König



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



Obituary to the late Arthur Samuel Cregeen.

Born 30th June 1940

Died 7th March 2021

Arthur served as a Church Warden in Rushen Parish from 1998 to 2018.

He was a friendly face handing out orders of service and hymn books at Kirk Christ and always had a word of welcome and a smile.

Along with Gerry they handled the burial ground accounts until 2018 when he retired as churchwarden

Gerry Callister

The weather over Easter weekend was mixed but still enjoyable.

I would like to say how much I appreciated receiving the Maundy Money from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11.

I really feel honoured and humbled even though I could not be in London at Westminster Abbey owing to the Covid Pandemic to receive it on Maundy Thursday. A big thank you to all who have sent me greetings and congratulations by card, email or by word.

We look forward to the month of May and all our parish activities restarting.

Gerry Callister



Sudoku May 2021

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

Ah – but where are they now?

The children had been grouped together around the minister to pose for the annual Sunday School photograph, and the minister was smiling encouragement. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up," he said. "You could point to each other and say: 'There's Jennifer; hope she's made it as a solicitor,' or 'That's Michael, hope he's made it as a doctor.'" A small voice at the back rang out, "And there's the minister – hope he made it to heaven..."

April Sudoku Solution

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

April Crossword Solution

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

I'd come to church, but

Some excuses from those who don't see the value of going to church

- A** For the **Aunt** I'm expecting to tea.
B For the **Bed** where I'd much rather be.
C For the **Car** wanting a wash and a shine.
D For the **Dinner** that must be on time.
E For the **Extremes**, either too High or too Low.
F For my **Feelings** which I try not to show.
G For the **Garden** which needs lots of care.
H For the **Hoeing** that I must do there
I For the **Incense**, we don't need at all.
J For the **Jokes** by the Vicar, they're beginning to pall.
K Is for the **Kneeling**, it tires me so much.
L For the **Language** that's all double Dutch.
M For the **Money**, they always want more.
N Is for **Nodding** off, I try not to snore.
O For the **Overtime** that's double on Sunday.
P For the **Plans** for my day off on Monday.
Q For **Queer** noises, it must be the Choir.
R For the **Reader** whose diction is dire.
S For the **Sermon**, nothing new does it bring.
T For the **Tunes** that no one can sing.
U For **Unfriendly** there's nowhere to sit.
V For the **Vicar** whom I don't like a bit.
W For **Weather**, always windy and wet.
X For **eXcuses**, I've another one yet.
Y For the **Yells** from the babies at the back.
Z Is for **Zeal**, oh dear, yes I know that's what I lack!

Is there life without the



?

Could you live happily without the BBC? Just try it for two weeks.

That was the recent challenge of the corporation's outgoing chairman, Sir David Clementi, to a group of critics who said they resented the licence fee.

Apparently, nine days later, two thirds of the critics had changed their mind and said that the licence was worth every penny. Sir David observed that when "things that they took for granted are removed from them, they realise how valuable the BBC is."

So he encourages anyone else who thinks that the license is not worth £3 a week, to try life without the BBC. "I think that most people would find it very hard to cope."

The puppies

A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realised it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So, the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots. After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."

Take the following test.....



....and determine if you are losing it, or are still 'with it'. Okay, relax, clear your mind and answer the following 6 questions.

1. What do you put in a toaster?

Answer. That was a gentle start. The answer of course is 'bread'. If you said 'toast' then give up now and do something else. Try not to hurt yourself. If you said 'bread' go to question 2.

2. Say 'silk' five times. Now spell 'silk'. What do cows drink?

Answer. Cows drink water. If you said 'milk' please do not attempt the next question. Your brain is obviously over stressed and may even overheat. It may be that you need to content yourself with reading something more appropriate, such as 'Children's World'. If you said 'water', proceed to question 3.

3. If a red house is made from red bricks and a blue house is made from blue bricks, and a pink house is made from pink bricks and a black house is made from black bricks, what is a green house made from?

Answer. Don't congratulate yourself, this was an easy one to boost your confidence. Greenhouses, of course, are made from glass. If you said 'green bricks' what the devil are you still doing reading these questions? If you said 'glass' then go on to question 4.

4. Twenty years ago, a plane was flying at 20,000 feet over Germany. If you recall, Germany at the time was politically divided into West Germany and East Germany. Anyway, during the flight, TWO of the engines failed. The pilot, realising that the last remaining engine is also failing, decides on a crash landing procedure. Unfortunately the third engine failed before he has time to attempt an emergency landing and the plane crashed smack in the middle of 'No Man's Land' between East Germany and West Germany. Where would you bury the survivors? — in East Germany, West Germany or No Man's Land?

Answer. You don't, of course, bury survivors. If you said ANYTHING else you are a real dunce and you must NEVER try to rescue anyone from a plane crash. Your efforts would not be appreciated. If you said, 'you don't bury survivors,' proceed to the next question.

5. If the hour hand on a clock moves 1/60th of a degree every minute, how many degrees will the hour hand move in one hour?

Answer. One degree. If you said '360 degrees' or anything other than 'one degree', you are obviously out of your league. Hand in your pencil, and leave the room. Everyone else proceed to the final question.

6. Without using a calculator. You are driving a bus from London to Milford Haven in Wales. In London 17 people get on the bus. In Reading 6 people get off the bus, and 9 people get on. In Cardiff, 11 people get off and 16 people get on. In Swansea, 3 people get off and five people get on. In Carmarthen, 6 people get off and 3 get on. You then arrive at Milford Haven. What was the name of the bus driver?

Answer. Oh! For crying out loud! Don't you remember? It was YOU.

May is the most marvellous month in the garden

**By Perfect Plants Ltd. Perfectplants.co.uk
Deliveries to your UK door: Houseplants, garden plants
and gifts for the garden lover**



The long, hopefully warm, days of May are a gardener's delight. There are so many jobs to do in the garden, it can sometimes feel overwhelming. In amongst what are, hopefully, enjoyable tasks, it's important to immerse yourself in the beauty of the outdoor space to which you are lucky enough to have access.

So perhaps the most urgent job for May is to make yourself a cosy seating area in which you can admire the fruits of your labour. A simple chair or bench, surrounded by plants, might be all that's required. Or a hammock strung between trees, tall fence posts or strong, high hook bolted to a firm structure, might appeal. A garden picnic table could give you a multi-purpose area for dining and relaxing. Or a bistro table and chairs set for two on the patio could be just the thing for a marvellous May moment.

The risk of frost should pass during the month and this means you can put out your annual pots, containers and hanging baskets without risk of your plants dying in the cold weather. Annuals might not represent everyone's cut of tea, but they are a way by which you can inject colour and vitality to your doorstep, patio and beds. Fill your gaps with flowers!

There are also plenty of gardening tasks to undertake this month:

- Once spring-flowering bulbs have finished, you can dead-head them but don't be tempted to cut off the green foliage. Allow them to die down naturally so they can make food ready for next year.
- Alliums and tulips should be at their best in May, enjoy their beauty in the garden or even consider cutting them for a vase indoors. A few drops of vinegar in the water should stop the bacterial build-up in the container.
- Give perennials that have already flowered and are looking slightly tired a 'Chelsea chop' so that they can re-grow and bloom again. This includes hardy

geraniums, salvias and more. Cut some stems back by up to two thirds and leave others slightly longer so that flowers come in succession rather than all at once.

- Spring flowering shrubs that have finished flowering can also be pruned.
- The same applies to early-flowering Clematis.
- Ornamental hedges and topiary such as Buxus can also be given a light trimming using hand-tools rather than mechanical. Do this on a dry day, then collect up the clippings to minimise the spread of disease.
- A gardener is always planning ahead. Therefore now's the time to plant perennials such as Chrysanthemums that will produce flowers later in the summer. Dahlia tubers can also go in the ground. Their huge and colourful flowers will delight you when so many other plants have finished.
- Another useful task is to prop up your taller perennials before they actually need it. Pop in supports for Peonies, Delphiniums, Lupins and even Verbena bonariensis so that they can grow straight through the support, ultimately hiding it from view when they bush out.
- Keep on top of the weeds! You probably don't mind a few, but you want to be able to see your plants rather than the more rampant wild things.
- Keep a watchful eye out for slugs. You can remove them manually or consider biological control.

The Fruit and Vegetable Patch

It's a non-stop task down on the allotment or in the kitchen garden, hurrah for the growing season!

- Sow French beans, squash, courgettes, carrots and sweetcorn outside now. Remember to water everything daily if the weather is hot and dry.
- Earth up your potatoes when you see shoots emerging as this will result in a higher yield.
- Keep sowing salad seeds every week so that you enjoy successional leaves.
- You can trim back herbs such as oregano, thyme and chives now so they can re-grow with lush, new shoots for the kitchen.
- It's a great month for strawberries! They do need bees and insects to pollinate them in order to produce the fruit. So if you are trying to grow them indoors, open the windows!
- If you have soft fruit bushes, consider covering them with netting in order to protect the ripening fruit from birds.
- Harvest your late purple-sprouting broccoli, spring cabbage, kale, brassica and cauliflower now.
- First early potatoes can be harvested already.
- Spinach can be harvested this month too.

This will be the last article provided by Perfect Plants Limited. I would like to thank all those involved in supplying these interesting garden tips over the past few years (Editor)

All in the month of May



200 years ago, on 5th May 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of France (1804 – 1815) died of stomach cancer. He was in exile on the island of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic, aged 51.

150 years ago, on 11th May 1871, John Herschel, British astronomer, mathematician, chemist and pioneering photographer died. Amongst other things, he named seven of Saturn's moons and investigated colour blindness. He was also President of the Royal Astronomical Society three times.

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100 years ago, on 3rd May 1921, Ireland was divided into Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland (now known as the Republic of Ireland).

80 years ago, on 10th May 1941, the last major attack on London during the Blitz caused heavy damage to many important buildings, including the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St James Palace and Lambeth Palace, several railway stations and hospitals, the British Museum and the Old Bailey. More than 1,300 people were killed on one night. At one point during the Blitz, London was bombed for 57 nights in a row.

75 years ago, on 11th May 1946, the first CARE packages for Europe arrived in Le Havre to help people who were starving after WWII. The first CARE packages were actually surplus US Army rations.

70 years ago, on 3rd May 1951, the Festival of Britain and the Royal Festival Hall in London were opened. The aim of the Festival was to lift the nation's spirits by celebrating British industry, arts and science. **Also on 9th May 1951**, the Lake District National Park was established. It was Britain's second national park.

65 years ago, on 24th May 1956, the first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. It was won by Switzerland.

60 years ago, on 1st May 1961, betting away from racecourses was legalised in the UK and the first betting shops opened.

40 years ago, on 13th May 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded by a Turkish gunman in an assassination attempt in St Peter's Square, Vatican City.

30 years ago, on 16th May 1991, Queen Elizabeth II became the first British monarch to address the US Congress.

25 years ago, on 30th May 1996, Prince Andrew, Duke of York, and his wife Sarah, Duchess of York, were divorced.

20 years ago, on 7th May 2001, Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs returned to the UK from Brazil where he had lived as a fugitive for 36 years. He was immediately arrested and sent to prison to complete his sentence. Released on compassionate grounds in 2009, he died in 2013.

10 years ago, on 2nd May 2011, Osama bin Laden, Saudi Arabian-born terrorist, died. Founder of al-Qaeda, he was thought to have masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the USA. Shot dead by US forces in Pakistan.

Be kind to each other



'And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.' (Matthew 10:42)

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been thousands of shining examples up and down the country, *and in the Isle of Man*, of people going the extra mile to help the elderly, vulnerable and those at risk. The helpers have been shopping, cooking meals, making regular telephone calls, and checking that needs are being met. We must sincerely hope that these acts of kindness will continue well beyond the coronavirus outbreak.

Simple acts of kindness are so important in cementing the fabric of our society. Some years ago, this thought inspired the following poem:

There is much we can do just to brighten
This world of all take and no give,
There's a great deal that we can contribute
Through the everyday lives that we live.

By supporting one's elderly neighbours
Or through lending a hand in some way.
It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers
To someone to brighten their day.

It's by sparing a few precious hours
In the service of those most in need,
It's all about setting a standard
And trying to give others a lead.

It's the way that we tend to treat others,
And help and aid folks in distress.
It's the care and assistance we offer
That will set us apart from the rest.

The choice that we face is quite simple,
The rewards plain for all men to see.
'As you did all of this to my brother
Then' said Christ, 'you did it to me.'

Colin Hammacott

CHOOSE Kindness



Do the maths

A teacher posed the following problem to one of her maths classes: "A wealthy man dies and leaves ten million pounds. One-fifth is to go to his wife, one-fifth is to go to his son, one-sixth to his butler, and the rest to charity. Now, what does each get?" After a very long silence in the classroom, one little boy raised his hand. With complete sincerity, he ventured, "A solicitor?"

From the Registers

Funerals March 2021

Thursday 4 th March	@ 12 noon	Kirk Christ	David Gawne
Wednesday 17 th March	@ 11am	Burial Ground	Jack Potts
Thursday 18 th March	@ 11am	Kirk Christ	Marcella Holland
Thursday 18 th March	@ 2pm	Ashes Burial	Shannon Findley
Friday 19 th March	@ 11.30am	Crematorium	Arthur Cregeen
Friday 26 th March	@ 12 noon	Kirk Christ	Philip Masson

Coronavirus – warning about vaccine

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

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



There's no complete freedom, but a human being comes close to freedom as he connects with God, reason and love



Reflected Faith: Hiding, waiting, hoping – FREE!

After many long months during the Covid pandemic we are at last beginning to be able to come together again. Some countries and some areas of some countries will be more open than others and we can only hope, pray and wait for all of us to be able to be 'free' again.

May, in the Church's calendar, is supremely the month of freedom.

During the first few weeks we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the Bible stories of those who met Him after His crucifixion and resurrection.

Then we celebrate His Ascension – Jesus' return to His Father.

And finally, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and all those locked in that Upper Room – with the subsequent birth of His Church.

Freedom indeed!

This last year has for most of us felt like a waiting time to see and hold friends and family again. We have some understanding of fear and the hope within us. What a celebration there must have been when Jesus returned to His Father – and what a celebration also when the Holy Spirit so powerfully descended.

It is the story of those 'simple' men who were scared and hiding one day and the next day bold and outspoken that speaks to me of something outstanding happening.

As I received my anti-Covid vaccination I felt that same freedom from fear. Not that I would be 100% safe and never ill again, but rather that whatever happened now would be manageable.

This month: Have a think this month about fears that you may have held inside you in this past year and how you have been able to manage them. Have you known the Spirit of Our Lord by your side as you have walked these roads? I hope so, and I hope also that together we can help others to know His reassurance from fear. Freedom indeed.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Revd Dr Jo White

God in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'May Morning on Magdalen Tower' by Holman Hunt.

I wish you a joyful May



When Van Gogh painted 'The Raising of Lazarus', he turned to Rembrandt for inspiration. But in place of the figure of Jesus, he painted a warm, glowing sun, radiant in the sky, and shining out to bring renewal of life to Lazarus and his sisters.

From time immemorial people have placed the sun at the centre of life and worship. As Christianity grew and spread, it took over ceremonies and practices associated with that belief, but then moved the focus from the sun above to the Son, Jesus, on the earth below.

We can see that in the traditions and worship of Christmas and Easter. In May we celebrate the goodness and fruitfulness of nature brought by the sun with Maypole dancing, the crowning of the May Queen, and games and sports, just as the Romans went dancing in the fields at this time, rejoicing in the gifts of Flora, the goddess of nature. In May the druids would greet the sun in the sky as they gathered on a high place.

That custom persisted for several centuries, particularly at Magdalen College in Oxford. In 1840 Dr John Bloxam revived the ceremony. Holman Hunt, one of that group of artists known as the Pre-Raphaelites, visited Oxford in 1851 and so enjoyed the Christmas festivities that he decided to honour the college life in one of his paintings. That decision took many years to reach the canvas: his painting of 'May Morning on Magdalen Tower' is one of his last complete works in 1890.

We can easily identify the choristers gathered to greet the rising sun in music and song. Amid the clouds and blue sky above, the birds are flying and the floor where the choir stand is bedecked with flowers. It is a glorious celebration of the fruitfulness of May and the summer: God's creation bringing so many gifts. The president of the college is the man with the dark beard at the right of the painting, and Dr Bloxam is beside him.

But there is an unusual character there also, at the side of the painting – a Parsee, an ancient worshipper of the sun from Persia, perhaps representing not just those who look to the light of the sun, but are also searching for the light of truth. The young chorister in the middle looking out at us holds a lily, the symbol of Mary, the mother of God's Son.

All creation is gathered to greet the dawn and the rising sun of May – the birds above and people below, young and old, Christian and non-Christian - all united to proclaim the goodness and renewal promised by the sun.

Holman Hunt said that he wanted to represent 'the spirit of a beautiful, primitive and in a large sense eternal service.' Here is a vivid reminder that the faith we profess opens our eyes to God's goodness and glory symbolised in the rising sun, and that He welcomes everyone to share in those gifts.

Children's Page

The Tale of the TWO BUILDERS



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES

THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.

SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.

THE OTHER BUILDER DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.

BUT ONE DAY THE STORM CAME....

...AND THE WIND BLEW....AND THE RAIN FELL....

...AND THE HOUSE ON THE SAND COLLAPSED!

BUT THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK STOOD FIRM.

JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION.

The Story Behind the Hymn



Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Chorus

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

Chorus

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Chorus

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Chorus

The words of the first verse of "Christ, Be Our Light" fits themes of Advent. Hints of Isaiah 9:2: *The people who walk in darkness will see a great light* point us to years A, B, and C of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, when this text is used for the Nativity of the Lord. It is also a reading in year A on the third Sunday after Epiphany.

The second verse suggests that, while there is a longing for God to come and be active in bringing peace and hope to the world, we share responsibility. An implicit desire to follow God's word pushes Christians to become a voice for those in trouble or in despair. Hope, peace, joy, and love come to us from God, but Farrell's implication is that we have responsibility to speak and shine light in darkness.

Bernadette Farrell has long been a champion of social justice. Beyond her work as a lyricist and composer, she also serves as a community organiser in London. Social justice comes across clearly in the third and fourth verses and also reinforces themes of Advent and Lent. In the third verse, echoes of Isaiah 55:1-2 appear in reference to hunger and thirst. Not only does Farrell's text provide a prophetic witness, but it also eludes to the ministry of Jesus. The fourth verse provides less influence of biblical text and more of Farrell's theology. It refers to the homeless and the cold, again, partnering us with God in providing care and shelter.

Perhaps a look at the fifth verse will help us understand this text more fully. It references Paul's letter to the church at Corinth. The church, full of people with gifts of the Spirit, brings the kingdom of God to earth when it serves God's children. Yes, this text can be used during Advent and Lent, but the last verse truly helps us to comprehend who the church is called to be and what the church is called to do. Using the gifts of God to serve one another meets the needs articulated in the earlier verses. Hence the hymn can be used throughout the year and not just in Advent and Lent.

HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?

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*

HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?

May 2021

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Anyone awaiting a diagnosis from their general practitioner or the hospital
- 2nd Those involved in bringing the news to us on radio, television, or other means
- 3rd The safety of all aid workers in places of unrest
- 4th Our vicar and curate and their intervention in bringing worship to our homes
- 5th The Archdeacon and staff at the Diocese of Sodor and Man
- 6th All those affected by the coronavirus pandemic throughout the world
- 7th The work of missionaries and evangelists
- 8th Everyone who is involved in the recruitment and training of clergy
- 9th Farmers on Rogation Sunday as they prepare land for a fruitful harvest
- 10th Doctors, nurses and all of the key workers during the coronavirus pandemic
- 11th All who are anxious, distressed or discouraged
- 12th All teachers of the Christian Faith
- 13th Christ's glorious ascension to heaven
- 14th Peace and stability in troubled areas of the world
- 15th Children who are hungry, orphaned or homeless throughout the world
- 16th Those who regularly read the lessons and lead our intercessions
- 17th The life and witness of the Apostles
- 18th Those who have lost loved ones to the coronavirus pandemic throughout the world
- 19th People who feel lonely, isolated and frightened during the coronavirus pandemic
- 20th The financial consequences of the pandemic to the government and individuals
- 21st Those who may lose their livelihoods as a result of the coronavirus pandemic
- 22nd Skills given by God to surgeons as they carry out dangerous procedures
- 23rd Students having to depend on their coursework as the only means for success
- 24th Technology that has helped to link friends and family together during the pandemic
- 25th The APCM being held this evening at Kirk Christ
- 26th The courage to carry Christ within us and to present Him wherever we go
- 27th Help in places throughout the world where food and water are in short supply
- 28th For all those hoping to be married this year
- 29th Those who live rough and who sleep out in cities throughout the United Kingdom
- 30th Charitable organisations which devote their energy and resources to those in need
- 31st Mary, the Blessed Virgin, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ

Services May 2021

2 nd May (Easter 5)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
5 th May	11.15am 2pm	Southlands Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's Play & Praise
9 th May (Easter 6)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
16 th May (Easter 7)	9.30am 11am 11am 3.15pm	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer + Baptism (CW) St Mary's Holy Communion (CW) St Catherine's All-Age Service (CW) St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
23 rd May (Pentecost)	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)
30 th May (Trinity Sunday)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
2 nd June	11.15am 2pm	Southlands Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's Play & Praise
6 th June (Trinity 1)	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 th June (Trinity 2)	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 th June (Trinity 3)	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)

Dates and times of services/activities subject to alteration/or cancelled
 (CW) Common Worship (BCP) Book of Common Prayer

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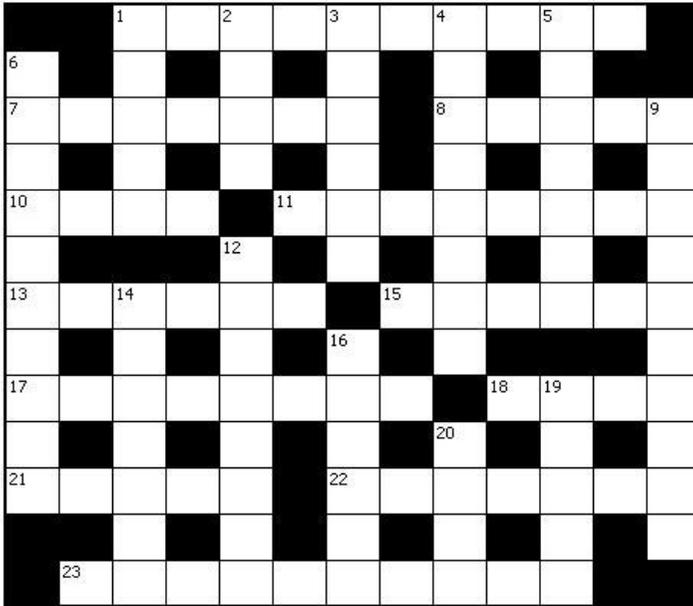
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Crossword May 2021



Across..

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Sense of right and wrong
 2 (1 <i>Corinthians</i> 8:7) (10)
 7 Coming (<i>John</i> 11:17) (7)
 8 'All I have is — , and all you have is mine' (<i>John</i> 17:10) (5)
 10 Smarten (<i>Acts</i> 9:34) (4)
 11 Hold back (<i>Job</i> 9:13) (8)
 13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)
 15 At ague (anag.) (6)
 17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)
 18 So be it (<i>Galatians</i> 6:18) (4)
 21 Twentieth-century poet and Dramatist who wrote <i>Murder in the Cathedral</i>, T.S. — (5)
 22 Empowers (<i>Philippians</i> 3:21) (7)
 23 Imposing (<i>1 Samuel</i> 9:2) (10)</p> | <p>3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive — (6)
 4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (<i>Exodus</i> 2:12) (8)
 5 Bravery (<i>Acts</i> 4:13) (7)
 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (<i>Acts</i> 16:26) (10)
 9 Transgression (<i>Psalms</i> 36:1) (10)
 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
 14 Same hit (anag.) (7)
 16 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the — ' (<i>Genesis</i> 1:2) (6)
 19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. — (5)
 20 Cab (4)</p> |
|--|---|

Down

- 1** Healed (*Luke* 7:21) (5)
2 Central space in a church (4)