

A legacy from Milner

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We take a look at St Catherine's Church in Port Erin

SITUATED high above the beach at Port Erin, St Catherine's Church provides visitors with a quiet place to sit and to enjoy being at peace with God.

A glance at the visitors book provides information about the many people who, on holiday from all parts of the world, have found time to find out more about this idyllic location.

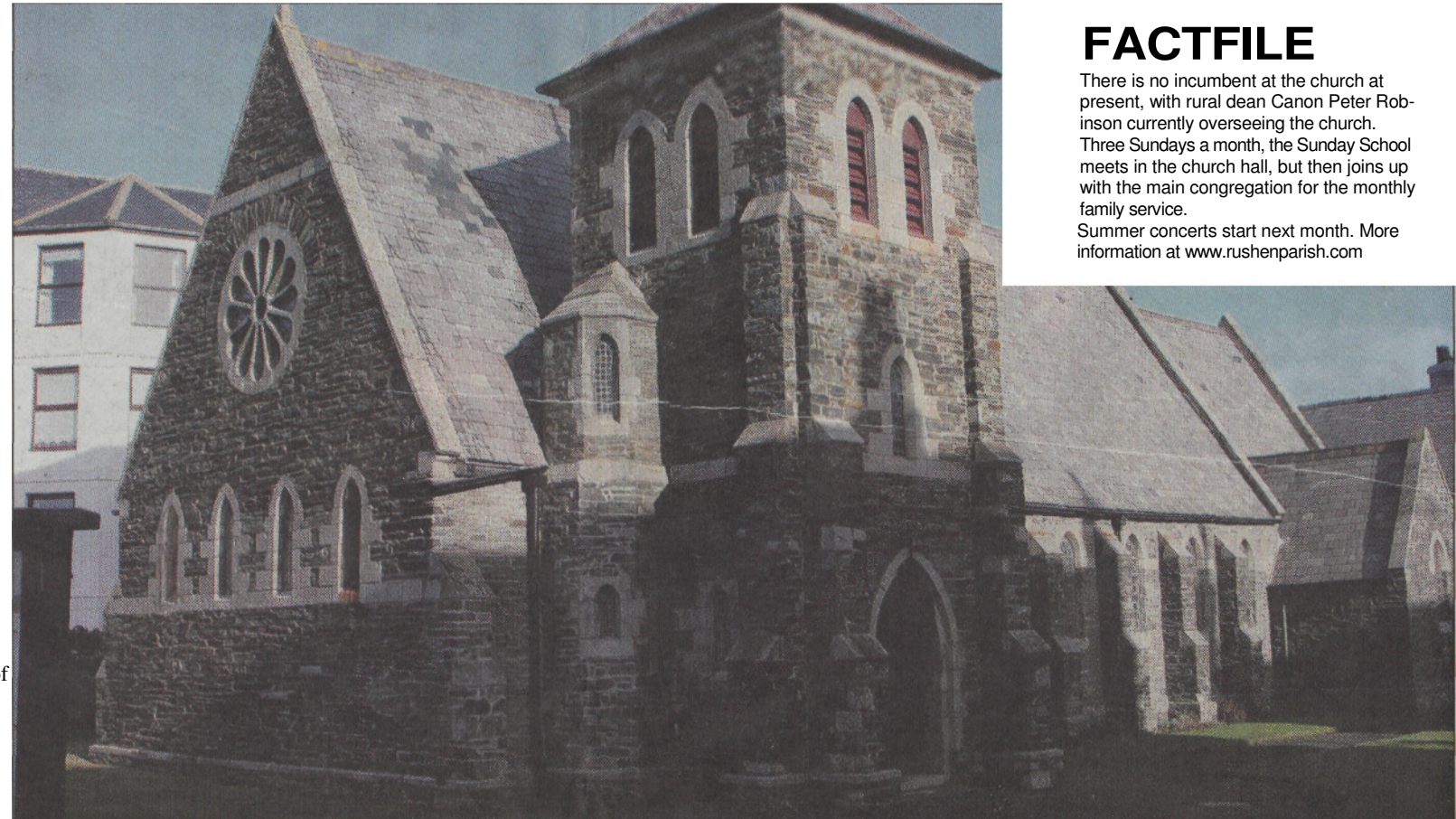
It was built with the aid of a legacy of £1,000 from William Milner.

This was given subject to the church being dedicated to St Catherine. It was consecrated in 1880 and had to be extended in 1894 to cater for the large number of holiday makers.

St Catherine's is one of four churches in the Parish of Rushen, the others being Kirk Christ, the Parish Church, St Mary's, situated in Port St Mary, and St Peter's at Cregneash.

It is very well maintained although adverse weather conditions do cause problems with the exterior parts of the building with the roof being the most vulnerable. The church has its own hall which is used for a variety of purposes both secular and non-secular.

On three Sundays each month the Sunday School meets in the hall, on the fourth it attends the Family Service



HIGH ABOVE THE BEACH: St Catherine's Church was built thanks to a legacy from William Milner

Details of all activities which take place in the church and the hall are regularly updated in the parish's website which is well worth visiting. It can be found at www.rushenparish.com

St Catherine's provides the venue for Port Erin Commissioners' summer concerts.

These range from band concerts, singing groups to other musical events. Refreshments are served and the admission free. The concerts, which

commence in June, are well attended and provide holidaymakers, and local inhabitants, with excellent entertainment. Details of this year's concerts will be published in the website at the beginning of June.

At present the parish has no incumbent and is in an interregnum.

However it is running very smoothly under the direction of Canon Peter Robinson, the Rural Dean, and leader of the Southern Mission Partnership. He, along with Gerald Callister, the

parish sequestrator and churchwarden of St Catherine's, and the churchwardens of the other three churches, ensure that the four churches are catered for both spiritually and socially, and guarantee that there is an empathy for the needs of the people.

As a consequence the many church led groups continue to meet on a regular basis. Both St Catherine's and St Mary's provide a Friendly Lunch on the second and fourth Friday lunch times.

FACTFILE

There is no incumbent at the church at present, with rural dean Canon Peter Robinson currently overseeing the church. Three Sundays a month, the Sunday School meets in the church hall, but then joins up with the main congregation for the monthly family service. Summer concerts start next month. More information at www.rushenparish.com



HALL: Sunday School venue