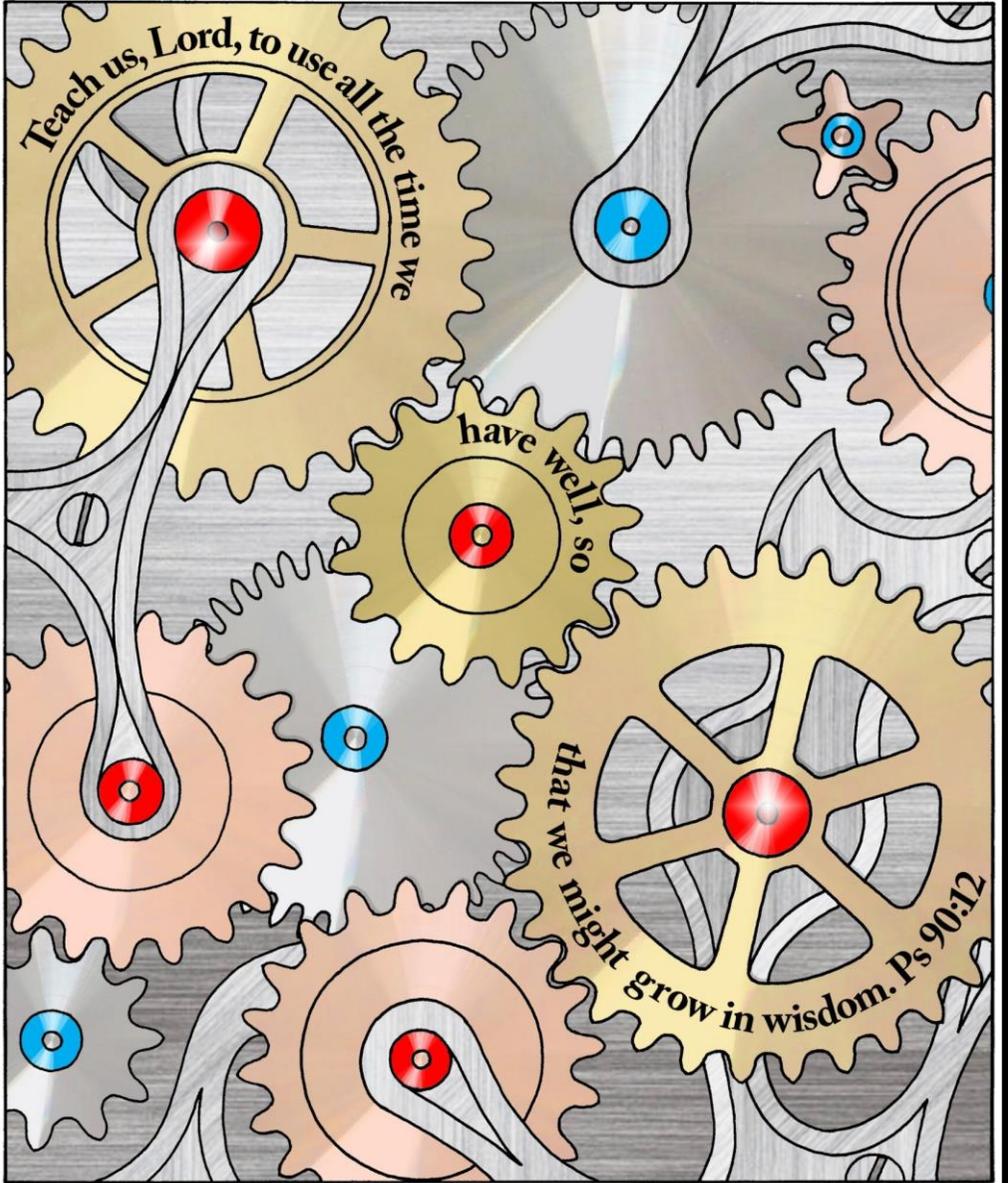
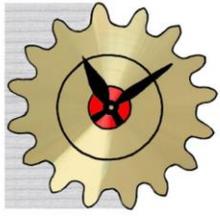


September
2021

Rushen Parish Magazine



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From the Editor

Nobody likes to face change, especially when the life you are leading is safe and secure. It is probably the one thing that we fear, especially when there is a sudden change in our lifestyle or circumstances. Nevertheless, we've all had to overcome it throughout our lives. We probably can't remember our first day at primary school, or many of the adventures we had as we grew older and transferred to secondary education, and if we can recall some of these events, they are unlikely to have had such an impact that they have changed our lives. Perhaps one of the first life-changing events that occurred during our school days was the receiving of examination results, and how these have had a bearing on our future. We've attended university, or had apprenticeships, or found employment in other walks of life, all of which have demanded a change in our outlook, and hopefully made us better people.

Those of us who decided to follow a profession or a vocation will probably have started at the bottom of a ladder, and had to gradually go through a number of stages to reach the pinnacle of success. Some will have preferred to stop at some point during the process. Whatever we decided, we will have gone through many changes some of which will have been stressful and perhaps made us uncomfortable. However, to reach the pinnacle of success we will have faced many obstacles each of which have demanded much thought and change.

During the past three years we, in the Parish of Rushen, have been blessed with someone who has gradually climbed the ladder of success. Our curate has served the parish in so many ways. Her caring and compassionate personality has guided us through her curacy and endeared her to everyone in the parish. She has had to face many hurdles, perhaps the biggest being the coronavirus pandemic, when she and Joe were tasked with looking after us from afar and not being able to contact us personally. I lost Pauline during the first of the lockdowns, and I know that others in the parish lost loved ones too. Liz was wonderful. She looked after us by contacting us and by guiding us through the most difficult phase of our lives. She has been involved with parish activities, and when not restricted, visited those who needed her fellowship. Her work through Joe's recent illness has been exemplary. I think I'm right in saying that she has been loved by all and will be missed when she leaves us at the beginning of October.

Mother Teresa once said, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

Liz will undoubtedly face change, but the parishioners at St Thomas', where she will become Priest-in-Charge, are going to meet someone who will begin to throw stones, slowly at first, but gradually faster as time goes by. Increasingly they will get to know their new leader and realise how very lucky they are to have her. I for one, am pretty sure that the ripples she creates will be for their benefit, especially as she seeks to grow the Kingdom of God in her new parish, and endears herself to those around her as she has done here.

David

The Parable of the Sower



Have you ever considered how various people respond to God? Perhaps a look at the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-20) will give us some answers. It's the story of a farmer who sowed his seed in different type of soils. These represent the different responses of the heart to God's Word (v15-20):

1) *The hard heart: 'like seed along the path...as soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.'* (15). Some people, when they hear the message, get distracted eg social media, work or relationships. Personal priorities prevent them from hearing God.

2) *The shallow heart: 'like seed sown on rocky places...since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.'* (16,17). These are the people whose heart isn't open to the message. When things become uncomfortable or discouraging, they are ready to quit.

3) *The crowded heart: 'like seed sown among thorns...but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.'* (18,19). This soil is most relevant for us today. People crave status, comfort, security and personal desires alongside the things of God. It's a heart that is worried about life getting out of control!

4) *The open heart: 'like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop – some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.'* (20). This represents the open heart that listens and accepts Jesus's word, and is ready to follow Him however difficult things become.

What kind of soil is our heart? Are we hard, shallow, crowded or open? Do we have a heart of faith to follow Jesus in every aspect of our lives?

Canon Paul Hardingham

Gym?

Before setting off on a business trip to Birmingham, I called the hotel where I'd be staying to see if they had a gym. The hotel receptionist's sigh had a tinge of exasperation in it when she answered. "We have over 100 guests at this facility," she said. "Does this 'Jim' have a last name?"

Thanking God for our blessings



*This article is taken from a blog by **Alistair Birkett**, director of Rural Ministries for Scotland and Northern England. Whilst it isn't specifically about the Isle of Man, similarities can be made.*

Our winter barley ripened quickly this year, and soon the combine harvesters were rolling here on the Northumberland/Scottish Border.

As the first trailer load of grain came into the shed, I ran my hands through the golden grains, offering a short prayer of thankfulness as I savoured the smell of fresh cut barley. It was a good harvest.

I've often reflected on the Old Testament festival of the Firstfruits, where the Israelites offered the very first sheaf of the spring harvest to God (Leviticus 23:9-14). I think this act required great faith, as they trusted God for a fruitful harvest to come, something that was far from certain, given their utter dependence on the weather.

I'm not sure about you, but I'm always up for giving thanks *after* the event. I'll sing 'Come ye thankful people come' and rejoice that "all is safely gathered in", but am I able to trust with anticipation for what is *yet to come*?

The festival of the Firstfruits reminded God's people that everything they had came from Him. I am reminded that I must learn (and relearn) to trust in God, who has proven His faithfulness to me, over and over again.

Perhaps right now as a church community or an individual you're waiting for a certain event, standing on the cusp of a new initiative, praying for a certain outcome or anticipating a long-held vision becoming reality. Let's all keep trusting that whatever the challenge, however things turn out, irrespective of what we anticipate, God is going before us and has secured the Firstfruits of an even greater harvest through Jesus, as He rose from the dead.

Just as the grain offering to God in the Old Testament anticipated a harvest to come, Paul reminds us that Jesus' victory anticipates an even greater bodily resurrection and eternal peace (1 Corinthians 15:20-22).

As we continue our journey with Jesus through the challenges of each day, let's do so with a deepening faith and trust. In the meantime, bring on the harvest - I'll see you on the other side!



Wilson Carlile

Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army

Wilson Carlile was born in Brixton in 1847, and did not set out to become an evangelist. Instead, he was brilliant at both languages and music, and excelled as a businessman. That is, until an economic recession and serious illness brought him crashing down and finished his career, aged only 31.

Not surprisingly, a serious breakdown followed, when Carlile questioned everything that he had been attempting in life. This search for a new meaning brought him to faith in Jesus Christ, and so turned his world upside down. He later wrote:

I have seen the crucified and risen Lord as truly as if He had made Himself visible to me bodily sight. That is for me the conclusive evidence of His existence. He touched my heart and old desires and hope left it. In their place came the new thought that I might serve Him and His poor and suffering brethren.

Wilson approached two Christians whose passion for ministry was already well known: the Americans evangelists Moody and Sanky, who were at that time in England. Wilson attended their meetings and supplied music via his harmonium. In return, he learned a lot about effective outdoors evangelism.

Carlile then prepared himself for a life of ministry. He was confirmed into the Church of England, studied at the London College of Divinity, ordained in 1880 and served his curacy at St Mary Abbots in Kensington. But Carlile wanted more than comfortable parish life, and soon began outdoor preaching again. He wanted to reach the poor, unchurched, of the community.

Carlile left Kensington to work in a slum mission, and by 1882 he was busy uniting the local Anglican parish missions into one organisation. Here his business skills in planning and organising proved invaluable, and soon he had founded the 'Church Army.' He then founded two training colleges, to train both men and women evangelists. After slight hesitation, the Church of England agreed to incorporate the Church Army into its structure, and even created the office of Evangelist for the Church Army captains and sisters.

In the years that followed, Church Army has done great work in evangelism, as well as in social and moral welfare. It helped support the troops during World War 1. Carlile remained honorary chief secretary until retirement in 1926. He is remembered on 26th September each year. He died in 1942.



Climate Sunday is this month

Canon Paul Hardingham considers an urgent problem:

Sunday 5th September is being designated Climate Sunday, ahead of the UN's climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow during November. How should we approach the challenge of climate change?

We have damaged God's creation: God delights in His creation: 'God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.' (Genesis 1:31). However, we have damaged this world and impacted people, created in His image. The burning of oil or gas and cutting down forests is increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The global average temperature could increase by 1.5°C in 2030, resulting in significant damage to our planet. Already, increasing temperatures are melting ice caps, raising sea-levels, changing rainfall patterns and creating extreme climate events. It's the 70% of the world's poorest population who are being impacted most!

Hope is found in Jesus: He has an intimate knowledge of the workings of creation. 'For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.' (Colossians 1:16,17). Our hope for the future lies in what Jesus has done and continues to do in the world. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion.

An invitation to respond: Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving and changes in our lifestyle and diet to help the planet. We can fix our eyes on Jesus, as we pray for our world for our world leaders, gathering in Glasgow, asking that they may reach a good agreement for the future of our world.

September Prayer

Dear Lord

September – the month of new beginnings for many, as summer fades and school and college terms start. After such a strange time of restrictions, hopes of freedom, with warnings to be cautious, it is hard to know what to expect this September. We can't know what lies ahead, Lord, but we can trust you to see us through whatever it turns out to be. Thank you for your promise, I will never leave you or forsake you... (Hebrews 13:5) Help us to hold fast to that promise, to keep trusting you - and to be thankful for each September day. In Jesus' name.

Amen



News from St Catherine's & Kirk Christ



The concert season at St Catherine's comes to an end on 23rd September when Rushen Silver Band will entertain us. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all the performers throughout the summer, all those of you who have come to the church to listen to the varied and wonderful music that has been performed, and to Michal Kewley who has arranged the time table and invited the groups that have given us so much to enjoy. Can I also thank those of you who have kindly given of your time to provide refreshments after each concert throughout the season. Your help is really appreciated.

On Thursday 5th August another successful 'Soup Inn' was held in St Catherine's Church Hall. The attendance was good with 34 people enjoying food and fellowship together.

At Kirk Christ there has been some very pretty weddings during August. We now look forward to the visit from Bishop Peter on 29th August as celebrant at the Joint Holy Communion service at 11am on that day

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Rev Liz Hull every happiness when she takes up her new appointment as Priest in Charge of the parish of St Thomas in Douglas on 10th October. She has been a great help to us all in the parish, especially during Joe's recent illness. She will be missed.

Gerry Callister

How different churches cope with adversity

*When a **Methodist minister** falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, "That was an experience, how do I learn from it?"*

*When a **Catholic priest** falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, "I must have done something really bad to deserve that."*

*When a **Presbyterian minister** falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, "That was inevitable, I'm glad it's over."*

*When a **Baptist minister** falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, "Which one of my deacons pushed me?"*

*When a **vicar** falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, "Will I need a faculty to get the staircase repaired?"*

Sudoku September 2021

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

Bifocals

A preacher went into the pulpit one Sunday morning wearing a pair of new bifocals. The reading portion of the glasses improved his vision considerably, but the top portion of the glasses didn't work so well. In fact, he was experiencing dizziness every time he looked through them. Finally, he apologised to the congregation. "I hope you will excuse my continually removing my glasses," he said. "You see, when I look down, I can see fine, but when I look at you, it makes me feel sick."

August Sudoku Solution

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

August Crossword Solution

M	O	S	A	I	C		S	C	A	L	E	S	
O		A			I		H		I		Q		
C	A	N	A		C	L	A	U	D	I	U	S	
K		D			C		R		E		A		
	S	A	D	D	U	C	E	E		S	L	M	
U		L			E		A		L		H	O	
S	E	L	F	C	O	N	F	I	D	E	N	T	
E		E			O		E		H		R	H	
S	A	D			R	A	D	I	U	S	E	S	
	S		A		S		N			B		E	
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D			B	I	N	D
	E		S		A		I			A		E	
A	S	T	E	R	N		A	R	T	H	U	R	

Becoming New



When a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, it's hard to believe it's the same creature. But at both stages of its life, it has a body that is perfectly suited to living in a particular environment.

This insect can help us understand the afterlife and the significance of the resurrected Jesus. Paul, on his journeys, discovered that some members of the church

In Corinth were confused about life after death. So, Paul, wrote a lengthy letter to them to explain the importance of the resurrection of Jesus, and how it affects our future existence.

Paul doesn't mention caterpillars and butterflies but describes a seed becoming a plant. By just looking at an individual seed there is no knowing what it is going to look like! But out of its death comes a beautiful new life form.

Paul points out that all living beings have a body that enables them to live in a particular environment. There are earthly bodies for living in a physical world and a spiritual body for living in the heavenly realms. And so God will give to us a new spiritual body to enable us to live with Him in heaven.

Of course, all butterflies eventually die, but in our resurrected body we will not be subject to decay or death. How do we know this? Jesus said: "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). Jesus pioneered the way for us. He died on the cross, arose from the grave, and so opened up the way for all believers in Him to go to Heaven. Thanks be to God!

Lester Amann

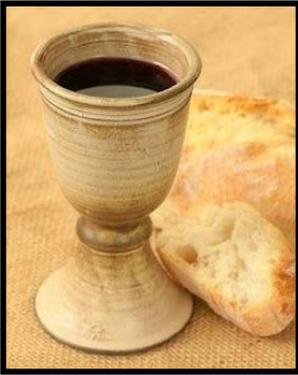
Daughter-in-law

A young man rang his mother to announce, with great excitement, that he'd at last fallen in love and was contemplating marriage. He went on: "Just for fun, I'm going to bring over my girlfriend and two of her friends. I would like you to try and guess which one I'm going to marry."

The mother agreed. So, the next day her son arrived at his mother's house with three beautiful young women. They sat on the sofa and chatted for a while with the family.

When his mother went out to the kitchen to put the kettle on for tea, her son followed her. "Okay, mum," he said. "Guess which one I would like to marry."

She replied at once: "The one in the green dress." Her son was astonished and asked how on earth she had guessed. The mother shrugged. "That's easy. I don't like her."



Reflected Faith: the Bread we eat

The majority of Sunday morning service in churches throughout the world are based on the Last Supper of Jesus.

At the Passover meal, on the night before His death, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, "*This is My body given for you;*" (Luke 22:19a). He also took wine and passed it to each of them and said, "*This is My blood, given for you.*"

These two elements, the bread, and the wine, continue to be the central focus for Christians: doing what Jesus asked us to do, '*Do this in remembrance of me*'. (Luke 22:19b)

What we call this service varies between denominations and even between churches within the same denomination.

It is a way of giving 'thanks' as Jesus did (the word '*Eucharist*' comes from the Greek by way of Latin, and it means 'thanksgiving'), reminding us not only of the tremendous sacrifice that Christ had made on our behalf, but also recalling the love and joy that Jesus brings to the community.

The word '*Communion*' comes from something done with others – the community. It's done with Christ. It's done with other worshippers. In sharing the meal, 'I' becomes 'us'.

The word '*Mass*' comes from the conclusion to the traditional service – which was in Latin: 'Ite, missa est.' 'Go. You are being sent.' Today we use similar words, 'Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.'

At the moment many churches, especially the Church of England, are only giving bread to the congregation with the priest alone consuming the wine. So the meaning underlying the taking / the giving of bread is more crucial than ever. In some denominations the bread is literally the 'daily bread', whilst in others it is a 'wafer' or yeast free bread – as was used at the original Passover.

This month: Have a look at the bread that is placed into your hands the next time you 'receive'. How does it reflect receiving Christ into your life?

Rev'd Dr Jo White

A little girl had been to Sunday School for the first time and was asked by her mother how it compared with her new primary school. "Oh, I like it much better," she said. "There are no exams there, you go only once a week for an hour, and at the end you go to heaven instead of high school."

Learning lessons from a Graveyard



If you're looking for a quiet oasis away from the bustle and busyness of everyday life, there's a place where nature, heritage and the life histories of hundreds of local people are on peaceful display.

Take a walk in your local cemetery.

The chances are it's a place where nature abounds, where socially-distant peace can be found, and you can meditate on the deeper issues of life.

It's true that graveyards seldom feature in most people's favourite places to visit. Many find them morbid, reminding them of their own mortality.

Or they can prompt memories of loved ones no longer with us, and the sadness overcomes the happy memories of the life shared together. Others simply rush past cemeteries or graveyards, without even noticing that they are there.

But walk among the gravestones, read the inscriptions and you find the stories of people's lives.

Samuel Ryder, the Hertfordshire seed merchant who devised the United States v Europe Ryder Cup golf tournament, is buried in the cemetery opposite the church where I was minister. When I visited recently, someone had left golf balls on his grave.

In the same cemetery, there are more than 200 plain white graves of local and Commonwealth service people who died during the two world wars, and a memorial to the many local soldiers who died in the First World War.

To wander around any cemetery or graveyard is to enter into the lives of generations of families. To see the grave of the still-born baby close to the child who died in infancy, both near to the grandmother who died in her nineties. The husband and wife who died within months of each other, are alongside the wife who outlived her spouse by decades.

I'm always struck by how people are described. Most are defined by their family relationships – beloved grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, wife, husband, son or daughter.

Others are described by their roles in life – actress, golf professional or for the war graves,

by their ranks. How long, I wonder, had the young men and women been in uniform before meeting their deaths – and being remembered ever after as soldiers? In some cases, it may have been just a few months.

What, I find myself asking, would I like to have written on my gravestone? How would each of us like to be remembered? How can long lives be summed up in the few words you can fit on a gravestone?

And what is it that we are doing in life that will be of lasting value? Cemeteries are places that can make you consider your own life and think about what is important in it.

Many Christian funerals begin with the words of Jesus Christ, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

It is a promise I hold to as I walk the paths around the graves.

Rev'd Peter Crumpler

*(Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts,
and a former communications director for the C of E).*

Flying bishop

The new Bishop wanted a bird's eye view of his new diocese, so he had an idea. He rang his local airfield to charter a flight, and was told that a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him. Arriving at the airfield, the bishop spotted a plane warming up outside a hangar. He jumped in, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!"

At once the pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the bishop spent several minutes enjoying the views, and looking for local landmarks. Finally, he instructed the pilot, "Fly down the valley now and make low passes so I can take pictures of some of the best of the old parish churches."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm the new bishop," he replied happily, adjusting his camera, "and I want some good aerial views of my diocese."

*The pilot was silent for a moment. Finally he stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is, you're **NOT** my flight instructor?"*

All in the month of September



700 years ago, on 13th Sept 1321, Dante Alighieri, Italian poet, died. Regarded as the most important poet of the Middle Ages. Best known for his *Divine Comedy*.

125 years ago, on 24th Sept 1896, F Scott Fitzgerald, American novelist and short story writer, was born. Regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century. Best known for his novel *The Great Gatsby*.

100 years ago, on 8th Sept 1921, Sir Harry Secombe was born. This Welsh comedian, actor, writer, singer and TV presenter was one of the stars of the 1950s radio series *The Goon Show*.

80 years ago, on 1st Sept 1941, Nazi Germany ordered all Jews in Germany and its occupied territories to wear a yellow Star of David badge.

75 years ago, from 20th Sept – 5th Oct 1946, the first Cannes Film Festival was held.

65 years ago, on 16th Sept 1956, Play-Doh went on sale in the USA. It was originally sold as a wallpaper cleaning compound, but was then relaunched as a modelling compound when the inventor's nephew discovered that nursery school children were using it to make Christmas ornaments.

60 years ago, on 11th Sept 1961, the World Wildlife Fund (now the World Wide Fund for Nature) was founded in Switzerland.

50 years ago, on 15th Sept 1971, Greenpeace, the international environmental group, was founded in Vancouver.

30 years ago, on 6th Sept 1991, the Russian city of Leningrad was renamed St Petersburg, restoring its original name.

25 years ago, on 27th Sept 1996, the Taliban seized control of Kabul, Afghanistan, ousting President Burhanuddin Rabbani, and executing former President Mohammad Najibullah.

20 years ago, on 11th Sept 2001, the 9/11 terrorist attack on the USA took place. 2,973 people were killed.

A look back at the
Sept. 11, 2001,
attacks on the
United States.

**20th anniversary of 9/11
looking back on the horror**

*Editor: **The Ven. John Barton** looks back on a day which changed US history.*

The TV pictures looked like some macabre video game, with toy aircraft crashing into matchbox towers. Then incredulity turned into utter dismay. This was real: the most powerful nation in the world had been invaded by 19 airborne Islamic terrorists, with devastating effect. Nearly 3,000 people died.

The US government announced a war on terror. Futile invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan followed, with more loss of life.

9/11 was 20 years ago this month. Five years later, coordinated suicide attacks on London's transport system were carried out, also by Islamists. 52 people of 18 different nationalities were killed and more than 700 were injured. In 2017, 23 people died and 1,017 were injured in the Manchester Arena bombing. There have been other terrorist murders; at least three plots have been foiled during the coronavirus pandemic.

Today, the MI5 estimate of the threat of a terrorist attack in the UK hovers between substantial and severe.

The world isn't as secure as we had once hoped. In addition to the menace of unconstrained violence, our planet is silently protesting against centuries of abuse, and we're only just waking up to our accountability as stewards. At the same time, we must come to terms with the knowledge that Covid-19 and its variations are permanent additions to the list of deadly diseases to be held at bay by immunisation. There will be more to come.

Our forebears, who lived in even riskier times, drew strength from Psalm 91:

*You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."
For He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence ...*

The Psalm is no panacea, or divine guarantee of earthly immunity, but the assurance that God holds the whole world in His hands and His ultimate purposes will not be thwarted.

From the Registers

Funerals July 2021:

1 st July	Clifford S Gale	Kirk Christ/RBG	Service & Burial
2 nd July	Joan Kelly	RBG	Ashes
7 th July	Arthur S Cregeen	Kirk Christ/RBG	Service & Ashes
9 th July	David Gawne	Kirk Christ/RBG	Memorial & Ashes
12 th July	Joseph H Jones	Kirk Christ/RBG	Service & Burial
16 th July	Clarence J Reubens	Kirk Christ/RBG	Service & Burial
30 th July	Ian Lumsten	Kirk Christ/RBG	Service & Burial

Weddings July 2021:

3 rd July	Perry J Knipe & Georgina Z Cronan-Lewthwaite	Kirk Christ	2pm
17 th July	Scott J Glover & Chloe A Teare	Kirk Christ	1pm
24 th July	Stephen F Quinn & Courtney L Russell	St Mary's	1pm

(RBG Rushen Burial Ground)

Safeguarding

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

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

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

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



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

Mothers' Union – Rushen Branch



A well-attended Mothers' Union Founder's Day Service was held on August 9th, in Michael Parish Church, when we celebrated Mary Sumner, the founder of Mothers' Union. A mother of three children, and wife of a young curate, Mary had called a meeting in 1876 in her front room at which Mothers' Union was founded, baptism and parental example being its two basic principles. At first a Parochial organisation, it grew steadily into an international concern, encouraging the ideal of a Christian home. On 9th August, it was 100 years since her death.

During a lovely and very meaningful service, we heard from Rev Jeanette Hamer (who will be our new MU Diocesan President in January 2022) and Rev Ruth Walker (our MU Chaplain) about her insight and perceptiveness in seeing what was needed and recognising the means by which these needs could be met. Across the world, over 4 million members of Mothers' Union celebrate the life and faith of our founder whose belief was shown so clearly in her vocation to prayer and the call to social action that flowed from it. This is the basis on which Mothers' Union was founded.

The service was followed by a delicious supper provided by members of the Kirk Michael branch and we all enjoyed friendly fellowship among members from across the island.

On Monday 13th September, we shall be hosting the South & West JMP Corporate Communion at 2pm in Kirk Christ, a service which will be led by Rev Liz Hull, and which will also be our opening service for session, 2021 – 2022. Our new branch members will be admitted at this service, and there will be refreshments afterwards. As always, guests are very welcome to attend.

Forthcoming MU events include the Autumn Council Meeting on Monday 20th September at 7pm in St George's Church, Douglas, and the Advent Service on Tuesday 7th December at 7pm in St Thomas's Church, Douglas.

Having been here in Rushen for her three years of Curacy, Rev Liz Hull will be leaving us and taking up the position of Priest- in- Charge of St Thomas's, Douglas with effect from 5th October. We have benefitted from and thoroughly enjoyed her time here and although we shall miss her greatly, we wish her and her family every blessing for the future, and in particular, for her new ministry.

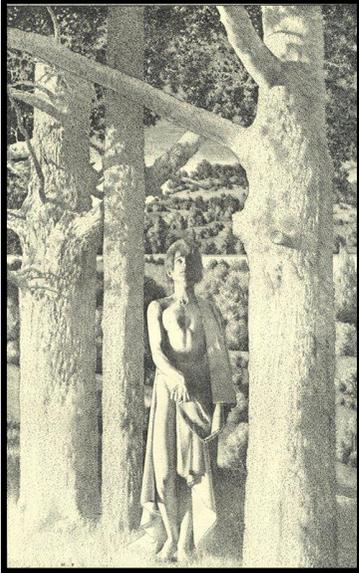
With love and very best wishes to all

Pat Thomson

God in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'with 'A Hill Prayer' by Maxfield Parrish.

'How Wonderful Creation Is'



There is a story that someone asked a Father of the early church, Tertullian, to prove the existence of God.

He replied by showing the person a rose. But Tertullian took a risk, for while many appreciate the beauty and wonder of a rose, it is not everyone who sees that beauty pointing to God as its creator.

In one of his hymns, Fr Faber wrote: 'How wonderful creation is, The work which thou didst bless, And O! what then must Thou be like – Eternal loveliness.' A rose can speak of beauty and speak of God to some; to others a rose is just another flower in the garden. William Blake wrote, 'The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing which stands in the way.' We know that only too well when forests are cut down in the name of progress, and trees that have stood for centuries are hewn down in a moment.

This month's work of art is 'A Hill Prayer' by Maxfield Parrish: it shows a man standing in a forest of venerable and imposing trees, and the hills stretching out behind him. Maxfield Parrish was an American artist, who created paintings of brilliant colour and luminosity. The particular

cobalt he used was known as 'Parrish blue.' Much of his work was for illustrations in books and magazines and in advertising. But here is an early drawing of 1897, based in a New England forest, that has a haunting quality about it. He drew it to accompany a poem of Marian Warner Wildman where the writer goes into the forest to escape the doubts and worries of the world and to find release and peace. It ends with the lines:

'I love thee with a beauty-broken heart
And worship thee, be whatever thou art.'

The drawing may evoke for us memories of forests and countryside we have explored, with trees towering above us, reaching to the sky, their leaves rustling in the wind and letting shafts of sunlight through. Like the artist, we may have wondered at their age and beauty and pondered the mystery of creation around us. In their beauty we can glimpse their Creator; in the miracle of their life, we can see the bringer of life and eternal life. For scripture begins with trees: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil with the story of how human pride exchanges paradise for hard work and toil.

But the final pages of the Bible describe that tree of life once again: this time arching over the river that runs through the heavenly city with leaves that bring healing and restoration. And bridging that tree of Genesis and the tree of Revelation is the wood of the cross: 'None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peer may be.' In that tree we can truly glory.

Autumn will soon be with us, and the magnificence of the trees around will fade as their leaves fall and are swept away. After the death of winter, spring will come and bring the miracle of new life to their roots and branches, and once again we can behold their glory, like the traveller in the forest of Maxfield Parrish's drawing – trees that remind us of 'the one and only noble tree': the Cross that is the sign of salvation for all seasons and all lives.

Children's Page

The tale of the Two Sons

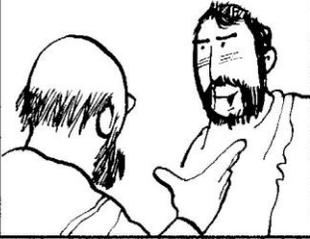


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

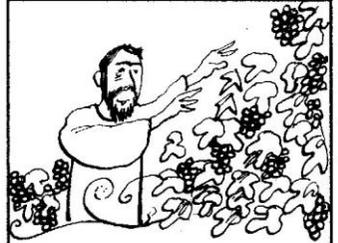


HE ONCE TOLD A STORY ABOUT A
FATHER WHO HAD TWO SONS.

THE FATHER WENT TO HIS
OLDER SON AND ASKED HIM
TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD

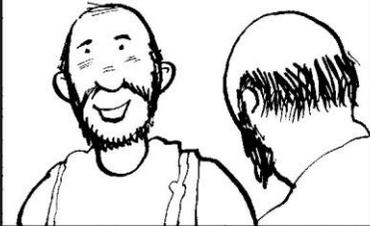


'NO I WON'T!' SAID THE
OLDER SON...



...BUT THEN HE CHANGED HIS
MIND AND WENT AND HELPED.

THE FATHER THEN WENT TO HIS
YOUNGER SON AND ASKED HIM TO
HELP IN THE VINEYARD TOO.



'OF COURSE I WILL!' SAID THE YOUNGER SON. BUT
HE PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT....

...AND DIDN'T DO A STROKE OF WORK!

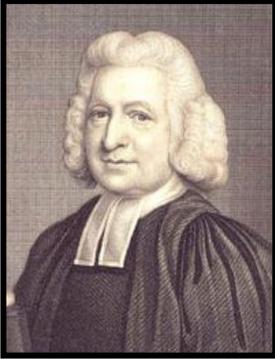


'WHICH ONE DID WHAT HIS FATHER
WANTED?' ASKED JESUS...



'WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?'

The Story Behind the Hymn



O Thou Who Camest from Above

O Thou who camest from above,
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for Thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return,
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work and speak and think for Thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up Thy gift in me.

Ready for all Thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
'Till death Thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, the great hymn writer of the Wesley family, is said to have written over 8900 hymns or poems. He was the youngest son and the eighteenth child of Samuel and Susanna Wesley, born at Epworth Rectory on December 18, 1707

"O Thou Who Camest from Above" was published by Charles in *'Short Hymns on Select Passages of the Holy Scriptures'* in 1762. This hymn uses the passage from Leviticus 6:13, "The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar, it shall never go out". This passage is the Lord speaking to Moses to command Aaron and his sons about the ritual of the burnt offering. "A perpetual fire shall be kept burning on the altar; it shall not go out".

Charles's words "inextinguishable blaze" might not be easy to sing; but in fact, the flame he was speaking of in the heart never goes out when it keeps returning to its source in "humble prayer and fervent praise." As Jesus is named in the third verse we realise these words are about the Christ who gave himself for us. The words ask Jesus to "confirm my heart's desire to work, and speak, and think for thee." Let us keep this fire within and let it ignite the gifts within us to serve.

The text in the fourth verse includes, "my acts of faith and love" repeated until my dying day will "make the sacrifice complete"; that is, the sacrifice of Jesus and our sacrifices of service or our "living sacrifice" on behalf of Christ are our responses to Jesus and a testimony to our faith.

The composer of the tune 'Hereford', Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876), was the son of Samuel, Charles's son. He was a famous performer and composer of hymn tunes, church services, works for organ, anthems, and two psalm settings. The tune was first included in Samuel Wesley's *European Psalmist*, 1872, a collection of hymn tunes, anthems, and service music. This tune is named for Hereford Cathedral where Samuel Wesley served as organist up to his death.

Rushen Parish Prayer Diary

Heavenly Father look in love on our friends and neighbours. Keep them from harm; bless them in all good things; give them your gifts of kindness and gentleness. Enfold our whole community, friends and strangers, in the peace that only you can give. And give us the wisdom to see your image in the eyes of everyone we meet, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

September 2021

This is your invitation to pray day by day for:

- 1st Children preparing for the new term at school
- 2nd All who work with children during court proceedings
- 3rd Children in third world countries who need medical help in order to survive
- 4th The United Nations and peace-keeping forces
- 5th All who are confused in a world of multi-choice
- 6th That world leaders may set good examples
- 7th All who work in dangerous or hostile environments
- 8th Children taken into care and those left at risk
- 9th All whose sight and hearing are failing
- 10th God's presence in our homes
- 11th All missionaries both at home and abroad
- 12th The Pope and fellow Christians in the Roman Catholic Church
- 13th The fellowship experienced in our four churches
- 14th Integrity and fair dealing in world trade
- 15th The PCC Meeting being held in St Catherine's Church Hall this evening at 7pm
- 16th Local singers and musicians
- 17th Our churchwardens and members of the PCC
- 18th The work of the Children's Society
- 19th People we know who are ill, or in pain, and are awaiting treatment
- 20th Funeral directors and the work they do in helping the bereaved
- 21st Members of St Mary's Church Choir and Michael Porter, their choirmaster
- 22nd Those still suffering from the effects of coronavirus
- 23rd People who receive Holy Communion at home because they are housebound
- 24th Those responsible for opening and closing our four churches each day.
- 25th For the selfless adults and children who have raised funds for the NHS this year
- 26th The work of charitable organisations in helping those in need
- 27th Peace throughout the world, especially in Afghanistan
- 28th Those who go hungry because of failed harvests
- 29th Children of the parish who want to know more about Jesus and His work
- 30th Good harvests so that those who have been hungry because of famine can be fed

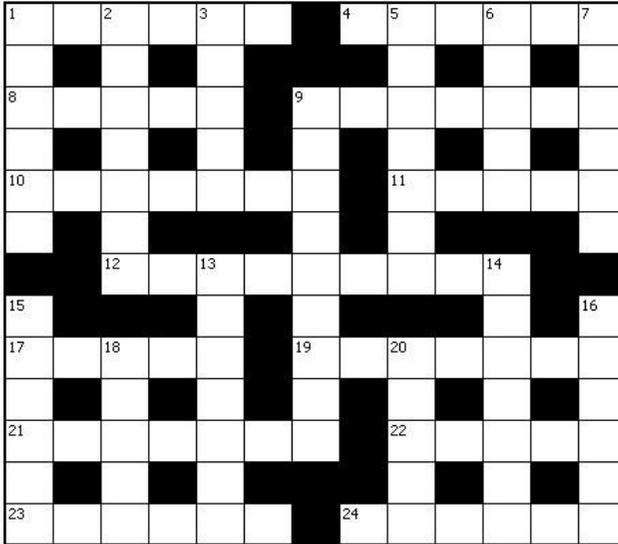
Services September 2021

1 st September	11.15am	Southlands Holy Communion (CW)
5 th September <i>(Trinity 14)</i>	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)
12 th September <i>(Trinity 15)</i>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
19 th September <i>(Trinity 16)</i>	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 Holy Communion (BCP)
26 th September <i>(Trinity 17)</i>	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)
3 rd October <i>(Trinity 18)</i>	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 <i>(Trinity 19)</i>	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's All-Age Service (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)

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

Crossword September 2021



Across

- 1** 'Through [Christ] we have gained by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
- 4** Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
- 8** The words of a hymn do this (mostlly) (5)
- 9** Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
- 10** Belgium's chief port (7)
- 11** Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)
- 12** Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
- 17** Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
- 19** Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)
- 21** 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
- 22** Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
- 23** Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
- 24** 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

Down

- 1** Popular Christian author and humourist, Plass (6)
- 2** Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
- 3** Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
- 5** Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
- 6** Lonny (anag.) (5)
- 7** Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
- 9** Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
- 13** Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
- 14** What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
- 15** Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)
- 16** His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)
- 18** There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)
- 20** Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)