

October
2021

Rushen Parish Magazine

Sow seeds of
integrity;
reap a harvest of
lasting love.

Break new ground in your
friendship with God,

for it is time to seek
the LORD until He
comes and showers
blessings on you.
Hosea 10:12

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From the Editor

Just a few metres from where I live resides a very frail old lady. I have only met her on the odd occasion, and even then only to say hello, or mention the weather. However since the beginning of the pandemic I haven't seen her, maybe because she feels vulnerable and wishes to remain safe, or that she has become housebound because of her age. To my shame I haven't asked about her so I don't really know the full details. All I do know is that she is still alive, because I see lots of activity around her home every day. Perhaps I am a little reticent to interfere, after all there are times when I might feel that I could get in the way and disturb what seems to be a situation which is being kept in check.

How do I know that all is well? It's because every day I see my neighbours visiting her house carrying out the household tasks that we all have to do. I see washing on the line, people carrying hot prepared food, or just visiting for a chat. It's also not from one particular place, quite a few people are involved in caring for this lovely lady, and it takes place from morning till night. I find the whole situation quite heart-warming and lovely to see.

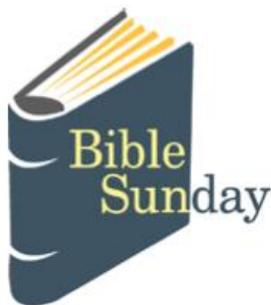
Similarly, there are times when the same group of people think about me, and occasionally I am given cakes which have been on sale at a local fund-raising event, or freshly baked bread from someone who lives some ninety metres from my door, and doesn't really know a great deal about me. Nevertheless these neighbourly acts of love and compassion show just how kind and considerate these people are. Personally I am so grateful that they are thinking about me and not just treating me as someone who lives in that house over there! I suspect the frail old lady feels the same.

Perhaps one of the most remembered parables that Jesus spoke about was that of the Good Samaritan who wasn't prepared to leave someone he didn't know lying on the ground after he had been set upon by thieves. He tended to his needs and made sure that he was safe. Two others, one of whom was a holy man, just passed him by on the other side of the road because they couldn't be bothered to help.

My neighbour's needs are met by a group of people dedicated to make her days on earth more bearable. They are acting just as the man who looked after the stricken man in Jesus' parable. They are not asking for reward, they just want to help. Over the last eighteen months, when life has been unbearable at times, especially for the frail and vulnerable, there have been so many acts of kindness from people who are just getting on with their lives but see the need to help. It has been a joy to hear about them, and to see it action on the lane where I live.

David

Bible Sunday



Editor: Bible Sunday is on 24th October. This article is designed to encourage us to read our Bibles in a way that might help us.

Reading the Bible is much easier if you follow some simple steps and get prepared. And, as you delve into it, you might find that you are more familiar with the Bible than you expected: it crops up in everything from Shakespeare to Hollywood movies; it's musicians, historical figures down the centuries, and campaigners.

The Bible is complex. It's not one book but a collection of 66 books, split into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Each one of these books are divided into chapters and verses. People often find it easier to begin at the opening of the New Testament, which starts about three-quarters of the way through.

The New Testament begins with four accounts of the life of Jesus Christ, the founder of Christianity, known as the Son of God. These accounts are known as the gospels. They include eye-witness reports of what happened. Matthew and John were among Jesus' 12 closest followers. Here you can read about what Jesus did and said – His profound teaching, how He healed people of sickness and how He challenged the authorities. The Gospels also tell us about His death by crucifixion and how He came back to life and then returned to heaven.

The first Gospel, Matthew, opens with the story of Jesus' birth (the event which is celebrated at Christmas) and then jumps forward 30 years to when Jesus began travelling around what is now Israel and the Palestinian territories telling people about God. Starting with a Gospel introduces you to the person of Jesus and the basics of Christian belief.

Early Christian teaching

A good next step is to read some of the teaching given to the early Christian Church. Much of the New Testament is a series of letters written by early Christian leaders such as Paul. He travelled around the lands of the eastern Mediterranean, telling people about Jesus. He then wrote to the various newly-established churches and individuals to encourage them in their beliefs. Letters such as Philippians or Colossians are short, bite-sized letters full of advice about how to live a Christian life.

Getting to grips with the whole Bible takes some time, but it is worth the effort. In his second letter to a young leader called Timothy, Paul says the Bible is "*inspired by God and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*".

How reading notes can help

Many people find it helpful to find a quiet and comfortable place to sit and read the Bible and make sure that they read it every day. Take time to digest what it says. You could say a quick prayer – asking God to help you understand what you are reading and its relevance to you.



Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

Our weekly meetings resumed after the summer on Tuesday 7th September and it was so good to catch up with everyone's news. Margaret had chosen a lovely reading, after which, having had some updates on people's health, we were able to think of them during our prayers.

The business part of our meeting included planning the decoration of the church on Saturday 2nd for the Harvest Service on 3rd October, (which will mark the end of Liz's Curacy in Rushen Parish), and the Faith Lunch which will follow it. A new list of recipients of harvest presents is being prepared and the Foodbank will receive tinned goods.

We also discussed our proposed coffee morning to be held in Port St Mary Golf Pavilion on Friday 15th October from 10 – 11.30, in aid of the Women's Refuge and other Isle of Man charities. The details of our festive lunch on Tuesday 30th November have still to be finalised.

The LCC meeting held on 5th September regarding the proposed re-ordering of St Mary's had been well attended and the ladies were pleased to learn about the "kitchen" adaptations to be incorporated at the back of the church which will greatly help us with after-service coffees on a Sunday, and also with our own weekly refreshments. The proposed shed, for the storage of tables and chairs, is welcomed too. We also hope that improved toilet facilities for the church can be incorporated into the plans.

We would like to express thanks to Rev Liz Hull for her work here in the parish over the last 3 years and to wish her, and her family, every blessing as she moves to St Thomas's, Douglas on 5th October as Priest-in-Charge.

With love and very best wishes to everyone

Pat Thomson

Say again?

Three elderly church ministers, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning. The Methodist minister observed, 'Windy, isn't it?' 'No,' the Baptist pastor said, 'it's Thursday.' The Anglican vicar agreed: 'So am I! Let's go get a pint.'

James the Deacon



James the Deacon is the saint for any lay person who has stepped in to lead their church when the clergy are far away. He is remembered each year on the 11th October.

In fact, an historian has called James the Deacon ‘the one heroic figure’ in the Roman mission to Northumbria. No wonder – in a time of political chaos, with the king murdered and even the bishop fleeing for safety, James the Deacon stood firm.

It had begun when Pope Gregory the Great sent Paulinus, Bishop of York, to take Roman Christianity to Northumbria. James the Deacon, almost certainly an Italian, was among those who went with Paulinus.

The mission began well, and Edwin the king of Northumbria was converted. Roman Christianity in Northumbria took root and began to grow. But then in 633 Edwin fell in battle with Penda, the ruthless pagan king of Mercia. A pagan backlash began. The queen and her son fled for Kent, with the bishop Paulinus going south with them.

All that was left of Roman Christianity in Northumbria was James, now a solitary deacon.

But James was made of stern stuff, and despite the danger from Penda, James stayed on at a village near Catterick, often risking his life as he cared for the Christians, and continued to preach the gospel.

His success was discovered when the Northumbrian mission returned five to ten years later, and found an active Christian community still in Northumbria. James had been a faithful servant.

After Penda died, and Christian rule was re-established in Northumbria, James turned to teaching music, especially Gregorian Chant, to the fledgling churches in the region. Bede praised him for his honour and integrity. James was present at the Synod of Whitby in 664, which met to discuss the differences between the Celtic Northumbrian Church of the North, and the Roman Church of the South.

When James died sometime after 671, he was deeply mourned by the ordinary Christians of Northumbria, both Celtic and Roman. He had never deserted them.

Sunday School is Cool



Following our summer break, with a wonderful week at Port St Mary Beach Mission in early August, St Mary's Sunday School started again on 5th September. It was great to see everybody again (those who were able to come), play some fun games and to share what we had all been up to in the summer holidays. We also prepared and practised for our September all-age service the following Sunday on the theme of Following Jesus.

It was great to have our vicar Joe back to lead the all-age service on 12th September. The Sunday School contributed with Thomas confidently reading the first lesson from Isaiah, followed by a dramatised reading of the gospel from Mark 8:27-38, with Lukas reading the part of Jesus and Megan, Laura and Cameron the parts of the disciples.

Joe started off the Learning Together section by asking the congregation and Sunday School who they would want to be if they could be anybody in the world, and the answers ranged from Bob Ross the artist via Sergio Aguero the footballer and Emma Raducanu the new tennis star to 'a capable person,' the kind of heroes that people look up to and want to be like. Joe told us that to be a true disciple of a leader (like the disciples of a rabbi in Jesus' time), it is important to follow that leader, in a physical but also a spiritual sense, to observe closely how they act and what they say and to then imitate their words and actions. To illustrate this point, Joe got the Sunday School children to play a fun game of "Follow my Leader." If we want to be true disciples of Jesus, we need to follow him closely each day and love others in the same way that he loves us. Being a true disciple of Christ may require sacrifice, as we put God and others first in our lives. Joe concluded by telling a story where a man was asked if he was a Christian, and he replied: "If you want to know if I'm a Christian, ask my neighbour!"

Tying in with the theme of the service, the Sunday School then led the congregation in singing "Follow Me," one of the Beach Mission favourites, in which Jesus calls us to follow him, love him and trust him, and he promises to love us, direct us and show us how to live. The Sunday School also read the prayers of thanksgiving and intercession. They all did very well! Many thanks to the children and to their parents for helping them practise their readings, prayers and songs! Thank you also to Mike for playing the organ and to the members of the Ladies Working Party for the refreshments served after the service, which we all enjoyed.

We are now looking forward to our regular Sunday School sessions as well as preparations for our joint Harvest service on 3rd October, where we will also say Farewell to Liz our curate. We will miss her very much, but we wish her all the best for her future role as Priest in charge at St Thomas's in Douglas.

Love and blessings

Claudia, Helen and Lukas



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



On 29th August Bishop Peter visited the parish and celebrated Holy communion in Kirk Christ church. A warm welcome was given by everyone to the Bishop. It was a shame that some of our parishioners were unable to attend as it was good to hear the Bishop again, since the last visit we had from him was three years ago.

On 12th September our curate Liz led services at Kirk Christ and St Catherine's. She also led the service at St Peter's during the afternoon. These have been her last services in the parish before she leaves to be Priest-in-Charge at St Thomas', Douglas. She will, of course return for our Harvest celebrations on 3rd October at St Mary's Church.

Liz will undoubtedly be missed but our thoughts and prayers are with her as she takes another big step in her ministry. Our thanks are also offered to her for the help and leadership she exhibited during her three years at Rushen.

Gerry Callister

Zebra crossings – saving lives for 70 years

Seventy years ago, on 31st October 1951, zebra crossings were introduced officially in the UK. The first one was in Slough, Berkshire.

The crossings had been trialled over two years at 1000 experimental sites, but in 1951 the black and white striped pedestrian crossings were approved, with their flashing Belisha beacons, and all drivers were required by law to stop as soon as a pedestrian set foot on them.

The crossings were the brainchild of Yorkshireman and traffic engineer George 'Dr Zebra' Charlesworth, a physicist who had worked on the Barnes Wallis-designed bouncing bomb during the war. His zebra crossings were certainly responsible for saving many lives.

The Belisha beacons, an integral part of the crossing but used since 1934, were introduced by Leslie Hore-Belisha, who served as Minister of Transport at the time.

Zebra crossings were adopted throughout the world, from continental Europe to North America, Singapore and Australia. They have now been superseded to some extent in the UK by pelican crossings, which are controlled by lights. These were introduced in 1969. While zebras were named because of their appearance, a pelican crossing (originally pelicon) is so named as a contraction of the phrase 'pedestrian light controlled'.

Tim Lenton

Sudoku October 2021

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

The Cow and the Bible

A religious farmer lost his Bible out in the field. A few days later he went to answer a noise at his door. Standing there was a cow, with his Bible in its mouth. The farmer raised his eyes to heaven and thanked the Lord for this miracle. "Not really," said the cow. "Your name was written inside."

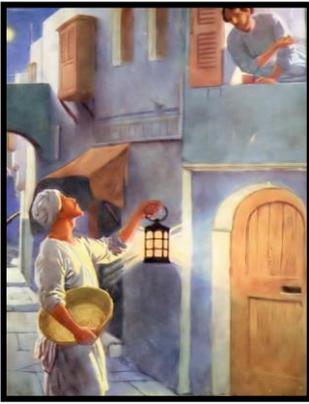
September Sudoku Solution

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

September Crossword Solution

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

The Friend at Midnight



Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers Jesus' encouragement to pray.

This month we are looking at the Parable of the Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-8). It is found in a passage where Jesus is teaching His disciples to pray.

Pray Shamelessly:

The parable concerns a man coming to his friend at midnight and asking '*Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him*' (5-6). Despite the hour, the rules of hospitality would mean this was not an unreasonable request.

But the friend refuses to help because everyone in his house is asleep. Jesus adds, '*though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will rise and give him whatever he needs*'. Jesus uses this parable to encourage us to come in *shameless boldness* to our heavenly Father with our needs. In contrast to the parable, God is not slow in responding to us. It's not God who is reluctant to answer, but we to ask. Do we pray with shameless boldness?

Pray Persistently:

Such confidence is the basis for persistent prayer: '*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*' All three verbs indicate a continual habit: '*Keep on asking...seeking...knocking*'. We will not be content simply to ask once and then move on. Jesus tells us to bring our prayers to God persistently. Do we give up too easily in prayer?

Pray Expectantly:

'For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.' Do we pray expectantly, believing that God delights in answering your prayers? Why not begin this adventure of prayer today!

Canon Paul Hardingham

Make a date

Meeting with our new enthusiastic young curate, I asked if I could have a church service when I eventually die. "Of course," he said, grabbing his date book. "What day do you want?"

Reflected Faith: Sacred Things



Last month we thought about the bread we share at the Communion table. But what about any bread that is left over – regardless of the type of bread or wafer used?

During the service the bread and the wine are ‘consecrated’. That is, they are set aside for a specific purpose, in this case to be the body and blood of Christ. Because to Christians this is so very special, indeed ‘sacred’, we treat the unused bread and wine with special care.

No-one leaves very precious things lying around in case of theft, damage, or misuse. And so it is the same with the consecrated elements of bread and wine. When they have not all been consumed by the congregation, it is important that the surplus is dealt with in ways that honour the meaning that we give and receive from them. In most denominations they are consumed immediately, in others they are returned to the earth or given back to nature.

Sometimes, at the end of a service, you will see that some bread and wine has been deliberately kept aside to take out to those who are sick, or for use at a service where no priest will be present, and this then must be stored. So, the question arises – what vessels will be used?

The ‘pyx’ – literally a box – is the name for the container for the consecrated bread. Its size depends on the amount that it needs to contain; for taking to individuals in their own homes it is usually small enough to fit in the palm of a hand.

Although these can be especially bought from church suppliers, made in a variety of metals with embellishments, precious stones, enamel work and so on, you can actually use any container that fits the purpose.

This month

Have a look around your house and ask yourself, ‘What container would I use for a pyx?’ And thinking of containers, how about yourself? Do you and your life need a bit of cleaning and polishing to hold the bread? Are you aware how precious you are in God’s eyes as you receive the bread? The Bible says that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit – an awesome, sacred calling.

Revd Dr Jo White

Meeting the needs of older people



Anna Chaplain

These days there seems to be a day for everything, including the United Nations' 'International day for Older Persons', which is observed on 1st October. So perhaps October is a good month to think about meeting the needs of older people in church.

Many churches employ children's workers or youth leaders – but how many have appointed people to minister specifically to the older people in their congregation and beyond?

In St Albans, north of London, two Methodist churches have joined together to recruit an 'Anna Chaplain' to help meet the needs of seniors in local church congregations and beyond.

The new role is part of a growing network of Anna Chaplains, named after the widow, Anna, who appears in Luke's gospel as a good role model of a faithful older person.

The development comes as charities that work with older people have published research which how badly the pandemic has impacted those aged 60 and above, and raised questions about how well they will 'bounce back' after Covid-19.

Age UK has called on the Government to give the NHS and social care services extra resources to help older people make the best possible recovery. With coronavirus now hopefully in retreat in the UK, the charity has also appealed to the wider public to keep supporting the older people in their lives.

It said: "The impact of the pandemic on the health and wellbeing of some older people in early 2021 is so demonstrably severe that it raises big questions over whether they will be able to 'bounce back'."

Against this background, Maggie Dodd, the first Anna Chaplain in Hertfordshire, explained: "Our vision is that older people are cherished and supported within their church communities, and also beyond, in the wider community.

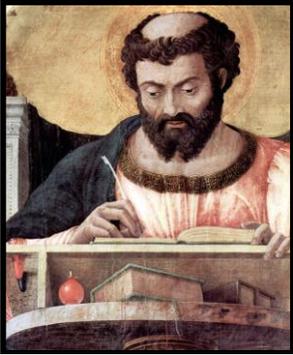
"Often you have people who used to attend church, and they've become a little more frail and not able to attend or they've moved to a care home or sheltered housing, and they just lose touch with what's going on. They're not able to take themselves to church anymore."

The work of Anna Chaplains includes ministry in care homes and other settings where older people live or gather. At this time of year, some churches organise 'holiday at home' projects and activities for seniors in their area.

Anna Chaplains are a ministry of Christian charity, BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) who have a vision "to see an Anna Chaplain in every small and medium-sized community in the country, and for the Anna Chaplain name to become synonymous with spiritual care for older people."

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

St Luke – the doctor who brought good news



This month we remember St Luke (18th October), the author of the third gospel and the Book of Acts. Throughout his writing Luke makes clear that the good news of salvation is available to all people regardless of their gender, social position, or nationality.

It is believed that Luke was a doctor, and he certainly sees the importance of healing in the ministry of Jesus and the Church. The signs of the presence of God's kingdom include the healing of sickness, hurts, as well as unforgiveness.

This is evident when Jesus sends out the 72 disciples in Luke 10, a reading for St Luke's Day:

'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field...When you enter a town and are welcomed eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'' (Luke 10:2,8). What challenges do we find in these verses?

Firstly Luke, as a **Gentile** (a non-Jew) recognises the revolutionary way outsiders are welcomed into the faith community, e.g. Zacchaeus (Luke 19) and Cornelius (Acts 10). How can we engage with those who are outside the community of faith? We have to avoid the tendency to regard ourselves as insiders! As we reach out to those who are ready to welcome the gospel, we have an opportunity to share good news and healing in the name of Jesus.

Secondly, as an **Evangelist**, Luke wants us to share the love of Jesus with all those we encounter. However, as these verses indicate, this has got to be rooted in prayer, if we are going to be led by God in our response to others. *'Mission is seeing what God is doing and joining in'* (Rowan Williams).

Canon Paul Hardingham

An Autumn Prayer

As the season changes and we enjoy the beautiful colours of autumn, there are other changes which we don't enjoy. Changes we cannot control; changes and suffering in the world, beyond our comprehension; changes to our work routines, or health, or circumstances; changes which cause us anxiety and uncertainty. When everything seems to be falling around us like the autumn leaves, help us, Lord, to remember that you stand firm. You are our rock. You never change. You are always faithful, always with us, as we move into each new day and each new season. Thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Jesus, so that by putting our trust in Him, we can know the security of your love, for ever! In His name, we thank you, Sovereign Lord. Amen

All in the month of October



500 years ago, on 11th Oct 1521, Pope Leo X granted the title 'Defender of the Faith' to King Henry VIII of England and Ireland. It recognised the King's defence of the sacrament of marriage, the supremacy of the Pope, and his opposition to the Protestant Reformation and the ideas of Martin Luther. The title has been inherited by British monarchs since then.

150 years ago, from 8th to 10th Oct 1871, the Great Chicago Fire took place. A fire in a barn quickly spread, following a long period of hot, dry weather. About 300 people were killed, over

three square miles of the city was destroyed, and around 100,000 people made homeless. Also at this time was the Peshtigo Fire of Wisconsin – it burned 1,200,000 acres and killed up to 2,500 people – the deadliest wildfire in US history.

90 years ago, on 24th Oct 1931, the George Washington Bridge was opened. It spans the Hudson River and links Manhattan to Fort Lee, New Jersey.

80 years ago, from 2nd Oct 1941 to 7th Jan 1942, the Battle of Moscow took place. Nazi Germany launched a massive offensive against the Soviet capital. It was one of the largest and most important battles of World War II. Soviet victory.

75 years ago, on 1st Oct 1946, the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg ended. 12 Nazi leaders were sentenced to death for war crimes committed during WWII. 10 of them were hanged on 16th October. Hermann Goering committed suicide the night before he was to be hanged.

70 years ago, from 15th to 17th Oct 1951, the first party election broadcasts were televised in the UK. The three main parties, Liberal, Conservative and Labour, were allocated 15 minutes each. **Also, on 18th Oct 1951**, Snowdonia National Park was established in Wales. **Also, on 30th Oct 1951** Dartmoor National Park was established. **Also, on 31st Oct 1951**, zebra crossings were introduced in the UK. The first one was in Slough, Berks.

65 years ago, from 29th Oct to 7th Nov 1956, the Suez Crisis took place. Israel invaded Egypt in an attempt to regain Western control of the Suez Canal and remove President Gamal Abdel Nasser from power. Britain and France joined the invasion but were forced to withdraw by the United Nations, the USA and the USSR. British Prime Minister Anthony Eden resigned in Jan 1957 and Sinai was occupied by Israel until March 1957.

60 years ago, on 6th Oct 1961, US President John F Kennedy advised Americans to build bomb shelters to protect themselves from nuclear fallout in the event of an attack by the Soviet Union.

50 years ago, on 1st Oct 1971, the first CT scan was performed on a patient at Atkinson Morley Hospital in Wimbledon.

40 years ago, on 3rd Oct 1981, a hunger strike by IRA members in Maze Prison, County Down, ended after seven months. 10 prisoners had died.

30 years ago, on 20th Oct 1991, the Oakland-Berkey Firestorm took place in California. A grass/bush fire spread to the hillsides, fanned by strong winds. 25 people were killed and 150 injured. Thousands of homes were destroyed.

25 years ago, on 18th Oct 1996, the journal Science published the first study that showed a causal link between a toxin found in tobacco smoke and the development of lung cancer.

20 years ago, on 7th Oct 2001, the first US and British forces arrived in Afghanistan to launch a massive military offensive following the 9/11 terrorist attack.

10 years ago, on 20th Oct 2011, Muammar Gaddafi, head of state of Libya (1969-2011) was captured and killed by military from the National Transitional Council.

Fire!



The Great Chicago Fire took place 150 years ago, from 8th to 10th October 1871. A fire in a barn spread quickly, following a long period of hot, dry weather. About 300 people were killed, more than three square miles of the city was destroyed, and about 100,000 people were made homeless. At exactly the same time, but less well publicised, the Peshtigo Fire of Wisconsin burned 1,200,000 acres and killed up to 2500 people. Only about 200 miles from Chicago, it

was the deadliest wildfire in US history and resulted from a prolonged drought, a strong wind and clearance of land for agriculture.

The Chicago fire was attributed at the time to a cow kicking over a lantern, but this was a story later admitted to having been fabricated. The disaster prompted an outbreak of looting, and martial law was declared on 11th October, ending three days of chaos. But rebuilding and economic development resulted. In nine years the population of the city rose from 324,000 to 500,000, and to a million by 1890.

Holy Family Catholic Church, built 14 years before the fire, survived the blaze and became known as the Firefighters' Church. In 2003 it "miraculously" survived another more localised fire, but closed in 2019.

Thirty years ago, on 20th October 1991, another autumn blaze – the Oakland-Berkeley Firestorm – took place in California. A fire began in the hills of Oakland and went on to burn thousands of homes and kill 25 people. Although fires had ravaged the same area three times earlier in the century – in 1923, 1970 and 1980 – people went on building homes there.

The 1991 blaze was blamed on highly flammable debris, known as 'duff', accumulating on the ground, where fires could smoulder unseen. Strong winds blew one of these invisible fires up a hillside; changing winds made it spread in different directions. Within an hour nearly 800 buildings were ablaze.

Tim Lenton

Of mice and men

A minister went into his local pet shop to ask for some help. 'I need at least 50 mice, 2,000 ants and as many of those little silverfish that you can get.' The pet shop owner was startled. 'We can probably do that, but it might take some time. Mind if I ask why you are placing such an unusual order?' The minister shrugged. 'It's simple. I've accepted a call to another church, and the church council told me to leave the parsonage the way I found it.'

From the Registers

Funerals August 2021:

2 nd August	Pauline Teare	RBG	Ashes
5 th August	Emily Fulton	RBG	Ashes
11 th August	Jean Moreton	Kirk Christ/RBG	Service & Burial
12 th August	Derek Oberholzer	Kirk Christ	Service only
20 th August	James Crebbin	Methodist/RBG	Burial
25 th August	Neville Joyce	RBG	Ashes
31 st August	Adam Kelly	RBG	Ashes

(RBG Rushen Burial Ground)

Weddings August 2021:

7 th August	Alexander S Harper & Jennifer V Davies	Kirk Christ	1.30pm
16 th August	Ian J Hanbidge & Charlotte L Titterton	Kirk Christ	2pm

Wedding Blessing August 2021

20 th August	Andrew & Lauren Booth	St Mary's	3pm
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Safeguarding

The Parish of Rushen is committed to the safeguarding, nurture and care of **everyone** within our church community. If you, or someone you know, are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk or has been harmed, or are concerned about the behaviour of someone towards children or vulnerable adults, please contact:

Rushen Parish Safeguarding Officer, Claire Jennings (Tel. 830850)

The **Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser** has now been appointed. For more details contact the diocese.

A copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy is available on the Diocesan website: http://www.sodorandman.im/safeguarding_inclusion



Rushen Mothers' Union



Our opening service this year was a very special one, held together with the MU South and West Joint Mission Partnership Corporate Communion Service at Kirk Christ on Monday 13th September, led by Rev Liz Hull and Rev Joe Heaton, with Mr Mike Porter at the organ. We had recently been informed that our branch had been founded in 1921, and so this service marked 100 years of the active work and faith of Rushen Mothers' Union, an event thoughtfully recognised during the sermon by Liz, who compared and contrasted the many and varied difficulties faced by families 100 years ago and today. We were given a lot to think about both in terms of what had passed and also how we could move forward, and would like to express our sincere thanks to Liz for her careful work in preparing this service.

An important part of the service saw two new members being enrolled by Rev Joe; Mrs Lesley Scott and Mrs Julia Vanderpump, whom we warmly welcome to Rushen Mothers' Union. Thereafter, we all shared in Holy Communion, followed at the end of the lovely service by refreshments.

To mark the centenary, Mrs Elsie Faragher had organised a magnificent cake which was the highlight of the afternoon tea provided by each of the five branches represented.

Photos were taken, including ones with our new Diocesan President Rev Jeanette Hamer, conversations flowed and the fellowship was hugely enjoyed by all.

We would like to say a very appreciative thank you to Liz, Joe, Mike, Gerry, Elsie and all who helped to make this occasion so memorable.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 11th October in St Catherine's Hall at 2pm when Mr Michael Manning will tell us about the work of Graih - a home for the homeless. Mrs Pat Thomson will be in the chair and guests, as always, are very welcome.

With love and very best wishes to all, and every blessing to Liz for her new ministry

Pat Thomson

Bible Study

If you are interested Mrs Kathleen Trustrum holds Bible Study meetings on Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm. If you would like to join please telephone 832257.

God in the Arts

*Editor: The **Revd Michael Burgess** continues his series on God in the Arts with a wood engraving of The Feast of Tabernacles, one of several 'Illustrations of Jewish Customs' by Simeon Solomon*

'Spread over us the tabernacle of your peace, O God'



For nine days at the end of September Jewish families will have gathered to celebrate the festival of Tabernacles. It is always a happy season as adults and children alike join for their Harvest feast. Many churches will be having their own Harvest Thanksgivings at the beginning of this month. We know this was a custom revived by Parson Hawker in the Victorian period, but its roots lie in that Jewish feast which Jesus Himself knew and celebrated.

Each family erects a tabernacle or tent in the garden or back yard. They will have their meals and spend time there. relaxing with one another.

The roof of each tabernacle might have branches of trees covering it, hung with fruits and fragrant flowers. The children decorate the tent with drawings and pictures.

Because it is only a temporary building for that time of the year, and because the roof is fragile, it is a reminder of the journeying of the Israelites in the wilderness when their safety rested on the goodness of God. It was God who watched over the people then. It is God who watches over them now and watches over the earth, so that it is fruitful, providing food for their health and happiness.

This feast is the subject of this month's picture by Simeon Solomon. He was a Jewish artist, born in London in 1840 into a family of artists. He made his own reputation through meeting the Pre-Raphaelites and the poet, Swinburne. Solomon was a colourful character of that period, whose life sadly ended in poverty and alcoholism. But this wood engraving was made early on in his life in 1866. It is part of a series illustrating Jewish customs, which Solomon provided for 'Leisure Hour.'

We see an elderly person on the left making his way into the tent, and at the other side a mother leading her children. The walls outside are adorned with palm branches and inside the tent a feast of fruits and food await them. The young boy seems hesitant, wondering what he will find and clinging to the hand of his mother. But all is well, for inside other members of the family are there to welcome them.

Solomon conveys the domesticity of this feast, and the young boy outside reminds us that Jesus Himself would have celebrated this feast with Mary and Joseph. They would also have gone up to Jerusalem to join the thousands of pilgrims there, as Jesus was to do later in His adult ministry. Each pilgrim would carry a branch of myrtle, palm and willow in one hand and a citrus fruit in the other, symbols of the fruits of the promised land. The air would be full of hosannas and praises to God.

Like the Jewish families at the Feast of Tabernacles, we shall gather for our Harvest Thanksgivings. Like them, we shall thank God for His faithful goodness in the past. Like them, we shall look ahead to the coming of God's kingdom, where God who feeds us now in food and drink will nourish us eternally. Like them, we shall proclaim, 'O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blessed is the one who trusts in Him.'

Children's Page

The gardener and the Vine

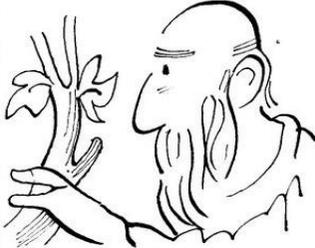


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES

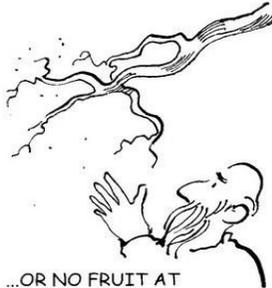


HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

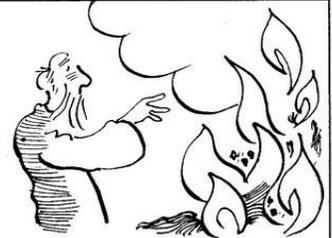
... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...

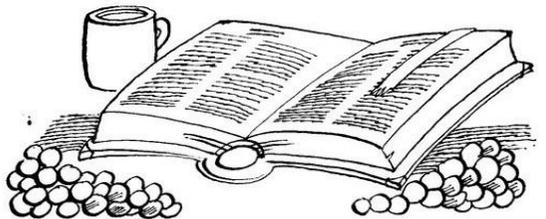


...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...



...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.

The Story Behind the Hymn



Henry Kirke White

Oft in danger, oft in woe

Oft in danger, oft in woe,
onward, Christians, onward go;
bear the toil, maintain the strife,
strengthened with the bread of life.

Onward, Christians, onward go,
join the war, and face the foe;
will ye flee in danger's hour?
Know ye not your Captain's power?

Let not sorrow dim your eye;
soon shall every tear be dry:
let not fears your course impede;
great your strength, if great your need.

Let your drooping hearts be glad;
march in heavenly armour clad;
fight, nor think the battle long:
soon shall victory wake your song.

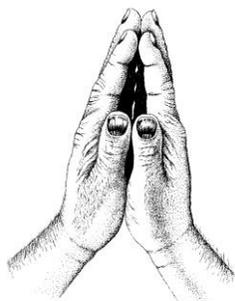
Onward then in battle move;
more than conquerors ye shall prove:
though opposed by many a foe,
Christian soldiers, onward go.

Two authors are responsible for the hymn, "Oft in danger, oft in woe." The first verse was written by a young man, Henry Kirke White, who died October 19, 1806, while still a student in Saint John's College, Cambridge University. The other verses were written by a fourteen-year-old girl, Frances Sara Fuller-Maitland, who successfully carried the spirit of White's fragmentary lines into the subsequent verses, first published by her mother, Mrs. Bertha Fuller-Maitland in 1827.

White was born in Nottingham, England, March 21, 1785. Not wanting to become a butcher, like his father, he became apprenticed to a weaver when only fourteen years old, afterward entering a law office. His genius as a poet began to blossom while he was still a boy. A book of his poems that he published at the age of seventeen showed that he had become irreligious.

A dear friend of his, named Almond, had become a Christian, and told White that they could no longer associate together, because of White's scorn of the Christian life. This hurt White so deeply that he exclaimed: "You surely think worse of me than I deserve !" But Almond's courageous stand brought White to his senses, and gradually the young poet realized his lost condition and found his way to the Saviour of mankind. The story of his struggle toward the light is pictured in his hymn, "When marshalled on the nightly plain." After his death in college they found on some mathematical papers his lines, beginning, "Much in sorrow, oft in woe."

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary



Lord Jesus Christ, draw our hearts to yours with a love that is irresistible; unite our hearts to yours with a love that is immeasurable; and bind our hearts to yours with a love that is inseparable; now and for ever. Amen



October 2021

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Those people weighed down with debt who see no solution to their problems
- 2nd The Rev. Joe Heaton, and those who minister to us in the Parish of Rushen
- 3rd Those who are housebound who would love to attend a church service today
- 4th The children who are affected when families break up
- 5th Those throughout the world still affected by the coronavirus pandemic
- 6th William Tyndale who translated the scriptures into English
- 7th Children attending Castle Rushen High School
- 8th Farmers and agricultural workers preparing for the winter ahead
- 9th All people taking part in sporting events today and tomorrow
- 10th Our local shops and businesses, and for those who work in them
- 11th The residents and staff of all the care homes in the Isle of Man
- 12th The ministry of healing for the sick and disabled
- 13th King Edward the Confessor and those who brought Christianity to our shores
- 14th All Saints, known or unknown, now in heaven
- 15th The many people who anxiously wait for news of sick relatives
- 16th Fishermen who work tirelessly to provide us with fish to eat
- 17th The work of all charities both at home and overseas
- 18th Luke the Evangelist, remembered for his healing, and whose day is celebrated today
- 19th Older people who need warmth as winter approaches
- 20th Employees throughout our country striving to meet their targets
- 21st People in prison seeking to improve their lives
- 22nd Christians around the world
- 23rd Preparations for Christmas in shops and other retail outlets.
- 24th The work of the Southern Mission Partnership
- 25th PCC committees and the valuable work they do for the parish behind the scenes
- 26th King Alfred the Great, whose day it is, and those baking cakes today!
- 27th Babies born today and the families into which they are born
- 28th Those who are persecuted for their faith
- 29th Artists, poets and musicians
- 30th Those who look after our churches and arrange the flowers week by week
- 31st Those who work in the hospitality industry

Services October 2021

3 rd October (Trinity 18)	11am	St Mary's Joint Harvest Festival (CW) #
	3.15pm	St Peter's Harvest Festival (BCP)
5 th October	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	Play & Praise St Catherine's Church Hall
10 th October (Trinity 19)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
17 th October (Trinity 20)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's All-Age Service (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
24 th October (Trinity 21)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
31 st October (4 before Advent)	11am	Kirk Christ Joint Holy Communion (CW)
3 rd November	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
	2pm	Play & Praise St Catherine's Church Hall
7 th November (Trinity 19)	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
14 th November (Remembrance)	10.45am	Kirk Christ Remembrance Service
	10.55am	St Catherine's/St Mary's Remembrance
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (Remembrance)

Followed by Faith Lunch in St Mary's Church Hall

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

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

St Mary's Sunday School Leader:

Mrs Claudia Koenig, Fois Fraon, Fistard, Port St Mary 832974/495630

St Mary's Ladies Working Party

Mrs Lesley Scott, 20 Rhenwyllan Close, Port St Mary 832919
 (Mobile: 07808254356 email: lesley@pharmaconsulting.co.uk)

St Mary's Hall Bookings:

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

St Catherine's Hall Bookings:

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

Web Site/E-mail:

www.rushenparish.org.uk rushenparishorg@gmail.com

Magazine Editor

Mr David Bowman, The Old Bakery, Qualtroughs Lane, Ballafesson, Port Erin 837117/260539

e-mail: dbow43@manx.net

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

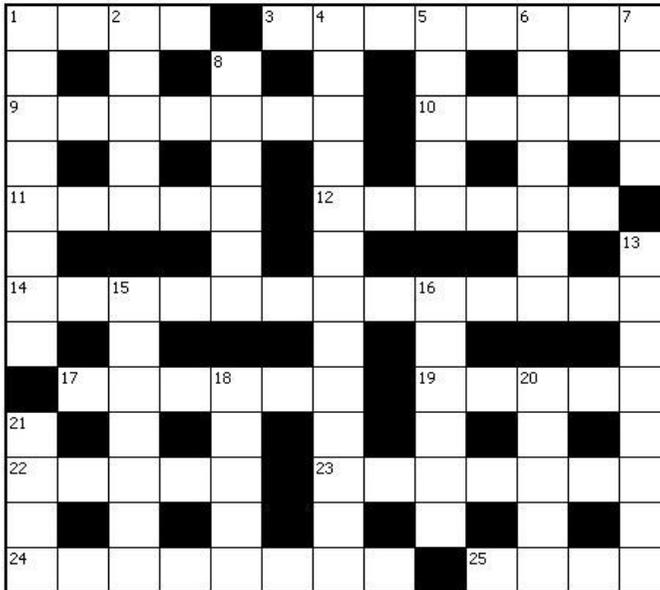
Parish Director of Music:

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 October 2021



Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of —, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)

- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)