

Rushen Parish Magazine

February 2011



Presentation of Christ in the Temple – 2nd February



St Catherine's



St Peter's



Kirk Christ



St Mary's



Letter from the Editor

At the time of writing I imagine that many of the card shops are filling their shelves with Valentine's Day cards. Although this event occurs on 14th February each year, it seems as though there is much more emphasis on it now than there was perhaps forty years ago. To me its another money making opportunity for a number of shops, especially those selling flowers, chocolates and other such products designed to tell the recipient that you are in love with them. Of course, to do it properly means that the recipient isn't meant to know who gave it to them. This mystery makes it all the more exciting for those who want to know if someone really does have feelings for them. I can remember receiving a Valentine's Day card in February 1963. It didn't say who it was from but I had a pretty good idea who had sent it. Strangely enough I too had sent a similar card to the person who I thought had sent one to me. The love sent between the two recipients was sealed on 23rd February 1963 at Manchester United's football ground at about 3.15pm when United scored a goal against Blackpool. I held hands with the girl in question and am still doing so to this day. Although we both had feelings for each other before this we realised how true they were on that occasion. It is true to say that we both love each other very much today and will always do so until the end of time.

Our understanding of love for each other is irreplaceable, and I am sure that those of you reading this will all have your own experiences which are unique to you, and which hopefully bring fond memories. There are, however, many people who have not yet found the love they seek. Some may not even want it, some may be bordering upon a new relationship which ultimately will result in love. Wherever we find ourselves we do know that with God's guidance we will follow the pathway that has been set before us. As long as we accept the love that is offered to us by God we can't go far wrong.

Of course there are those amongst us who have lost their loved one, their soul mate, the one to whom they put all their trust. Death, or separation, can be so devastating that it leaves behind despair, a feeling of desolation, and a feeling of total loss. I can't imagine how I would feel without the person who has been my life for the past 48 years, and I'm pretty sure that if the situation was reversed the feeling would be just the same. Platitudes given to those who have lost a loved one cannot possibly appease what they must be going through, nor the fact that 'time is a great

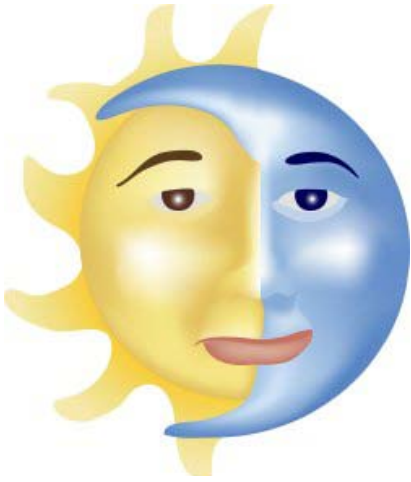
healer' change what has been a way of life for probably many years. Nevertheless people do get through and begin to rebuild their lives, and I have nothing but admiration for them.

What is it then that enables them to start again without the person, or people, they have lost? I know what my opinion is, and probably yours too, and that is that God plays His part in guiding us through both the good and bad parts of our lives, and in the case of the death of a loved one, He is there caring for us and steering us through what must be one of the most devastating parts of our lives. I become most indignant when people ask the question, 'Where is God, why did He allow this to happen?' The problem is that many people don't rely on Him to guide them through life. They are always happy when life is presenting them with good things, but always antagonistic when the opposite applies.

As a headteacher I had to endure the death of parents, of siblings and of grandmothers and grandfathers, and the aftermath to the children left behind. Such occurrences were rare but nevertheless very traumatic. Visiting the bereaved was never easy, and trying to appease them probably unproductive and of no use at all, but we all try our best to help at such difficult times. Perhaps the most devastating was the death of a child. In my 22 years I had to deal with this on two occasions. The first was the death of the eleven year old daughter of my secretary who had run out into the road and the second an eight year old girl who had been run down by a drunk driver. Both occurred within a twelve month period. The repercussion that followed each accident was heart breaking especially so to the mother of the younger child who, to this day, has never recovered from the loss of a daughter she loved so much. Needless to say many people questioned why God had allowed such young children to have died.

St Valentine has provided us all with a moment each year to think of love. To remind us of our lives, and of the people we have loved, and still love. We may, or may not receive a gift of flowers, a memento, or even a card. Nevertheless we can choose the moment to reflect upon our lives and ask ourselves if we have loved others as we should have done. For those of us who have someone to love, our spouse, children, grandchildren and other relatives, we can use the day to say how we feel. For those who haven't anyone to love, all you have to do is to carry on loving your neighbours and the people around you as you already do. Whatever your feelings are on the day, whether they be fond memories of love lost, just remember one thing, God loves you, and He always will.... Amen

David Bowman



Sun Loses Heat, Moon Keeps His Cool

The sun and the moon were discussing their respective jobs and both were somewhat upset. "It's so hot in my corner of the Universe!," griped the sun. "Thousands of degrees, millions of degrees, what's the difference!? I would sure appreciate a little relief!" "I'm with you, Old Friend," replied the moon. "But my problem is that my temperature is a little on the cool side - at least for me. I wish I could be much hotter than I am."

"What's all the whining about?" asked the Lord. "I created you and gave each of you the qualities you need to serve me and mankind. Why not be patient and let me work my will through you?" "Why not let us switch places for just one day?," asked the sun. "Then we'll know if we were assigned the right jobs." "That's right," echoed the moon. "And we'll never complain again about our jobs!" "All right," agreed the Lord. "Tomorrow, you will exchange places for one day. Then you'll see that I assigned each of you the correct job."

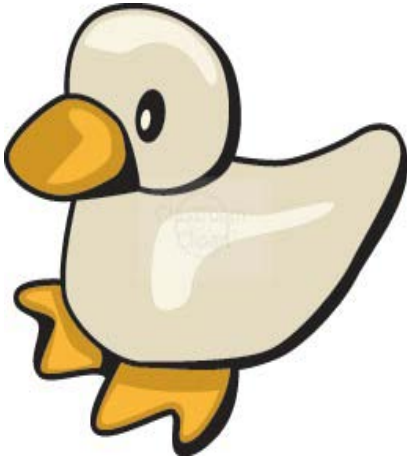
The following morning, the sun and the moon exchanged places. "Wow! This is the life!," exclaimed the moon. "I think I will really like this day-shift job. I can go to work early, leave work several hours earlier than usual and still have plenty of time to relax." The sun was equally thrilled with his new one-day assignment. "I can sleep all day today and I'm sure that the moon's work is less strenuous than mine. For one day, I won't be as hot under the collar."

By the end of the 24 hours, however, neither the sun nor the moon had the desire to continue with their short-term gig. "Man, that dayshift job is not what it's cracked up to be," moaned the moon. "I had to wake up several hours before I usually have to, and I was tired all day." "I enjoyed sleeping late," said the sun. "But about halfway through that long second shift I lost some of my usual bright personality and became a bit grumpy." The Lord joined the conversation. "Didn't I tell you that you would come to your senses and realise that I knew what I was doing when I created you?" "Yes, you did," said the sun. "And you were right. We should have listened to you in the first place."

"What did you learn from this experiment?," asked the Lord. "I learned that I'm much more comfortable when I'm at my hottest," said the sun. "And I learned that I feel much better when I keep my cool," chuckled the moon.

Greg Miller

Remember the Duck



There was a little boy visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a catapult to play with, out in the woods. He practised in the woods, but he could never hit the target. Getting discouraged, he headed back to dinner.

As he was walking back, he saw Grandma's pet duck. Just out of impulse, he put a stone in his catapult, fired it, and hit the duck square in the head and killed it. He was shocked and grieved. In a panic, he hid the dead duck in the woodpile, only to see his sister watching. Sally had seen it all, but she said nothing.

After lunch that day Grandma said, "Sally, let's wash the dishes." But Sally said, "Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen today, didn't you Johnny?" And then she whispered to him, "Remember, the duck?" So Johnny did the dishes.

Later Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing, and Grandma said, "I'm sorry, but I need Sally to help me make supper." But Sally smiled and said, "Well, that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help." And she whispered again, "Remember, the duck?" Sally went fishing and Johnny stayed.

After several days of Johnny doing both his chores and Sally's, he finally couldn't stand it any longer. He came to Grandma and confessed that he killed the duck. She knelt down, gave him a hug, and said "Sweetheart, I know. You see, I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing. But because I love you, I forgave you. But, I was just wondering how long you were going to let Sally make a slave of you."

I don't know what's in your past. I don't know what one sin the enemy keeps throwing up in your face. But, whatever it is, I want you to know something. Jesus Christ was standing in the window and He saw the whole thing. But because He loves you, He is ready to forgive you. Perhaps He's wondering how long you'll let the enemy make a slave out of you.

Author Unknown

Did Noah Fish?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms!"

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



The ladies came together this year on Tuesday the 11th after quite a longish break which they were all ready for. It gave those with colds chance to get themselves fit again. One or two still have been left with nasty coughs. We wish Jean a speedy recovery; we hope the extra days of staying indoors will see her return soon, fit and well. Since we restarted, three of the ladies have had their birthdays, first Gerrie, then this weekend, Peggy and this Wednesday Doris. With all the extra

goodies to celebrate the days, I fear waistlines will be suffering! We will be holding the first Friendly Lunch on Friday the 28th at noon. We decided before the end of the year that we should increase the cost to £3.50 so we hope everyone will agree that the increase still makes the Lunch a good buy. We look forward to seeing friends which we haven't seen this year.

In February we will be hostesses to our Leprosy Representative, Mr Hartley, who is coming to tell us more about his very busy life, raising funds to help cure this terrible disease which still exists. The meeting will be in St.Mary's Hall on Tuesday 16th February, at 2.15pm. If you have a box you can bring it along that day and give it to him. Also if you have been saving used stamps, he would love to receive them as well. We will have a small bring and buy stall to raise extra funds, and there will also be the stall with the Leprosy Goods for sale, including reduced priced Christmas Cards, to encourage you to shop early for Christmas 2011! Please put this date on your calendar and come along and support it. There will also be light refreshments at the end of the talk.

#Happy New Year to Everyone
Best Wishes
Brenda

Moses and the Red Sea

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked. "Well no, Mum. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"



St Catherine's

We welcomed the children back after the Christmas break and in fact have only had one lesson on which to report so far!

Our first lesson revolved around David the Shepherd boy. We will be following the story to see how he became king. We spoke about we should not be fooled by 'the wrappings' and to illustrate. The children had to try and guess what was inside a number of wrapped objects. This was a lot harder than you think! We learnt how God sees beyond the wrapping to the person inside. One of our activities was to cut out a photo frame which was so ornate that our scissor skills were severely challenged. Our next lesson will be to see how God helped David grow in faith along his path to become a king. Until next month....

Love from all at St Catherine's

St Mary's Family Service

Our first service this year enabled us to celebrate the later visit of the Eastern Sages. The girls led the boy kings up the aisle with stars held high. 'We Three Kings' was sung by Michal, Peter and Nick and followed Longfellow's poem, 'The Three Kings'. Cedric spoke of how we must follow the example of these Gentile Wise Men, in not being deterred from our purpose, inviting Jesus to come into our hearts. 'Bring Your Offerings', sung by the choir, ends with the words, 'Faith and hope and love unfeigning, loyal hearts from sin set free'.

As our theme was 'Gifts', many of our choir and congregation came out to sing 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', giving an excellent performance. Cedric explained the possible link this song may have had with catechism, used when the Catholic Church was being persecuted in England. Each gift represented Jesus, God and the tenets of our Faith. The folk-lore element was also suggested- but everyone enjoyed the tuneful singing. Sunday School teachers read the prayers, based on Psalm 145, containing each letter of the alphabet, as did the original Hebrew version of the Psalm.

The children, choir, members of the Congregation, Mike and Cedric, deserve thanks for making this joyous start to the New Year. 'O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee'.

With Love from St Mary's Church

St Mary's Crib Service

Thanks to sterling efforts by Gerrie and her team, a pathway was created, leading to the church and hall, which enabled many to attend the crib Service safely. Mary, Joseph, Kings and Shepherds were soon assembled. The only characters missing were the Angels, which is most unusual. Alex kindly stepped in as Gabriel but this year we hope for a surfeit of the Heavenly Host! We were delighted to welcome Margaret Galloway to lead the service, which followed the story of The Nativity, culminating in a gathering around the manger with special prayers, led by Margaret. We thank all those who attended, especially those who took part, and Mike for playing the organ. The Crib service this year will take place at St. Catherine`s Church, Port Erin.

Sue Maddrell



Love Story

I have been so long on this dusty shelf that I've forgotten who or what I am. Do I have a name, where did I come from, and why do I seem to have been forsaken? That is what I believe has happened to me.

I used to have a purpose, a role to play, but not any more. There were happier days deep in the empty chasm of my being: I remember laughter, warm conversation, and silent contentment.

In those far off days, strong hands carried me, placed me, appreciated my worth, even cherished me, but the years rolled by and those same hands grew feeble. I could sense their pain. It was quiet now, no laughter, just sighs and silent tears. Then there was nothing, just darkness. I was in a box where there was no night or day. Now I sit on the shelf watching day turn to night in a never ending cycle. We're told that out of darkness comes light. My light began to shine one rainy afternoon. Two rain-soaked travellers passed by my dusty shelf, looked at me, and then walked on back into the darkening street.

I swear that if I'd had a heart it would have broken then, but it was not to be. They returned, and came to me, lifted me off my shelf, looked, examined, and smiled agreement at each other. That was then, and since that day I have been cleansed, restored to beauty and purified. Now there is no greater joy than for me to hear the words so full of love, 'Put the kettle on and we'll have a nice cup of tea.'

Pauline Bowman

The Holy Bible

Dear Children of the Earth,
From: Your Father in Heaven.

I want my words to touch your inner being,
I want your precious spirit's eyes to be seeing,
I want the world to know that you are mine,
And to put a tingle down your spine!!

You'll find my words in a special book,
It wont take long, just have a quick look.
There are sixty six little books bound inside,
You'll find me in there with arms open wide.

You will see that I sit upon my throne,
Searching the world for a people of my very own.
It tells you all about my worldly creation,
How it all went wrong, and the birth of a nation.

It tells of their lives of trouble and strife,
But mostly it tells of their faith in life.
It's got stories and proverbs and songs galore,
But about a special man, there are gospels four!!

At the centre of my book, is Jesus your special
friend,
Although, he's actually there from beginning to end.
And on that day, when you finally realise,
That you need my Son to open your eyes.

He'll be there knocking at the door of your heart,
You only have to say "Sorry, Jesus, I want a new
start."
You see that's what my Holy Bible is all about.
It tells that "I LOVE YOU ALWAYS," without a
doubt.

Author Unknown

Free

I'm free
Free to LIVE

I'm free
Free to GIVE

I'm free
Free to LOVE

I'm free
Free to soar
ABOVE,
the clouds

I'm free
Free to BELIEVE,
I can achieve

I'm free
Free to HOLD,
my head up high

I'm free
Free to KNEEL,
and pray along my
way

I'm free
Free because...
Whom the SON
sets FREE is
FREE indeed.

Unknown

Untimely Answered Prayer

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?" Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

New Beginnings



1. What events are recorded in Genesis chapters 1 and 2?
2. Which man left his home country to travel to a land he did not know, that God would lead him to?
3. How old was Abraham when his son Isaac was born?
4. What was the reason that Jacob and his family began a new life in Egypt?
5. Which prophet of God told Naaman to wash in the river Jordan to cure his leprosy?
6. Which man led the Jews back to the land of Israel, following the captivity, with the intention of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem?
7. Who preached, “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”?
8. When Jesus was baptized, in what form did the Spirit of God appear to him?
9. In the letter to the Corinthians, who does Paul say is a “new creature”?
10. What did the New Jerusalem look like, in the book of Revelation?

Good Luck!

(Answers in next month’s Magazine)

Answers to January’s Quiz

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. God is with us | 6. Quietly divorce her |
| 2. He would be born in Bethlehem | 7. Hosea |
| 3. Jacob | 8. Until the death of Herod |
| 4. Anna | 9. Simeon |
| 5. Augustus | 10. Two turtledoves or pigeons |

Friday Prayer Group

The Friday Prayer group will now meet at 9.30am every week at 15 Close Cam, Port Erin. Everyone is welcome. There is no pressure on anyone to pray aloud. Time is given at the start of the meeting for everyone to make prayer requests and prayers can then be said by anyone in the group. We usually pray for our Parish, Island and International events that have touched our hearts, but there are no rules about what can and cannot be included. Meetings usually last about 30 minutes with time for a chat and a coffee afterwards

Gerrie Sturgeon

News from St Catherine's

Christmas came and went, and like every year we came into the new year looking forward to spring, with days lengthening and giving us more daylight hours.

This is when we look forward to tidying up our grounds at St Catherine's, and getting our 2011 spring work pattern into action. I am hoping to get the repairs required to the roof and tower completed as soon as possible, so that the decorating of the inside of the church can commence when the painters have completed their work at Kirk Christ.

As I am writing this article, a little early before I have a short winter break, I would like to thank the Methodist churches in our parish, and our own Anglican churches, for all coming together to worship at St Catherine's on Sunday 16th January at 11am for the opening service of the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. It will be wonderful to be altogether to worship on this Sunday, and we look forward to being able to worship our Lord, hopefully more often in the future. We thank you Lord for this great opportunity, and pray for your guidance to lead us to more opportunities to worship together in the future. Until next month...

Gerry Callister

Used Stamps

Sorry this message is short but I just want to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who so very kindly saved their Christmas stamps for the work of the Leprosy Mission Tony and I are very grateful. We had a great response to our appeal and we hope you will continue to save stamps for this very worthy cause. Thank you once again.

Jean Ronan

Women's World Day of Prayer – 4th March

The service this year has been prepared by the women of Chile. It is being held at St Mary's Church, Port St Mary, for the southern churches, on Friday 4th March at 2pm. All denominations will be involved in the service. The Speaker is to be Mrs Mary Black of Crosby Methodist Church. Mrs Brenda Watterston will lead the service and the organist will be Mr Mike Porter. There is to be an evening meeting in St Mary's Church Hall at 8pm. This will be a shortened form of the afternoon service followed by slides, and a commentary on Chile.

The women of Chile prepared the service well before last year's two dramatic events there: the earthquake in March and the mining rescue in August. The latter, particularly the bravery, discipline, faith and prayerfulness of the men, were so much to be admired, as well as the skills of the rescuers and the self-control of the families at the pit-head. As a consequence the country is of more immediate interest this year, having been so recently in the news.

Refreshments will be served after both events. All are welcome: women, men and children.

Valerie Vaughan

Mariaburcht

Mariaburcht, a castle in Belgium, is used as a retreat for Christians wanting to know more about their faith, and to be with others wishing to do the same. This year, from Saturday 25th June until Saturday 2nd July, Canon Harold Stephens, Team Rector of Dorchester in Dorset, will be leading a retreat entitled 'The Sacrament of Presence – The God who Reaches All', at Mariaburcht. In a series of introductory talks, each beginning with a reflection upon a selected passage from the Old or New Testament, the strands of the love of God will be explored using anecdote, texts, reflection, poetry and music. The passages selected will include:

- ***The story of Ruth – to give one's all***
- ***Psalm 103 – the Lord is full of compassion and mercy***
- ***The encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well***
- ***"Zacchaeus – icon of edginess"***
- ***The Christ of the Cross – the Passion of Christ***

If you would like to know more about the Retreat, and would consider being part of it, please talk to Arthur Cregeen who is travelling with the party. There will also be time for group outings together during the week. Arthur can be contacted on 832488.



Isaiah 65:24

This story was written by a doctor who worked in South Africa...

One night I had worked hard to help a mother in the labour ward; but in spite of all we could do, she died leaving us with a tiny premature baby and a crying two-year-old daughter. We

would have difficulty keeping the baby alive; as we had no incubator (we had no electricity to run an incubator). We also had no special feeding facilities. Although we lived on the equator, nights were often chilly with treacherous draughts. One student midwife went for the box we had for such babies and the cotton wool that the baby would be wrapped in. Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly in distress to tell me that in filling the bottle, it had burst (rubber perishes easily in tropical climates). "And it is our last hot water bottle!" she exclaimed. As in the West, it is no good crying over spilled milk so in Central Africa it might be considered no good crying over burst water bottles. They do not grow on trees, and there are no drugstores down forest pathways. "All right," I said, "put the baby as near the fire as you safely can, and sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from draughts. Your job is to keep the baby warm."

The following noon, as I did on most days, I went to have prayers with any of the orphanage children who chose to gather with me. I gave the youngsters various suggestions of things to pray about and told them about the tiny baby. I explained our problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the hot water bottle, and that the baby could so easily die if it got chills. I also told them of the two-year-old sister, crying because her mother had died. During prayer time, one ten-year old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt conciseness of our African children. "Please, God" she prayed, "send us a water bottle. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon." While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added, "And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?"

As often with children's prayers, I was put on the spot. Could I honestly say, "Amen". I just did not believe that God could do this. Oh, yes, I know that He can do everything, the Bible says so. But there are limits, aren't there? The only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending me a parcel from homeland. I had been in Africa for almost four years at that time, and I had never, ever received a parcel from home. Anyway, if anyone did send me a parcel, who would put in a hot water bottle? I lived on the equator! Halfway through the afternoon, while I was teaching in the nurses' training school, a message was sent that there was a car at my front door! By the time I reached home, the car had gone, but there, on the veranda, was a large twenty-two pound parcel. I felt tears pricking my eyes. I could not open the parcel

alone, so I sent for the orphanage children. Together we pulled off the string, carefully undoing each knot. We folded the paper, taking care not to tear it unduly. Excitement was mounting. Some thirty or forty pairs of eyes were focused on the large cardboard box. From the top, I lifted out brightly coloured, knitted jerseys. Eyes sparkled as I gave them out. Then there were the knitted bandages for the leprosy patients, and the children looked a little bored. Then came a box of mixed raisins and sultanas - that would make a batch of buns for the weekend. Then, as I put my hand in again, I felt the.....could it really be? I grasped it and pulled it out - yes, a brand-new, rubber hot water bottle. I cried. I had not asked God to send it; I had not truly believed that He could. Ruth was in the front row of the children. She rushed forward, crying out, "If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly too!" Rummaging down to the bottom of the box, she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. Her eyes shone! She had never doubted! Looking up at me, she asked: "Can I go over with you and give this dolly to that little girl, so she'll know that Jesus really loves her?"

That parcel had been on the way for five whole months. Packed up by my former Sunday school class, whose leader had heard and obeyed God's prompting to send a hot water bottle, even to the equator. And one of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child - five months before, in answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year-old to bring it "that afternoon."

"Before they call, I will answer" (Isaiah 65:24). This awesome prayer takes less than a minute. When you receive this, say the prayer, that's all you have to do. No strings attached! Just send it on to whomever you want - but do send it on. Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive. There is no cost but a lot of rewards. Let's continue praying for one another

Father, I ask you to bless my friends reading this right now. I am asking You to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is pain, give them Your peace and mercy. Where there is self doubting, release a renewed confidence to work through them. Where there is tiredness or exhaustion, I ask You to give them understanding, guidance, and strength as they learn submission to Your leading. Where there is spiritual stagnation, I ask You to renew them by revealing Your nearness, and by drawing them into greater intimacy with You. Where there is fear, reveal Your love, and release to them Your courage. Where there is a sin blocking them, reveal it, and break its hold over my friend's life.

Bless their finances, give them greater vision, and raise up leaders and friends to support and encourage them. Give each of them discernment to recognize the evil forces around them, and reveal to them the power they have in You to defeat it. I ask you to do these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

"Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps if you're not willing to move your feet."

**Greetings from John & Mary Gulland
from Corfu
December 2010**

Dear Family & Friends

At the time of writing we have just returned from a week-end in Athens on the occasion of the Archbishop of Canterbury's official visit to Greece, 24th – 28th November. This was much more than just a courtesy visit. It was an occasion of bridge building between the Church of England and the Greek Orthodox church and in our brief time in Athens we saw evidence of much good will. More than that the visit enabled Archbishop Rowan Williams to meet with the President and Prime Minister of Greece and to address the long standing problem that no church other than the Orthodox church has any legal recognition in Greece. We believe that the Archbishop's visit will help to gain the necessary recognition, so that there can be clarification about the rights of churches to employ and to own property. We are greatly encouraged that Prime Minister Papandreou has undertaken to take a personal interest in the necessary parliamentary legislation. These developments are answers to our prayers.

On the Saturday evening the Archbishop presided over a Sung Eucharist, at St Paul's church Athens, for the Eve of Advent. It was a great privilege to participate in worship with the congregation of St Paul's together with strong representation from Christians of the Orthodox, Catholic, and Swedish churches.

More domestic news includes a very successful 'Christmas Fair' held on Saturday 20th November. Besides being a joyful event which draws together the talents and gifts of the congregation it has always been a vital fund raiser for our small church. We were anxious to make it a quality occasion that would draw in both the English speaking and Corfiot communities. The children's craft corner turned out to be a great success and the high quality handcraft and produce stalls helped to raise more than €2000 on the day.

In preparation for the Fair we needed to have a grand church garden tidy-up and so we called for volunteers for a 'Garden Party' – not the kind that consumes Earl Grey and cucumber sandwiches! We needed lumber-jacks with chain saws! The wardens bravely co-ordinated a team of twenty gardeners of widely varying expertise and there were the inevitable shouts of, 'Don't pull that out! It's a precious orchid! However, a huge job was well done. The team were tired but well satisfied at the end of the day.

The last event of our summer programme was the BBQ boat trip up the East coast of Corfu, on captain Spyros' BBQ boat, 'Magdalena'. Sixty of us, from HTC and the Greek Evangelical church, set sail on the morning of Monday 6th September.

Cont'd

A great day was enjoyed by all, drawing two congregations into closer fellowship, and events like this serve as outreach to the wider community

In Easter week, 25th -30th April 2011, we are planning an expedition, '**In the steps of St Paul**'. We hope that some family & friends will be able to join us on this adventure. We have sent full details with this newsletter.

Please pray:

1. For the follow-up to the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Greece.
2. For the growth of our Bible Study & fellowship groups at HTC.
3. For the plans for the Acorn Trust 'Christian Listeners' course at HTC, 2nd -6th March 2011.

We wish you a blessed Advent & a joyful Christmas.



Christmas Gingerbread
Men



Oh dear! What inspired us
to cut that down!



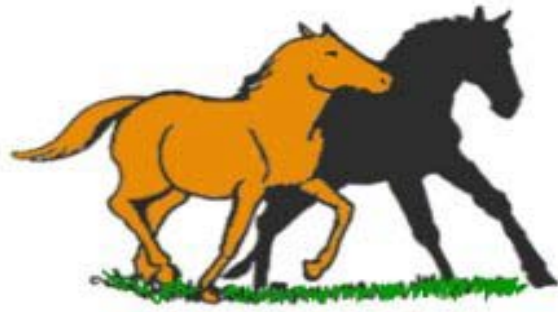
Pre Barbecue Cocktails

All Men / All Girls

When my daughter, Kelly, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelly would say, "And all girls."

This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelly, why do you always add the part about all girls?" Her response, "Because everybody else always finish their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"

Two Horses



Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each horse looks like any other horse. But if you get a closer look you will notice something quite interesting... One of the horses is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made him a safe and comfortable barn to live in. This alone is pretty amazing.

But if you stand nearby and listen, you will hear the sound of a bell. It is coming from a smaller horse in the field. Attached to the horse's halter is a small, copper-coloured bell. It lets the blind friend know where the other horse is, so he can follow. As you stand and watch these two friends you'll see that the horse with the bell is always checking on the blind horse, and that the blind horse will listen for the bell and then slowly walk to where the other horse is, trusting he will not be led astray. When the horse with the bell returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, he will stop occasionally to look back, making sure that the blind friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect. Or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. Sometimes we are the blind horse, being guided by the little ringing bell of those who God places in our lives, and at other times we are the guide horse, helping others to find their way.

Author Unknown

I Know He Hears

Each night I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
I pray my love to Him each night
and to always keep us in His light.

I know He hears each word I speak
and listens to each and all I seek,
for every morning that I wake
I realize all He's done for my sake.

Sometimes I ask Him to hold me tight
and to help me make it through the night.

I know He hears each and every prayer,
for I feel His arms and how they care.

I pray that my food He will bless
and I pray He will listen as I confess.
Now I know He hears me as I pray,
for I feel at ease at the end of each day.

I know He hears each time I bow
and I know He's listening to me right now.
I know my troubles on Him have poured,
but I know He hears, for he's my Lord.



Rushen Mothers' Union

In January we do always try to have a speaker who lives locally, just in case we get bad weather and they are unable to get to us. So last August we decided to invite our very well known friend Mrs Joyce Corlett. Joyce had called her talk "Music makes Friendship". She is a Cleveland Medal winner, and was awarded an M.B.E. for her work in many areas of island life with charities. The list of her achievements are too numerous to mention. Joyce had chosen several records which had some wonderful memories and stories attached to them which she shared with us. We had a wonderful time listening to these favourites of hers. We heard piano recitals, soloists, brass bands and many other records, all of which had such remarkable stories attached to them about Joyce having met many of the artists, lots of whom have become personal friends. Everyone there agreed it was a wonderful afternoon of culture and friendship which we really appreciated. The meeting started with a service and a hymn. Mrs Valerie Vaughan was the pianist. Mrs Winifred Quayle gave us the reading and Mrs Sue Maddrell the official thank you in her usual enthusiastic way. Among the notices there was an invitation to a service on the 16th January at the Abbey Church to celebrate Malew Mothers' Union 100th Birthday. It was good to see Mrs Peggy Kelly back with us looking very well, and lovely that Elsie was there too, after having just lost Gordon during the Christmas holidays following a short illness. We send her and all her family our love and prayers. They also go to Mrs Enid Binns and her family on the death of her husband recently. To all who need our prayers we send our love.

Don't forget our next meeting on Monday 14th February, when we have an informal meeting on the theme of Valentines' Day. So don't forget ladies, bring something along with you that has a memory, or a poem or a reading on the theme. I look forward to seeing you all on that day.

Love and Best Wishes.

Brenda

Leprosy Mission

Mr Derek Hartley will be visiting the island between Friday 4th to Monday 21st February. He will be speaking at the following meetings in our parish: Wednesday 9th - St Columba's Church Hall, Port Erin, 7.30pm. Tuesday 15th Coffee Morning at Port Erin Methodist Church, 10 - 11.30am, St Mary's, Port St Mary, 2pm., and on Wednesday 16th Port Erin Mens' Fellowship, 7.30pm at the Methodist Hall. Please do try to hear him and to let him have your donations for this worthwhile cause.

For Valentine's Day

*A Message not just for 14th February
But for every day of the year
John 3:16*

“For God so lo**V**ed the world,
That He g**A**ve
his on**L**y
Begott**E**n
So**N**
That whosoever
Believeth **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish,
But have **E**verlasting life.”



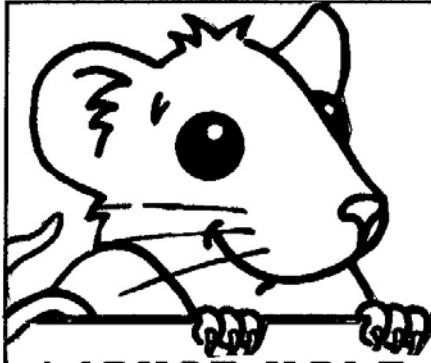
Gifts from the Heart

According to legend, a young man while roaming the desert came across a spring of delicious crystal-clear water. The water was so sweet he filled his leather canteen so he could bring some back to a tribal elder who had been his teacher. After a four-day journey he presented the water to the old man who took a deep drink, smiled warmly and thanked his student lavishly for the sweet water. The young man returned to his village with a happy heart.

Later, the teacher let another student taste the water. He spat it out, saying it was awful. It apparently had become stale because of the old leather container. The student challenged his teacher: "Master, the water was foul. Why did you pretend to like it?" The teacher replied, "You only tasted the water. I tasted the gift. The water was simply the container for an act of loving-kindness and nothing could be sweeter."

I think we understand this lesson best when we receive innocent gifts of love from young children. Whether it's a ceramic tray or a macaroni bracelet, the natural and proper response is appreciation and expressed thankfulness because we love the idea within the gift. Gratitude doesn't always come naturally. Unfortunately, most children and many adults value only the thing given rather than the feeling embodied in it. We should remind ourselves and teach our children about the beauty and purity of feelings and expressions of gratitude. After all, gifts from the heart are really gifts of the heart.

Michael Josephson



MOUSE HOLE



FIND THE MISSING HUSBANDS

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| MARY | BOAZ |
| SARAH | JACOB |
| RUTH | ZECHARIAH |
| REBEKAH | JOSEPH |
| RACHEL | ABRAHAM |
| ELIZABETH | ISAAC |



Use the clues to find the names. The last letter of one name is the first of the next name.

P			L	
				m

- Wrote 13 New Testament letters
- He wrote the third Gospel

I				
		R		

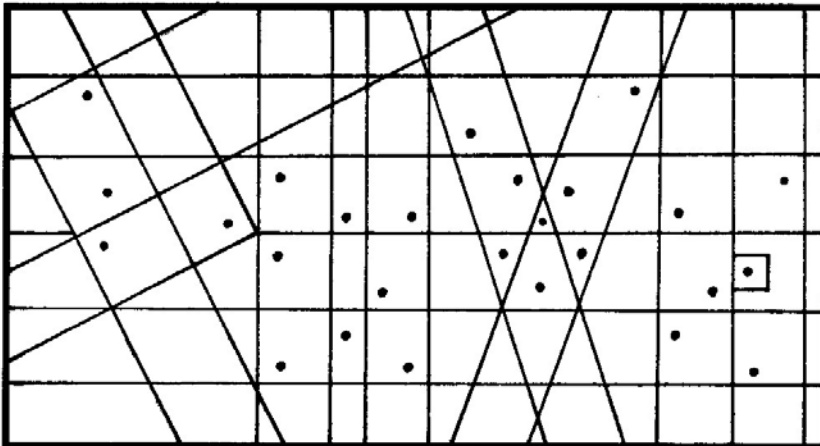
- Mother of John *Luke 1: 13*
- Sarai's servant *Genesis 16:1*

- Joseph's mother *Genesis 30:24*
- Wife turned to salt. *Genesis 19:26*

S				

- Paul's friend *2 Corinthians 8: 27*
- A brother of Jesus *Matthew 13: 55*

- Ruth's mother-in-law *Ruth 3: 1*



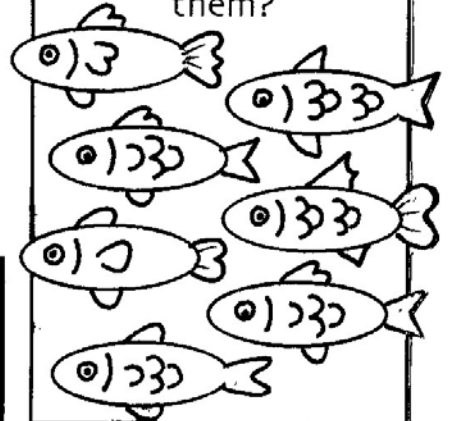
IT'S A PUZZLE!

God sent 9 plagues on Egypt. What were they? Change each letter to the one after it in the alphabet to find out.

- AKNNC
- EQNFR
- FMZSR
- EKHDR
- CHRDZRD
- OKZFTD
- GZHK
- KNBTRSR
- CZQJMDRR



The Disciples have been fishing and caught 2 fish the same, can you find them?



WHAT'S IN THE PICTURE?

Colour in all the shapes with a dot in to find out what Jesus wants us to do to each other.



February 2011

20th February 2011

Tuesday	1 st	St Mary's Ladies WP	2.15pm	St Mary's Hall
Wednesday	2 nd	RUSH	6.30pm	St Catherine's Hall
		Port Erin United Mens' Fellowship	7.30pm	Methodist Hall
		Mr John Bethell MBE (Living with Crotchets and Quavers))		
Friday	4 th	Prayer Group	9.30am	15 Close Cam
		Coffee Morning	10.00am	St Catherine's Hall
Tuesday	8 th	St Mary's Ladies WP	2.15pm	St Mary's Hall
Wednesday	9 th	RUSH	6.30pm	St Catherine's Hall
Friday	11 th	Prayer Group	9.30am	15 Close Cam
		Friendly Lunch (St Catherine's)	12 noon	St Catherine's Hall
Monday	14 th	Mothers' Union	2.00pm	St Mary's Hall
		Valentine's Day		
Tuesday	15 th	St Mary's Ladies WP	2.15pm	St Mary's Hall
Wednesday	16 th	RUSH	6.30pm	St Catherine's Hall
		Port Erin United Mens' Fellowship	7.30pm	Methodist Hall
		Mr Derek Hartley (Leprosy Mission))		
Friday	18 th	Prayer Group	9.30am	15 Close Cam
Sunday	20th	Last date for Magazine Articles		
Tuesday	22 nd	CAMEO	2.00pm	St Catherine's Hall
		St Mary's Ladies WP	2.15pm	St Mary's Hall
Friday	25 th	Prayer Group	9.30am	15 Close Cam
		Friendly Lunch (St Mary's)	12 noon	St Mary's Hall

Contact Details for Rushen Parish

Vicar

Vacancy

For any information regarding the parish contact 474924/834627

Readers

Mr Richard Clague, 4 Eagle Mews, Port Erin 834606
 Mr Harry Dawson, Thalloo Reagh, Cregneash 478050/835770
 Mr Cedric Owen, Sunnymount, Bradda Road, Port Erin 838022

Retired Clergy

Rev Anne Quilliam, 13 Raad-Ny-Gabbil, Castletown 822375
 Canon J.M Payne, Sunnydale Nursing Home, Douglas 626121
 Canon John Sheen, Kentraugh Mill, Colby 832406
 Rev Brian Shephard, Keayn Ard, Queens Rd, Port St Mary 833315

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, 1 Park Court, Athol Park, Port Erin 837862

PCC Secretary

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

PCC Treasurer

Mr Peter Vanderpump, 1 Bradda Glen Close, Port Erin 832567

More contact details on the inside of the back cover

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 Parties

St Catherine's, Port Erin

Rev Anne Quilliam, 13 Raad-Ny-Gabbil, Castletown 822375

St Mary's, Port St Mary

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

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

Magazine

Editor

Mr David Bowman, The Old Bakery, Qualtroughs Lane. 837117

Ballafesson, Port Erin

e-mail: dbow43@manx.net or dbow43@live.co.uk

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

Services February 2011

2 nd Feb	10.30am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)
6 th Feb	8am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Holy Communion (BCP)
9 th Feb	10.30am	St Mary's Holy Communion (BCP)
13 th Feb	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (BCP)
	11am	St Mary's Family Service
	11am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evensong
	6.30pm	St Mary's Evensong (BCP)
16 th Feb	10.30am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)
20 th Feb	8am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Kirk Christ Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Family Service
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evensong (BCP)
23 rd Feb	10.30am	St Mary's Holy Communion (BCP)
27 th Feb	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Morning Prayer
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evensong (BCP)
	6.30pm	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
2 nd Mar	10.30am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)

Please see the weekly pew sheet for the names of the Officiant at each service
 (CW) Common Worship (BCP) Book of Common Prayer