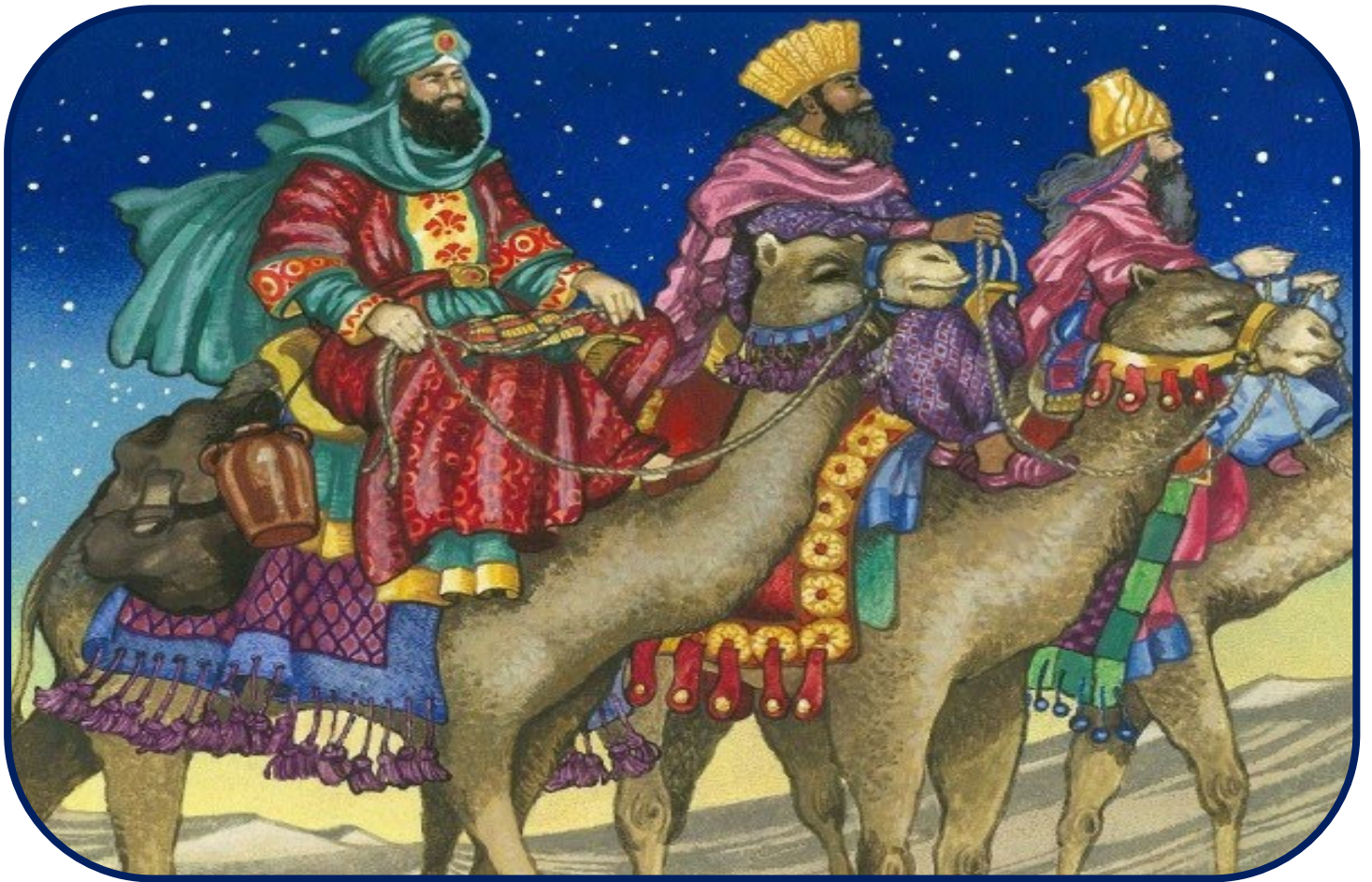


Rushen Parish Magazine December 2011



St Catherine's



St Peter's



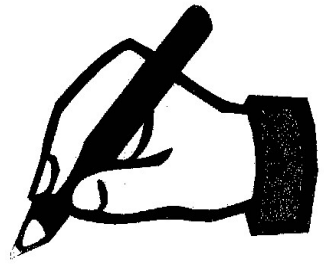
Kirk Christ



St Mary's



Vicar's Letter



Dear Friends,

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year!

During January we enter the season of Epiphany. It is one of the most overlooked seasons of the Church's Year. The excitements of Christmas are over, the decorations are taken down, turkeys can sleep peacefully and the return to everyday life and work in cold weather can seem austere. Yet the messages of Epiphany, if we will receive them, are rich in meaning and symbolism.

One of the key themes of Epiphany is the account of the wise men travelling from the East in search of the 'child born king of the Jews'. They were led by a star and their perseverance was rewarded by finding the Christ-child, not in a palace, but in a humble home in Bethlehem.

I have often wondered why these men were called wise. Was it because they studied the stars in great depth? Or was it because they were willing to leave behind all that they knew and embark upon a journey in search of a new-born king? Or was it because they were willing for their deep-seated assumptions about kingship (and where a king should be born) to be challenged and allow themselves to be formed by the events they experienced on their journey?

During Epiphany we are invited to partake in our own journey where we, individually and collectively, seek out Christ in our own lives. And maybe, like the wise men, we may have to lay aside where we think Christ should be and search for him in unexpected and often overlooked places.

The Peace of the Christ-child be with you

Rev. Joe Heaton



Letter from the Editor

As you read this you will probably be relaxing after a very busy Christmas period. Whilst it is such a lovely time of the year, especially for children, it always seems to make us deflated when it is all over, and when we eventually count the cost! Of course Christmas isn't that exciting for those who are lonely, ill, homeless or housebound. For such people it is just another time of the year when others, perhaps more fortunate than them, are able to let their hair down and have lots of fun and laughter. How wonderful it is that there are charitable organisations willing to work, without reward, in order to give the less fortunate a better time at this festive time of year.

For Pauline and I Christmas will always be a time of happiness and reflection, because it was on Christmas Eve in 2001 that we attended the funeral of our third son, after his death on 16th December. Despite all the hustle and bustle of the run up to Christmas we both spend time reflecting on what it would be like had he been with us now. There are so many other families, like us, who have to face up to the loss of loved ones at this time of year. How thankful we are that we have someone watching over us to whom we can rely on to sustain us through our darkest moments.

Perhaps the most difficult part of Christmas this year has been my incapacity to be up on my feet and dashing around to buy last minute items of food, and helping to make our house look festive with decorations, Christmas lights and cards. It has been a real wakeup call, and one which has not pleased me at all. When I heard that the operation I had been waiting for was to be performed on 2nd December I had no idea of the consequences that it would bring. Being a very active person, and never off my feet, seems of little concern until you are told that you cannot bear any weight on the operated foot for up to three months. Oh how I wish I had declined the operation! At least that is what I am saying now. Perhaps in three month's time it will have been the best thing I have ever done!

What it has done is brought me down to earth and made me realise how difficult it is for those with disability to manage a day to day existence, and still find time to smile. My son spent nearly fifteen years in a wheelchair before he died and had to have 24 hour care for most of that time, and throughout it he never moaned or

gave any hint of being fed up, or bored. In fact much of it was spent telling jokes and laughing at his dad whenever he made mistakes, and there were plenty of those! There are times now, when I have done something silly, or said something that I shouldn't, that we can hear him laughing, and it is such a comfort to us. He was an example to us all, and has made me realise how lucky I am that I will one day be able to get up and walk again, a possibility he never had.

Disability, in its many forms, must be very hard to bear and I often marvel at the way that those affected by it adapt to any situation they meet, and cope with it admirably. We were once told that people with disability are God's chosen people, as are those who have to look after them. Perhaps this poem sums up how special those who are disabled are:

*A meeting was held quite far from Earth,
"It's time again for another birth,"
Said the angels to the Lord above,
"This child will need much love."*

*So let's be careful where she's sent,
We want her life to be content.
Please, Lord, find the parents who
will do a special job for you.*

*"Her progress may seem very slow,
Accomplishments she may not show.
And she'll require extra care,
From folks she meets way down there.*

*They will not realise right away,
The leading role they're asked to play.
But with this child sent from above,
Come stronger faith and richer love.*

*She may not run or laugh or play,
Her thoughts may seem quite far away.
In many ways she won't adapt,
And she'll be known as handicapped.*

*And soon they'll know the privilege given
In caring for this gift from Heaven.
Their precious charge, so meek and mild,
Is Heaven's very special child."*

How lucky we are to have a Father in heaven who is watching over us all and ensuring that whatever our needs they are catered for. As for me I feel quite ashamed that an operation has made me concerned over a few hindrances during this Christmas period. It has certainly made me realise that there are many others far less fortunate than me and that it is to them that I should be channelling my thoughts and prayers.

I would like to take this opportunity in wishing you all a very Happy New Year. I sincerely hope that you and your loved ones look forward to new beginnings, prosperity and an even deeper relationship with God. Someone who is guiding me through this rather awkward time and ensuring that I will be up and about as soon as possible to spread His love to those who still have not found it. Amen

David

Christmas starts with Christ



I thought that you might like to read the Christmas Message written by Archbishop Sentamu. I found it in another church magazine and I think it epitomises the need for everyone to remember that Christmas does start with Christ.

Editor

As millions of people rush to the shops to do their Christmas shopping, it is important to slow down and remember what Christmas is all about. Maybe you have seen this year's Church Ads posters, which have been displayed at bus stops across the region? The image on the poster is a modern take on the well known nativity scene. The shepherds are represented by a cycle courier and a plasterer. The Wise men are shown as three successful entrepreneurs and their gifts are iconic 'treasures' of modern culture: a Swarovski crystal perfume bottle, a Faberge egg and a replica Damian Hirst diamond skull. Whilst much of the scene is unfamiliar, one thing is unchanged. Jesus is the clear focus. We should not forget that, behind all the trappings and traditions, Christmas starts with Christ.

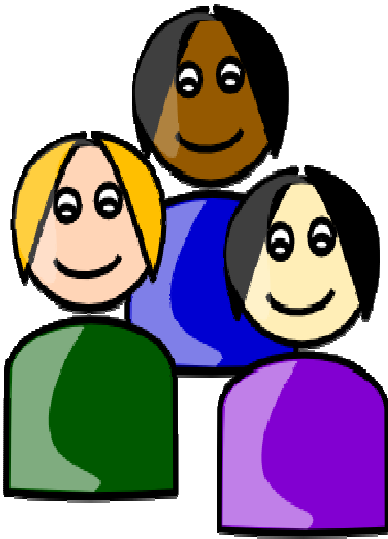
Society's increasing obsession with consumerism has a harmful affect on many, but arguably none more than our young people. When I was growing up we didn't have much money but we knew that we were loved. Our parents spent time with us reading stories rather than buying expensive gifts. For my brothers and sisters, and myself, it was sheer bliss.

We all need to value the importance of relationships - to enjoy listening and spending time with our loved ones. Recently, I was privileged to attend the National Christian Youth Work Awards which my Youth Trust sponsored. One of the winners, Rebecca Hamer, the Youth Worker of the Year, explained the project where she works is a 'listening and signposting' service for vulnerable young girls. The project receives referrals from schools, GP Practices, Sexual Health Nurses and girls also come to the project themselves as they feel they have nowhere else to go.

The teenagers coming to the project aren't given advice, they are not told what to do. Rebecca is simply trained to listen. Rebecca said: "Listening is about believing that young people have the ability and resources within themselves to resolve their situations. It isn't always enough, but there is a realisation that God loves them just as they are and more importantly that they have a choice". Amen!

As a society, we put too much emphasis on material worth. All this does is create a feeling of disaffection deep within us as we look at all the things we cannot afford. Rather than looking at how things seem on the surface we need to look deep underneath. We need to listen to each other and show love and compassion. The most precious thing that we have is ourselves and each other. Let me challenge you to see yourselves as God sees you - a wonderfully and fearfully created person, made in the image and likeness of God, and redeemed in Christ. Let us be good news and a joy to the world!

Christmas starts with Christ. Hallelujah!



Ladies Working Party – St Mary's

After a very busy November, we were much more relaxed at the beginning of December and looking forward to going out to our Christmas Lunch at the Cherry Orchard in Port Erin on the 6th December. Our last meeting of the year was on 13th December so that we could enjoy a well deserved rest and prepare for Christmas. What a terrible shock it was at the beginning of this week to hear of the passing of our dear and

faithful friend Mary Horbury, who had been with us on the 6th and the 13th, and looking forward to being with us for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve in St Mary's Church. She was so full of joy at the safe arrival of her beautiful new great grandchildren, three in all, twins to one granddaughter and one to the other granddaughter. We send our love and prayers to all her children and grand children, who will miss her so very much. Her funeral is to be held this Friday at noon in St.Mary's church.

We will be restarting our meetings on the 10th January at 2.15pm and look forward to seeing you all again on that day. Straight away we will be making plans for our Friendly Lunch at the end of January. Until then have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year. With Love and Best Wishes,

Brenda

A Waits' Carol

The old year now away is fled,
The new year it is entered;
Then let us now our sins down-tread,
And joyfully all appear:
Let's merry be this day,
And let us know both sport and play:
Hang grief, cast care away!
God send you a happy New Year!

And now with New Year's gifts each friend
Unto each other they do send:
God grant we may all our lives amend,
And that the truth may appear.
Now, like the snake, your skin
Cast off, of evil thoughts and sin,
And so the year begin:
God send us a happy New Year!

The name-day now of Christ we keep,
Who for our sins did often weep;
His hands and feet were wounded deep,
And His blessed side with a spear;
His Head they crowned with thorn,
And at Him they did laugh and scorn,
Who for our good was born:
God send us a happy New Year!

Waits' were town
musicians. This carol can
be sung to the tune
'Greensleeves'

Annual Christingle Service



All at St. Mary's would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way in making our Christingle service so enjoyable.

The weekend began on Saturday morning with a small band of helpers setting up a production line to make the Christingles. Each person had a job to do and everything went like clockwork until 100 Christingles had been made! Thanks must also go to Sally and Judith who decorated the church for the service.

Sunday afternoon came, and so did the rain! However, undeterred by the inclement weather the congregation began to arrive, and by 4 o'clock the church was almost full. Joe had prepared the service sheet and the Heaton family had created a giant Christingle which took centre stage!! Thanks to Adam and Eden for leading us in prayer.

The magical part of the service came when we lit the Christingles from the giant centrepiece. The lights were switched off and the whole church was filled with candlelight. Adam's beautiful solo voice then led us in the singing of "Hope of Heaven". Before we blew out the candles the choir sang Graham Kendrick's "Candle Song" - thank you to Mike and the choir for the music.

Finally thank you to the congregation who gave so generously to the work of the Children's Society, Through this service we will all have helped improve the lives of vulnerable children in our society. £400 has so far been banked, with a little more still to come.

Everyone who attended all agreed that the service provided a perfect start to our Christmas services.

Blein Vie Noa.

Carole, St. Mary's Sunday School





Christ the King November's Family Service at St Mary's

Peter Shimmin is a great story-teller and he used his skill to illustrate the fact that we must be prepared for the coming of Jesus. We heard the story of Jacko, Peter's dog, and admired his picture, which caused chaos as Peter had not prepared for his coming. After a break with a new owner, Jacko returned to Peter who had learnt all about the nature of lurchers. Dog obedience classes followed and now, dog and man live in harmony. The story of the shoemaker was very moving and told of the craftsman who had helped several needy people as they called at his home. When he apologised to the Lord for not having prepared a welcome for Him, he was told that, each time he had shown compassion to a stranger, the shoemaker had done it for Christ the King. He had given them a right royal welcome. We did just that in our service. The children had made crowns which they wore in a royal procession during our opening hymn, 'At the name of Jesus'. Their song was 'Come and praise the Lord our King', with percussion in the chorus. Sally had made sheep and goat masks for our dramatised reading from Matthew's Gospel. Jonathan and Peter took the parts of Jesus and King and the children divided themselves up. Each group read out the dialogue for their chosen side. Interestingly, when it came to the final judgement, one goat thought about what he was doing, left his friends and went with the righteous into the pulpit!

Sue Maddrell

Ministerial Problems with Dentures

It seems there was this minister who just had all of his remaining teeth extracted and as a consequence he was having new dentures made. The first Sunday, he only preached 10 minutes. The second Sunday, he preached only 20 minutes. But, on the third Sunday, he preached 1 hour 25 minutes. When asked about this by some of the congregation, he responded this way: The first Sunday, my gums were so sore it hurt to talk. The second Sunday, my dentures were hurting a lot, and on the third Sunday, I accidentally grabbed my wife's dentures... and I couldn't stop talking!



News from St Catherine's

A Happy New Year to Everyone

We held our All-Age Service on Sunday 11th December. The children and Sunday School teachers put in a lot of hard work to perform a seasonal play which was organised with the hard work of David and Pauline Bowman. This was enjoyed by the entire congregation. Our worship was led by the vicar and was complemented by our new music group which played a communion hymn during the receiving of the sacrament.

Work on the repairs to the church is almost complete, and should be finished by the time you read this article. It has been a major task over the past six months. Our thanks go to Michael Keggen and his team for making our church watertight from the elements of the weather. We now have to wait for approximately six months and can then consider the interior redecoration of the church.

Please note: The date for our Local Church Council meeting has been changed to Wednesday 29th February 2012, to be held in St Catherine's Church Hall at 7.45pm. 'Till next time.

Gerry

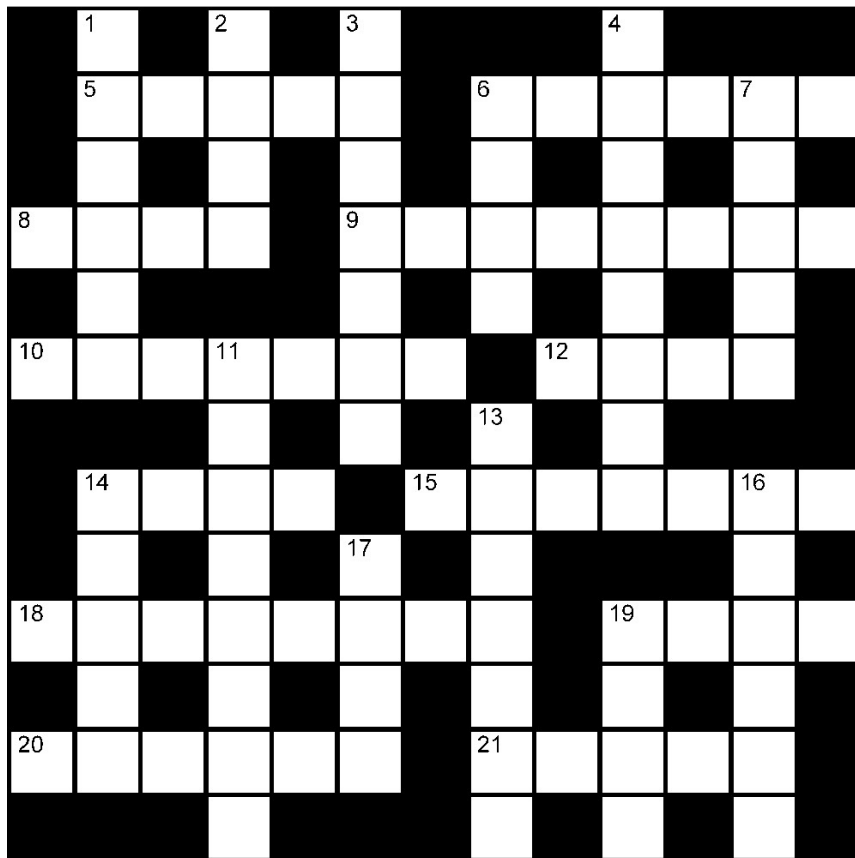
News from CMS

Canon Tim Dakin, CMS Community Leader, has been appointed Bishop of Winchester, so is leaving CMS in early 2012 after 12 years with CMS. During his time Partnership House in London has been sold and a new mission house has been built in Watlington Road, Oxford. The Sodor and Man Association of CMS support Cyprian & Jayne Yobera from Kenya who are serving with the Anglican church of St James Hope, Salford, and Marjorie Gourlay from Scotland who is teaching English to Muslim women and studying Arabic in Beirut, Lebanon.

A collection for CMS was taken at St Catherine's Christmas tea and raised £27.50.

Kathleen Trustrum

January Crossword



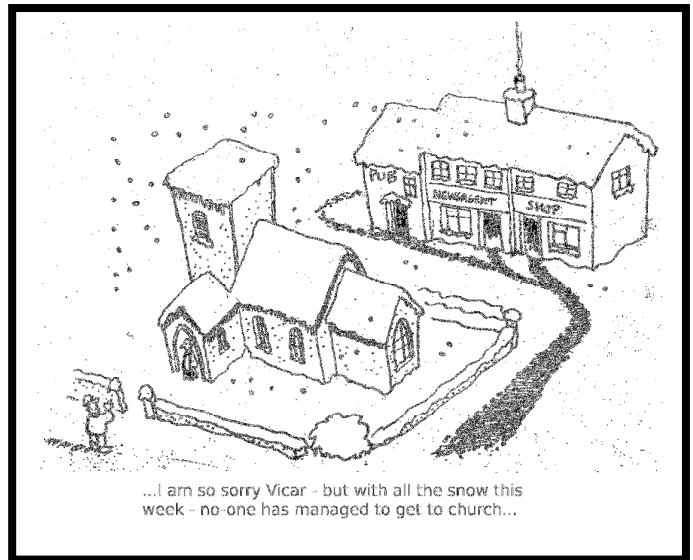
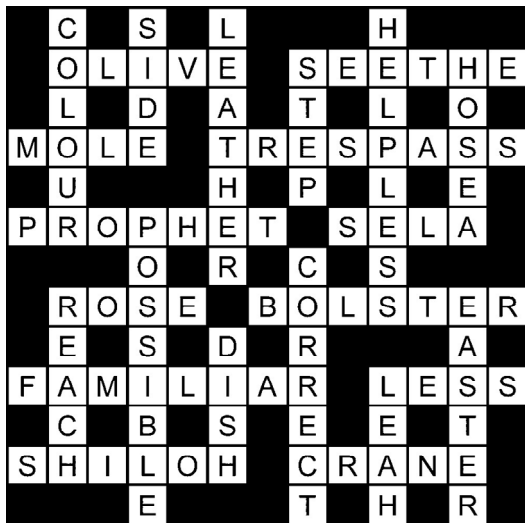
Across

- 5 Love intensely (5)
 6 Men's hairdresser (6)
 8 Afforded (4)
 9 Chief city of Mysia, in Asia Minor.
 One of the seven churches in
 Revelation (8)
 10 Fall (7)
 12 Metropolis (4)
 14 Flank (4)
 15 Trim (7)
 18 Belief system (8)
 19 Experienced (4)
 20 Begrudge (6)
 21 An empty area (5)

Down

- 1 Official residence of an exalted person
 (6)
 2 Where you live (4)
 3 Snake (7)
 4 Bringing into existence (8)
 6 Birthplace of Jesus (4)
 7 A very dark black (5)
 11 Think about carefully (8)
 13 Rein (7)
 14 What place (5)
 16 Soft white precious metal (6)
 17 Lean (4)
 19 Plant fibre that is made into thread
 (4)

Answers to December's Crossword can be found on Page 10



Thought for the Month

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the wages, but he needed to retire. They could get by. The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "my gift to you." What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too well.

So it is with us. We build our lives in a distracted way, reacting rather than acting, willing to put up less than the best. At important points we do not give the job our best effort. Then with a shock we look at the situation we have created and find that we are now living in the house we have built. If we had realised that we would have done it differently.

Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think about your house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Build wisely. It is the only life you will ever build. Even if you live it for only one day more, that day deserves to be lived graciously and with dignity. The plaque on the wall says, "**Life is a do-it-yourself project.**" Your life tomorrow will be the result of your attitudes and the choices you make today.

When I Say I Am a Christian

*When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not shouting, "I am saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost; that is why I chose this way."*

*When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble and need someone to be my Guide.*

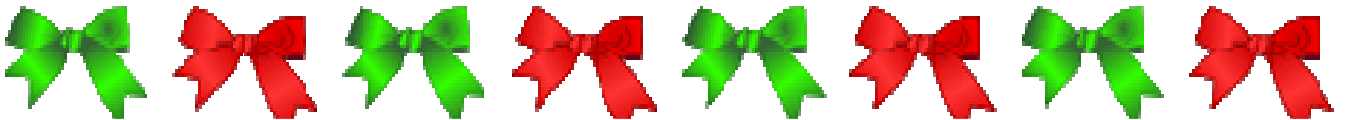
*When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging I am strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak, and pray for strength to carry on.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed and cannot ever pay the debt.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are all too visible, but God believes I'm worth it.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches, which is why I cry his name.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian," I do not wish to judge.
I have no authority; I only know I'm loved.*



I Said a Prayer for you Today

I said a prayer for you today
And know God must have heard.
I felt the answer in my heart
Although He spoke not a word.

I didn't ask for wealth or fame
(I knew you wouldn't mind).
I asked for priceless treasure rare
Of a more lasting kind.

I prayed that He'd be near you
At the start of each new day
To grant you health and blessings fair,
And friends to share your way.

I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small
But that you'd know his loving care
I prayed the most of all.

Frank Sanborn

A Very Special Meal



Once there was a very poor and devoted woman who always prayed to the Glory of God, asking very little, if anything for herself. But one thought, one desire continued to recur and finally she asked: petitioning the Lord, that if it were possible she would love to prepare a special meal and have God share at her table. And God, in His Love for this goodly woman, said He would

indeed come the next day and share a meal. Filled with ecstasy, the woman went out the following morning with her meagre purse and purchased such delicacies that she felt would please the Lord.

Returning home, she prepared a banquet and waited patiently for her most honoured guest. Soon there was a knock on the door, and when she opened it, there stood an old beggar asking for something to eat. Being a woman of God, she could not turn the beggar away, so she invited him in to partake of her table. The beggar felt as if he was in a dream - such a feast set before him. He finished all the food, thanked his hostess and left. The woman was only slightly disheartened, she gathered up her purse, her coat, and hurried back to town to get more food for her special guest. Her funds were less now and so the food was not quite so elaborate. Nonetheless, she lovingly prepared another meal and sat to await the arrival of the Almighty.

A few hours went by and there was a loud knock on the door. This time it was an old gypsy woman with no teeth, who was deaf, who spoke quite loudly and was, rather rudely, insisting that any true believer in the Lord would not deny her something to eat. Though the woman had no more money with which to buy more supplies, she invited the woman in and offered her a seat at the table. The gypsy ate everything, did not even thank the woman and left without closing the door. By now it was beginning to get dark both inside and out. The woman's faith was strong, so that, though somewhat distraught, she did not give up, but rather, looked around her humble house to see if there was anything she could sell in order to buy more food to set before the Lord. She hurried to town with a little silver cup that had been in her family for several generations, but she was willing to part with it for the great honour that God was going to bestow on her - the sharing of a meal.

Late in the night she rushed home to prepare yet a third meal. She waited and waited until, once more, there was a knock on the door. Holding her breath, she slowly opened the door to find yet another poor man in the guise of a wandering monk, in search of a meal. Again, she offered hospitality, with as much grace as

she could muster in her disappointment. This man also ate all that was set on the table and left after blessing the woman for her kindness. So discouraged and dismayed was she that all she could do was nod slightly, in acknowledgment of the thanks.

Now it was too late, with no way to buy any more food and no more money with which to buy it. She got down on her knees, weeping such heart-broken tears. She asked God what she had done wrong. Why had God not come to share at the table as He had promised? And God, in all His Divine Compassion and Mercy, lifted the woman off her knees, and holding her close to His Heart, said, "My child, I enjoyed your hospitality so much that I came three times!"

Mirabai Chrin

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### Learning to Relate



#### *From Jesus with Love*

A key to understanding others is putting yourself in their place. When I came to earth, I did that for you. I experienced first hand the difficulties of life. I got tired, hungry, sick, lonely, discouraged and went through everything else you experience. And having done that, I can now truly feel for you, help, and comfort you the way you

way you need Me to.

That's also the key to relating well to others. You can't totally change your circumstances like I did, but you don't need to. Just project yourself mentally into their circumstances.

For example, before you ask someone to do something that may seem simple and straightforward to you, consider first whether that person will feel the same. Or if someone is out of sorts, think about what might be causing that person to act that way. This is a much safer way to operate than assuming everyone else sees and feels the same way about things as you.

Walk a mile in another's shoes, as the saying goes, and you will be much more inclined to be understanding and supportive when the situation calls for that. Then adjust your expectations or presentation accordingly. Others will sense that you've anticipated their needs or concerns and taken their limitations into account, and this will help you live and work together better. Empathy helps create unity of minds and goals, and that's a wonderful thing!

## All in the Month of January



600 years ago on 16th Jan 1412 that the Medici family were made the official bankers of the Papacy.

250 years ago on 4th Jan 1762 that the Seven Years' War began when Britain declared war on Spain and Naples.

150 years ago on 10th Jan 1862 that Samuel Colt, American firearms manufacturer who popularised the revolver, died.

100 years ago on 1st Jan 1912 that the Republic of China was officially established. Also 100 years ago on 4th Jan 1912 that the Boy Scout Association was granted a Royal Charter, and became established throughout the Commonwealth. Also 100 years ago on 8th Jan 1912 that the African National Congress (ANC) was founded in South Africa. Also 100 years ago on 18th Jan 1912 that British explorer Robert Falcon Scott's expedition reached the South Pole, but discovered that Roald Amundsen's Norwegian team had beaten them by over a month.

90 years ago on 11th Jan 1922 that 14 year-old Leonard Thompson became the first diabetes patient to be treated with insulin, at Toronto General Hospital, Canada.

70 years ago on 1st Jan 1942 that during World War II 26 countries signed the Declaration of the United Nations in Washington, DC, USA, pledging to employ their full resources against Hitler and the Axis powers. Also 70 years ago on 26th Jan 1942 that the first American troops arrived in Europe. 4508 soldiers from the 34th Infantry Regiment docked in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Also 70 years ago on 29th Jan 1942 that the BBC Radio 4 show 'Desert Island Discs' was first broadcast. It is the world's longest running weekly factual radio programme.

50 years ago on 1st Jan 1962 that The Beatles auditioned for Decca Records in London, but were turned down because 'guitar groups are on the way out'.

40 years ago on 5th Jan 1972 that US President Richard Nixon announced the programme to develop the space shuttle. Also 40 years ago on 30th Jan 1972 that Bloody Sunday took place. British paratroopers opened fire on a civil rights demonstration in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, killing 13 people (plus another who died later) and injuring many others.

30 years ago on 10th Jan 1982 that the lowest temperature ever recorded in England was taken. It was -26.1C at Newport, Shropshire. Scotland's lowest ever temperature was equalled: -27.2C at Braemar, Aberdeenshire.

25 years ago on 10th Jan 1987 that Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy in the Middle East, was kidnapped in Beirut, Lebanon while on a peace mission to negotiate the release of hostages. (Released Nov 1991)

10 years ago on 1st Jan 2002 that the euro became the official currency of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

## The Crayon Box that Talked

While walking into a toy store the day before today  
I overheard a crayon box with many things to say

"I don't like Red!" said Yellow and Green said "Nor do I"  
"And no one here likes Orange but no one knows just why"

"We are a box of crayons that doesn't get along  
Said Blue to all the others "Something here is wrong"

Well, I bought that box of crayons and took it home with me  
And laid out all the colours so the crayons all could see

They watched me as I coloured with Red and Blue and Green  
And Black and White and Orange and every colour in between

They watched as Green became the grass and Blue became the  
sky  
The Yellow sun was shining bright on White clouds drifting by

Colours changing as they touched becoming something new  
They watched me as I coloured – they watched me till I was  
through

And when I finally finished I began to walk away  
And as I did the crayon box had something more to say

"I do like Red!" said Yellow and Green said, "so do I"  
And Blue you were terrific! So high up in the sky

"We are a box of crayons each one of us unique  
But when we get together the picture is more complete"

**Author Unknown**



## Tuning in to God



I find myself using the mute button on my remote control more and more these days. There is just so much on television right now that I don't want to listen to. Whether it is hypocritical politicians blowing enough hot air to cause a Summer heat wave, shallow television stars arguing on horrible reality shows, or screaming commercials trying to force me to buy something I neither need nor want, I find myself turning them down, tuning them out, and turning them off.

Usually after muting the media I will sit at my kitchen table, sip some cold tea, and gaze out the window. I will look at the beauty of nature instead of the glare of the television. I will allow the noise of the world to melt away and rest in the silence of my own soul. Then I will breathe deeply, close my eyes, and listen carefully for the loving voice that never lies, argues, or screams. This sweet voice uplifts me and encourages me. It tells me to keep trying, to keep loving, and to keep doing all I can to make this world a better place. It reminds me that life is worth living, that goodness lies in us all, and that we are all here for a purpose.

This gentle voice is God speaking to my heart, soul, and mind. He is always ready to talk to us in these quiet moments of prayer. He is always ready to bless us with His peace. He is always ready to guide us with His wisdom. He is waiting patiently to fill us with His love. He is waiting patiently to show us how we can love each other as well. He is waiting patiently to give us joy.

Take the time today to tune into God. Turn off the television, silence the cell phone, and shut down the computer. Sit down in the quiet. Close your eyes and open your heart. Breathe slowly and deeply. Gently pray to God for His love and His guidance. Then just listen. You will be amazed at the thoughts that come into your mind, the peace that comes into your heart, and the love that fills your soul. You will be amazed at how tuning into God can tune up your life.

### Author Unknown

#### Out of the Mouths of Babes!

*The minister was greeting parishioners as they left Sunday services. One little boy looked thoughtfully at him as they shook hands goodbye. After a moment, the boy said, "When I grow up, I'm going' to give you some money." The minister was amazed and pleased. "Well, thank you," he said. "But why?" "Because," the child replied, "My daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."*

## Rushen Mothers' Union



The meeting in December 'Christmas Celebration' was a lovely afternoon of readings based around the Christmas Story, or on memories of times passed, with well known carols in between. It was lovely to welcome so many friends from the various churches and chapels, and to hear them read by the people who had chosen them. The hall was well filled and a feeling of expectation was felt among us all. Each year we wonder if the celebration is a little too prolonged but at the end everyone agrees that we should continue the format next time, God willing. So once again the Branch year has ended with everyone looking forward to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I wish everyone a joyous and blessed Christmas and a Very Happy Healthy New Year.

Our Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012 is to be held in St. Catherine's Hall at 2pm. The speaker is our own Thelma Law, who has chosen as her subject 'Memories of Old Douglas'. We always open our meetings to any one who wishes to hear about a subject they would like to know more about, or would like to join us for any other reason. You will be most welcome!

The Diocesan Mothers' Union Advent Service was held at Maughold Church, and it was lovely to meet up with members and friends from all other Branches. The church was packed and we enjoyed the sermon which was given by the priest from the Roman Catholic Church in Ramsey. The ladies of Maughold provided a lovely cup of tea with mince pies and scones.

In February Rushen Branch is to act as hostesses to the Deanery Communion on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> in St. Mary's Church, Port St Mary. There will be a Bring and Buy stall, a Raffle in the hall and a Faith Lunch to end our time together. More details at our January meeting. Our Love and Prayers go out to all members who are unable to be with us, and we look forward to seeing you again. With love and every blessing for 2012.

**Brenda**



## O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness!

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
and comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;  
for truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the Name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

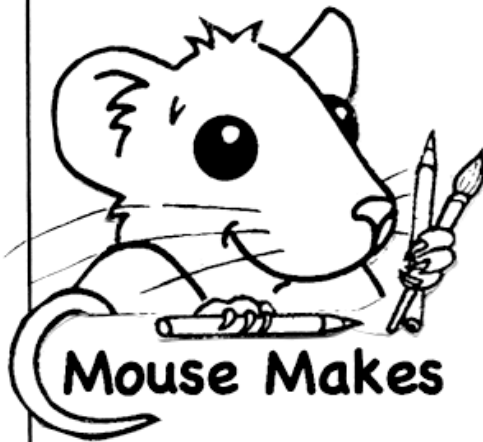
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!

## The Story Behind the Hymn

In the Church of England the weeks after Christmas are kept as the *Epiphany* season. *Epiphany* literally means *revelation, showing, manifestation*. The season begins on 6 January or the Sunday nearest to it, the *Feast of the Epiphany*, which celebrates the coming of the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. This is a day when Jesus was shown to the gentile world in the person of the Wise Men.

The Epiphany season then presents other showings of Jesus. The hymn above is one for this season and is often sung on the Epiphany. The words speak of the gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness, two of the three gifts brought by the Wise Men. They were written by John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-75), son of the Archdeacon of Londonderry, but working in England from 1853.


Monsell was a prolific writer, publishing 11 volumes of poems and about 300 hymns. Sadly, he died after falling from the roof of his church, St. Nicholas in Guildford. The words of the hymn encourage the singer to worship, but with humility and awe.



Eight days after their baby was born, **Mary** and **Joseph** named him with the name the angel **Gabriel** had given them long before he had been born. It was a very special name for a very special baby... the name **JESUS** which means **GOD IS SAVIOUR**.

*"You are to give him the name JESUS because he will save his people from their sins".*

READ: Luke 2:21-38



As you read the bible look out for the meaning of people's names.

### The NAMING of JESUS

**Jesus is:**  
**The Christ**  
Matthew 16:16



**The LIGHT**  
John 8:12



**Bread of Life**  
John 6:35

**The Good Shepherd**  
John 10:11



**Lamb of God**  
John 1:29

**J E S U S**

*'God is Saviour'*  
Matthew 1:21



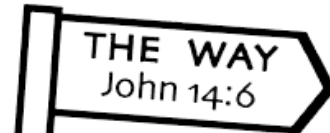
**Jesus is:**  
**Saviour**  
John 3:16-17



**Son of God**  
Matthew 3:16-17



**The Word**  
John 1:1-5



**LORD**  
John 20:28



**KING**  
Revelation 17:14



#### To make your bookmark:

Carefully cut around the outside, fold in half along the dotted line and glue together. Add a tassel to the bottom with a length of wool or ribbon. You can make it stronger by gluing onto card before folding.





# What's ON!

January 2012

|               |                        |                                                                                                           |                  |                                       |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wednesday     | 4 <sup>th</sup>        | Play & Praise<br>Port Erin United Mens'<br>Fellowship: Rev David Shirtliff<br>(Who do you think you are?) | 2.00pm<br>7.30pm | St Mary's<br>Methodist Hall           |
| Friday        | 6 <sup>th</sup>        | Morning Coffee                                                                                            | 10.00am          | St Catherine's Hall                   |
| Monday        | 9 <sup>th</sup>        | Mothers' Union<br>Mrs Thelma Law<br>(Memories of Old Douglas)                                             | 2.00pm           | St Catherine's Hall                   |
| Tuesday       | 10 <sup>th</sup>       | St Mary's Ladies WP                                                                                       | 2.15pm           | St Mary's Hall                        |
| Wednesday     | 11 <sup>th</sup>       | RUSH                                                                                                      | 6.30pm           | St Catherine's Hall                   |
| Friday        | 13 <sup>th</sup>       | Friendly Lunch<br>(St Catherine's)                                                                        | 12 noon          | St Catherine's Hall                   |
| Tuesday       | 17 <sup>th</sup>       | St Mary's Ladies WP                                                                                       | 2.15pm           | St Mary's Hall                        |
| Wednesday     | 18 <sup>th</sup>       | RUSH<br>Port Erin United Mens'<br>Fellowship: Mr Davis Wilson<br>(International and Local Red Cross)      | 6.30pm<br>7.30pm | St Catherine's Hall<br>Methodist Hall |
| <b>Friday</b> | <b>20<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Last date for Magazine Articles</b>                                                                    |                  |                                       |
| Tuesday       | 24 <sup>th</sup>       | St Mary's Ladies WP                                                                                       | 2.15pm           | St Mary's Hall                        |
| Wednesday     | 25 <sup>th</sup>       | RUSH                                                                                                      | 6.30pm           | St Catherine's Hall                   |
| Friday        | 27 <sup>th</sup>       | Friendly Lunch<br>(St Mary's)                                                                             | 12 noon          | St Mary's Hall                        |
| Tuesday       | 31 <sup>st</sup>       | St Mary's Ladies WP                                                                                       | 2.15pm           | St Mary's Hall                        |
| Wednesday     | 1 <sup>st</sup>        | RUSH<br>Port Erin United Mens'<br>Fellowship: Mr Geoff Corkish<br>(Steam to Hot Air)                      | 6.30pm<br>7.30pm | St Catherine's Hall<br>Methodist Hall |

# Contact Details for Rushen Parish

## Vicar

Rev'd Joe Heaton  
 Rushen Vicarage, Barracks Road, Port St Mary 832275  
 e-mail: [rev.joeheaton@gmail.co](mailto:rev.joeheaton@gmail.co)

## Readers

Mrs Margaret Galloway, Cumbrae, Athol Park, Port Erin 837946  
 Mrs June Harper, The Barns, Strawberry Fields, Colby 834466  
 Mr Richard Clague, 4 Eagle Mews, Port Erin 834606  
 Mr Harry Dawson, Thalloo Reagh, Cregneash 478050/835770

## Clergy with Permission to Officiate

Rev Roger Harper, The Barns, Strawberry Fields, Colby 834466

## Retired Clergy

Rev Anne Quilliam, c/o Broogh Fort, Rheast Lane, Santon 425118  
 Canon J.M Payne, Sunnysdale Nursing Home, Douglas 626121  
 Canon John Sheen, Kentraugh Mill, Colby 832406  
 Rev Brian Shephard, Keayn Ard, Queens Rd, Port St Mary 833315  
 Rev Colin Fleetney, 43 Magherchirrym, Port Erin 835249

## Wardens

Mr Gerry Callister, 60 Ballamaddrell, Port Erin 474924/834627  
 Mr Arthur Cregeen, 23 Close Famman, Port Erin 832488  
 Mr Harry Dawson, Thalloo Reagh, Cregneash 478050/835770  
 Mr Allan Knox, I Park Court, Athol Park, Port Erin 837862

## PCC Secretary

Mrs Joan Fleetney, 43 Magherchirrym, Port Erin IM9 6DB 835249

## PCC Treasurer

Mr Peter Vanderpump, I Bradda Glen Close, Port Erin 832567

# Contact Details for Rushen Parish

## Sunday School Leaders

### St Catherine's, Port Erin

Mrs Marjorie Gale, 4 Erin Way, Port Erin 832957

### St Mary's, Port St Mary

Mrs Susan Maddrell, Atholl Lodge, Fistard Rd. Port St Mary 833151

## Ladies Working Party

### St Mary's, Port St Mary

Mrs Brenda Watterson, Cair Vie, Linden Ave. Port St Mary 833618

## Contact for Friendly Lunches & Morning Coffee

### St Catherines, Port Erin

Mrs Sandy Fairest, Amberwell, Surby, Rushen 834449

## Hall Bookings

### St Catherine's, Port Erin

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

### St Mary's, Port St Mary

Mrs Brenda Watterson, Cair Vie, Linden Ave. Port St Mary 833618

## Web Site/E-mail

[www.rushenparish.com](http://www.rushenparish.com)

## Magazine

### Editor

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

## Parish Director of Music

Mr M D Porter, 30 Christeens Way, Ballakillowey, Colby 832143

## Services January 2012

|                       |                                            |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan.  | 10am                                       | Kirk Christ All Age Service + Holy Communion                                                                                                                                 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan.. | 11.45am                                    | Southlands Holy Communion (CW)                                                                                                                                               |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan.  | 9.30am<br>11am<br>11am<br>3.15pm<br>6.30pm | Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)<br>St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)<br>St Catherine's All-Age Service<br>St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)<br>St Mary's Evening Prayer (BCP)      |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan. | 10.30am                                    | St Mary's Holy Communion (BCP)                                                                                                                                               |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan. | 8am<br>9.30am<br>11am<br>11am<br>3.15pm    | St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)<br>St Mary's All-Age Service<br>St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)<br>St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP) |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan. | 10.30am                                    | St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)                                                                                                                                          |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan. | 9.30am<br>11am<br>11am<br>3.15pm<br>6.30pm | Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)<br>St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)<br>St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)<br>St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)<br>St Mary's Holy Communion (BCP)  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan. | 10.30am                                    | St Mary's Holy Communion (BCP)                                                                                                                                               |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan. | 11am                                       | Kirk Christ All Age Service + Holy Communion                                                                                                                                 |
|                       | (CW)                                       | Common Worship                                                                                                                                                               |
|                       | (BCP)                                      | Book of Common Prayer                                                                                                                                                        |