

Rushen Parish Magazine

January 2011



St Catherine's



St Peter's



Kirk Christ



St Mary's



Letter from the Editor

What a fiasco! It has actually snowed quite heavily just prior to the festive season and there is no doubt that it has disrupted the usual hurley burley in the run up to Christmas Day. For some, especially children, it must be a bonus, because they can get outside and use up some of that pent up energy that tends to build up during the lead up to their big day. For others though, it couldn't have come at a worse time. The older folk, especially those who have no means of transport other than the bus or taxis, don't like to venture outside in case they fall and damage themselves. They can't get to the shops to buy in their Christmas produce, nor to buy last minute Christmas gifts. In some cases those who need to get to the airport to travel to loved ones in the UK or elsewhere, it is a huge dilemma. It really has come at a bad time and there isn't a great deal we can do about it other than to give as much help as we can to those who might be in distress, or in need of company.

Unfortunately there are some people who aren't really too bothered about others. As far as they are concerned all that has to be done happens in their self-centred world and the needs of those crying out for help, doesn't trouble them at all. As many of you will know Pauline and I lived in Kent before we moved to the island. Whenever it snowed there it caused utter chaos. Living so close to the main route to the continent didn't help, Perhaps the worst aspect of snowbound Kent was the shelves in the supermarkets. Within minutes of the first flake, bread, milk and eggs were grabbed by eager people making sure that they were going to be alright. Other items of meat, fruit and vegetables disappeared too. Any chance of buying these commodities after work was impossible. The situation was indicative of the egotistical nature of a great many people in that part of the world. Mind you, it might be the same situation in other parts of the UK. How different it is here. Despite the present situation, there hasn't been a time when we have been into Shoprite when we have been unable to buy what we have needed. It is to the credit of the people living in this part of the island that they have not followed the selfish trait exhibited by some of the people of Kent.

Perhaps another example of the mindset of the people with whom we socialised was an incident which occurred during the Christmas period 2007. It happened in Canterbury, not too far from the cathedral. For those of you who don't know

Canterbury I can inform you that it has many homeless people who beg for money on the streets. This always touched Pauline and I and we were often compelled to give them money, even though we had no idea where this would ultimately be spent. On the occasion I mentioned earlier, we gave one quite poorly dressed young man a five pound note. His reaction was such that our Christmas that year was fulfilled. He was overjoyed, and so were we. When Pauline mentioned this incident in the staff room at her school, one particular member said that we were mad, and that our action was encouraging such beggars to drink and to buy drugs. It almost made us want to go back to Canterbury and give more!

There has to be a reason that makes people so selfish. I know that my parents taught me from a very young age that you should always put the needs of others before those of your own, and I think I have always followed that teaching. You certainly can't blame the schools. I have spent forty years of my life in a variety of schools, and the philosophy followed by them all has been to consider the needs of others before your own, and this has been instilled in the children. It could be that in this self-centred world in which we live, where materialism seems to be so important, the needs of others don't matter. There tends to be a culture of trying to better others by having the most up-to-date gadgets, and extremely expensive household appliances. It is such a shame that those of us who want to set the right example are over-shadowed by those who don't know how to.

As Christians we spend our lives trying to emulate the example that was set by Jesus. The gospels are full of stories of selfless deeds carried out by Him to assist those both hostile towards Him, and those who needed help. Similarly there are verses which give us the example which we should follow. Deuteronomy 15:1 states:

"There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land."

I am aware that this editorial is being read by those who follow the example of Jesus, but hopefully it will be read by others who might see how joyful it is to think of others before themselves. Perhaps this could be a New Year Resolution for us all. In the first instance we can all try that little harder to follow our Lord in all of our actions, and secondly we could say this prayer each day:

Lord, help me to identify those in need and work with them to meet it. May I be generous in giving of my time, my skill and my possessions. Help me to follow and imitate the example of Jesus. Amen.

I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year, and one where Jesus will continue to fulfil your life.

David Bowman



One More Step along the way...

Last Sunday I preached for the first time, though my husband would say I have been preaching at him for years! Anyway I thought it would be a good time to give you a bit of a progress report and, more importantly, to thank you all for your love, support and prayers.

For those who don't know, this journey towards being a Lay Reader had a few false starts. God's hand was always in it though. A year ago, just when I thought of giving up any idea of going forward for training the Lord knocked very loudly on the door. I just could not misinterpret that it was His will for me to do this. For weeks I had dreams about either preparing or giving a sermon. I had always been totally convinced that I could not do this, so you would have thought this would be a series of nightmares. But surprisingly these were very happy dreams. And so I stepped forward, trusting that He couldn't be wrong – could He! When the Church of England put obstacles in the way – procedural stuff resulting from being divorced and married to a divorced man – God was there again telling me this was His will! Of course the problems dissolved one by one and here I am approaching the end of my first term of a three year course.

Unlike previous Reader Training courses the emphasis with this one is to have lots of practical experience from day one. We are expected to be involved in services, leading worship or intercessions, at our placement church at least twice a month and to preach at least once per term. As we were about to enter an interregnum it was decided that I should be based in Castletown for my placement under Peter Robinson's watchful eye. Of course you didn't get rid of me quite that easily and I am still involved with prayer groups, pastoral visiting and a Home Group in Rushen Parish. I do miss St Mary's though – I felt such a part of the family there and it is a blessing when I can get back to worship with them.

The course itself is challenging, as you would expect. My first essay took a long time to complete and was, as I suspected, considered not academic enough. We were told at our induction that we should always remember that we were being trained for Ministry and not to get a first class degree and a pass was therefore all that was necessary. As my mark was well above the pass rate I was not too worried.

As for the practical side – well I think a quote from this morning's UCB reading says it all: "He equips you, empowers you and uses you for His glory." We have a wonderful Lord. Having been so convinced I could never preach yesterday was just a blessing. God gave me the words, the voice and then blessed with kind generous people in the congregation. It went well – how could it not when God was in charge.

I would like to encourage you all to listen for God's call. I believe he has a plan for everyone; we just need to listen for the call and then trust and obey. Never think you can't do it. Thank you again for all your encouragement in words and prayers.

Gerrie Sturgeon

To Celebrate a Life



My heart was heavy as I entered the church for a funeral this morning, quietly greeted friends in the foyer, and then moved on with my companion to an empty seat. The dim interior of the large sanctuary was a sharp contrast to the glorious sunshine and clear blue sky outside. Birds trilled in trees fragrant with the blossoms of spring. Saturday morning traffic moved rapidly down the street toward the mall drivers unaware of the mourners inside the big

church on the corner.

The casket rested in front of the altar surrounded by baskets and sprays of flowers. Jake's large family filed into the section reserved for them as the organist played. I watched as a large, bearded man moved to sit near the organist, an unusual instrument in his hand. He settled into the seat and turned to the pulpit, as did the rest of us when the minister began to speak. "I'm here to honour the requests of this fine man who fought hard in his battle with cancer. We had many visits these past months, and he asked me to do three things in this service. First, he asked that the service not be sad. Make it a celebration of life, he said. Second, he told me to keep it short. And I shall do so."

The pastor recited many warm and humorous anecdotes that illustrated the exemplary life of the deceased. He captured the wisdom and kindness of the man, while family and friends listened intently. Hymns were sung, scripture read, and prayers said. It was truly a celebration. Throughout the service, the sadness I was feeling lessened more and more, and I found myself smiling rather than crying. Finally, the clergyman leaned forward as he said, "And now, for that third request. Jake asked if bagpipes could be played in church." All eyes watched as the bearded man in front stood, lifted his bagpipes and played "Amazing Grace" with sweetness and skill and a depth of feeling that reverberated throughout the sanctuary. The great organ accompanied him but only as a background. Red cords and ribbons fluttered from the pipes as the music filled our hearts and souls. It was a memorable farewell tribute to a man, who was well known in our community and deeply loved by his family and many friends.

My feet carried me swiftly to the doors of the church. My heavy heart had lightened considerably inside the church. I was eager to reach the fresh spring morning air, in a hurry to see the azure sky and hear the birds again. We had done more than mourn a man's passing this morning. We had celebrated his living, and, suddenly, I could not wait to see God's beautiful world once again -evidence that life does, indeed, go on.

Nancy Kopp

Ladies Working Party – St Mary's



We are pleased to say that this past year has been a successful one, due to the dedication of the ladies involved in all the events we put on during the year. This means we are able to keep the Church Hall in good condition and also to help the church financially when jobs have to be done there. It is always difficult to keep making money, but harder still in these more difficult times, but everyone is always generous at all times and with all the support given over the past twelve months.

The articles for the magazine have to be in earlier this month due to the heavy load of extra Services etc. which our editor is involved in. I would like to thank Mr Bowman for his patience with me as I slowly move into the computer era. I will try to improve by next year! The Ladies always reward themselves with an outing before Christmas and we thank Judith for arranging a kitty several weeks before the event, thus taking the pain out of the day by finding we have saved enough to have a free meal! This event took place when 23 of us went to the 'Harbourside Restaurant' in Port St Mary for a midday Christmas Lunch, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. We will be meeting on the 14th December to decorate the church and have a cup of tea before having a break. I think we will restart on the 11th January 2011, but keep watching the pew sheet!

It was good news yesterday to hear that our retired Vicar has had her operation and it has been successful. We wish her a long and healthy retirement.

To everyone I would like to send my love and thanks for all their support throughout the past year and to say a Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Love and Prayers Brenda

The Lord's My Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."



St Mary's Sunday School

In preparation for our November Family Service, we had a hunt to discover the many names of Jesus. We made crowns ready to celebrate 'Christ the King' the following week. During the service we walked down the aisle to 'At the name of Jesus' Jesus' and made a display board of the names we held aloft. Cedric

talked of kings and kingship, having once again prepared an excellent service sheet. The children donned their crowns to walk to the back of the church as the congregation sang 'Make way, make way, for Christ the King'.

This month, as we light our third Advent candle, we celebrate the life of John from birth to baptism. The choir will sing Zechariah's song – the Benedictus, and Mary's song – the Magnificat. There will be angels at the two birth announcements and John, in camel hair, will baptise Jesus. The lectionary reading from Matthew sums up the purpose of John's birth.

We look forward to hosting the Crib Service at four o'clock on Christmas Eve.

Sue Maddrell

St Catherine's Sunday School

It was a cold snowy winter's day when the children performed their Christmas Nativity play. It was touch and go as to whether it would ever get off the ground! There were only a few rehearsals to start with, and not all the children were able to get to them all. Nevertheless, despite the weather, it was decided to perform 'Babushka'. This is a tale of an old Russian woman who was visited by the Three Wise Men on their journey to Bethlehem to give gifts to the Christ Child. They told Babushka of the birth and she too wanted to visit Jesus. The three men stayed at her house during the day as they had been following a bright star during the night time. While they slept Babushka busily tidied her cottage so that it would be spick and span before she left to see Jesus.

When night fell the wise men told her to finish tidying and to go with them, but she was not ready. She was still tidying her house. So they left without her. She told them that she would follow them as soon as he could. The three men found the Christ child and gave Him gifts. Babushka finished her chores and left to find the place that she had been told about by the wise men. She took a basket of toys with her. She searched and searched and eventually found the stable where Jesus had been born. Alas He had been taken by His parents to Egypt and she had missed Him. She was

very sad and the story tells us that she is still searching. In fact it tells us that she leaves a present for each house she visits where there is a child in case that child is the one she was searching for.

The children and some adults acted the parts. The congregation took part as well. Those who had lines to learn remembered them very well and spoke loudly so that everyone could hear. It was a wonderful occasion which the children will hopefully remember for a long time.

Margaret Gregory was the Officiant at the service and she used the story to illustrate the real meaning of giving at Christmas time. The service itself was a joy to have attended and those who braved the icy conditions were given a treat. Thank you so much Sunday School.

With Love from St Catherine's

Report from Port St Mary Home Group

With some trepidation we embarked this autumn on a study of Book of Revelation. Cedric gave us a wonderful introduction, helping us to see beyond the apocalyptic imagery that can just leave us baffled.

The study guide we are using suggested a quick read through Chapters 1-3. We felt that we would benefit from looking at the letters to the 7 churches in some depth – a decision which we feel we have all benefited from. There has been so much to learn as the messages for the churches have given us an insight into the church today. We need to be mindful of the warnings in these chapters about having zeal but no love, being seduced by false teachings, being lukewarm in our obedience or lazy in our faith. The outcomes of which are clearly detailed in John's revelation. Perhaps the main message that we have taken is to remember that God is in control and that the faithful will be rewarded and protected when Jesus returns as judge and king. We have ears and so we must hear!

If you have ever wondered about joining a Home Group, why not come along? Others have come to "just see" and found that, to their surprise, it really "is for them". So if you'd like to "come see" – please join us when we start again on January 10th when we will be looking at Revelation chapter 4. We meet at 10am each Monday morning at 10 Chapel Court, Gellings Ave., Port St Mary, the home of Sheila Ashworth. We would love to see you there.

Gerrie Sturgeon

News from St Catherine's

We had a wonderful afternoon of fellowship at our Christmas Bazaar for St Catherine's Church on Saturday 27th November. Canon Judith Ley was our opener and she did such a good job as usual of opening our event. She went round the hall talking to stall holders and people supporting our event and everyone I have spoken with since said how much they enjoyed the afternoon. Judith is a good friend to Rushen Parish. I just send her details of what we have coming up and she mentions them on her radio programme, and these are also given out over the air by other presenter's programmes whenever possible. We thank her for being with us on the day which raised £750 towards church funds.

We are looking forward now to our Christmas Family Service on 19th December. Our Sunday School teachers and the children have a Christmas treat in store for us. No one has told me what it is so I hope as many of our congregation, along with others, will be at St Catherine's Church on the 19th to support their efforts. Also on this day at 6.30pm Kirk Christ have their Candlelight Carol Service.

I do hope everyone has a lovely Christmas, and may God be with us and bless us as we move into the new year. We hope that it will be a happy one for us all.

PS: Norma's operation is set for the 10th December. We pray that all will go well on this day. We do have a date pencilled in for her retirement celebrations. God willing we hope that this can go ahead on the planned date and time. Look out for more details in next month's magazine.

Gerry Callister

I have been asked to publish the following statement from Gerry. I really don't want to but after much discussion with Pauline I feel that I ought:

"I am writing this in the hope that our editor will publish this small thank you. I would like on behalf of us all in Rushen Parish to thank David Bowman for all he contributes to help us in our parish life. Not only does he edit and print our parish magazine but he has just provided us with a very nice and useful Christmas card to distribute around the parish. David and Pauline also help the Sunday School and I know that this is much appreciated by teachers and pupils. Thank you both so much, and we wish you both a very Happy Christmas and New Year."

In response I would like to thank Gerry for his kind comments which are much appreciated. Both Pauline and I love helping the parish and will continue to do so. If our tiny contribution helps to bring the knowledge of Jesus into the hearts of those who are not yet sure, or don't even know of His wonderful existence, then it will all have been worthwhile.

God Bless (Editor)



What do we know about Jesus' birth?

Best
Of
Luck!

Answers to Christmas Quiz

As the subject is still fresh in your minds the following questions are all connected with the birth of Jesus:

1. What does the name *Emmanuel* mean?
2. What did the prophet Micah say about Jesus' birth?
3. The angel said to Mary that Jesus would reign over the house of which Old Testament character?
4. What was the name of the old prophetess who saw Jesus in the temple when he was presented to the Lord after his birth?
5. Which Caesar decreed that all the world should take part in the census?
6. What did Joseph want to do when he discovered Mary was pregnant?
7. Which prophet said, "Out of Egypt have I called my son"?
8. How long did Jesus remain in Egypt?
9. Who said, "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and glory of thy people Israel," when he saw Jesus?
10. What sacrifice did Mary and Joseph offer when the days of purification were complete after Jesus' birth?

1. seasons greetings
2. advent
3. nativity play
4. hark
5. star
6. Boxing day
7. O Come all ye faithful
8. chimney
9. stockings
10. present
11. reindeer
12. silent night
13. decorations
14. elves
15. fairy lights
16. Bethlehem
17. innkeeper
18. party
19. cracker
20. mistletoe
21. Holly & Ivy
22. Christmas Rose
23. bauble
24. poinsettia
25. pantomime
26. walnut
27. Queens speech
28. mandarin
29. Gold
30. Satsuma
31. myrrh
32. donkey
33. punch
34. chestnuts
35. mince pies
36. frankincense
37. Turkey
38. January sixth

HAVE FAITH in GOD

10

Recipe for a Miracle

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.



1 cup Tension
2 cups Stress
1 ½ teaspoons of Guilt
2 heaping cups of Limited Time
¾ tablespoon of Urgency
A dash of "No Other Choice"
3 heaping cups of Faith



Fold ingredients gently into a bowl. Mix vigorously and add a few tears. You'll sweat a little as you knead the dough. Pack it firmly between your hopes and dreams and form into a perfect little ball. Sprinkle it with a little faith (I recommend Hebrews 11), rolling the ball in the flour until fully covered.

Place it under a veil of belief and allow it to rise.

Put it in an oven that has been pre-set at the perfect temperature for the heat of trials and tribulations.

Allow it to brown under the warmth of God's love. Remove after due season and allow to cool in the confidence of His promise.

Garnish with your praises. Arrange neatly on a platter of thankfulness and serve to friends, families and, oh yes, strangers . . . invite them too!

Pass on the recipe to all who request it and let them know that with this recipe, they have the makings of a miracle!

Author Unknown

Church Chuckles

A vicar was trying to help his people to see the difference between fact and faith. He said that I am standing in this pulpit is fact; that you are sitting in the pews is also fact; but that any of you is listening to what I am saying is an act of faith.

The Bishop's Gift



Once a church had fallen upon hard times. Only five members were left: the priest and four others, all over 60 years old.

In the mountains near the church there lived a retired Bishop. It occurred to the priest to ask the Bishop if he could offer any advice that might save the church. The priest and the Bishop spoke at length, but when asked for advice,

the Bishop simply responded by saying, "I have no advice to give. The only thing I can tell you is that the Messiah is one of you."

The pastor, returning to the church, told the church members what the Bishop had said. In the months that followed, the old church members pondered the words of the Bishop. "The Messiah is one of us?" they each asked themselves. As they thought about this possibility, they all began to treat each other with extraordinary respect on the off chance that that one among them might be the Messiah. And on the off chance that each member himself might be the Messiah, they also began to treat themselves with extraordinary care.

As time went by, people visiting the church noticed the aura of respect and gentle kindness that surrounded the five old members of the small church. Hardly knowing why, more people began to come back to the church. They began to bring their friends, and their friends brought more friends. Within a few years, the small church had once again become a thriving church, thanks to the Bishop's gift.

Author Unknown

Smiling

*Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the 'flu.
When somebody smiled at me today
I started smiling too.*

*I passed around the corner
And someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realised
I'd passed it on to him.*

*I thought about the smile
When I realised its worth.
A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth.*

*If you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic
And get the world infected.*

<p>Rushen Parish Churchwardens' Meeting With the Bishop and Rural Dean 1st December 2010</p>
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1. Negotiations are taking place with the Crown about appointments to Crown livings. The current system is that the Bishop asks permission to appoint, advertises, interviews, selects and then asks for permission from the crown to appoint a cleric. Hopefully a swifter system will soon be put in place which will give the Crown a job to do in the interviewing and selection, and a swifter process of approval.
2. Meanwhile the Bishop has asked the Crown for permission to suspend the benefice for 5 years, which will enable us to make an appointment and leave open the possibility of developing the relationship with the Malew and Castletown groups – the Vicar of Malew retires on Easter Day 2011.
3. Therefore I will advertise for a Priest in Charge of the Parish of Rushen who will be willing to be flexible about the possibilities for the future, which may mean no change or might mean, at the most extreme, the creation of a Team Ministry in the Southern Mission Partnership.
4. As a result of a number of advertisements in the Church Times (the latest one responded to by 27 clerics), we now have a list of about a dozen clergy who have expressed an interest in coming to the Diocese and about whom the Bishop has received good references from their current bishops. In the first instance, we will simply advertise internally and on the website, and offer the parish a name or names from the list. This will speed up the process.
5. Meanwhile the Rural Dean takes charge of the Parish and will chair or delegate the chair of PCC meetings. He will be one of the sequestrators and the Archdeacon, the Rural Dean and the Bishop need to be notified of the name of the parish sequestrator.
6. The Archdeacon (who is ill and apologises for his absence) wishes to arrange a meeting with the PCC as soon as possible in order to fulfil its mandatory obligations and to begin with what we hope will be swift drafting of the Parish Profile and Person Specification.
7. I am going to designate Mr Gerry Callister as the conduit for correspondence between the Churchwardens and PCC and the Bishop. He has asked Gerry to convene regular meetings of the Churchwardens and licensed Readers during the vacancy.

Cont'd

8. I am going to designate Mr Gerry Callister as the conduit for correspondence between the Churchwardens and PCC and the Bishop. He has asked Gerry to convene regular meetings of the Churchwardens and licensed Readers during the vacancy.
9. Churchwardens are the officers of the Bishop and it is to the Bishop you are responsible. The Bishop does not wish to get pestered with detail but does wish to be informed of serious matters relating to the parish – in writing, if possible.
10. All the policies and practice of the previous Vicar remain in force until the next incumbent is licensed.
11. Has a provisional date in 2011 been set for a celebration of Norma's ministry?

+Robert Sodor as Mannin

CMS News from Sudan

Mission Partner Patricia Wick asks for prayer for the referendum due in January 2011, when a vote will take place to determine whether Southern Sudan will remain part of a united Sudan, or separate and become an independent state. "Pray that the referendum will be peaceful and the result accepted by all."

More than 400 pupils in Beliak are benefiting from a brand new primary school. Mission partner and engineer Garry Ion, who drew up the plans for the school six years ago, says, "Students used to sit under mango trees for their lessons. The new facility has eight classrooms, offices and latrines. Prayers have been answered; the impossible is possible." Garry is supported by St Catherine's Church.

Kathleen Trustrum

Say a Prayer

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. "Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother. "I don't need to," the boy replied. "Of course, you do." his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "That's at our house," Johnny explained. "but this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!"

The Flower Gift



The park bench was deserted as I sat down to read beneath the long, straggly branches of an old willow tree. I was disillusioned by life with good reason to frown, for the world was intent on dragging me down. And if that wasn't enough to ruin my day, a young boy who was out of breath approached me, all tired from play. He stood right before me with

his head tilted down and said with great excitement, "Look what I found!" In his hand was a flower, and what a pitiful sight it was. Its petals were all worn; it had obviously had little rain, and not much light.

Wanting him to take his dead flower and go off to play, I faked a small smile and moved away. Instead of retreating the boy sat next to my side and placed the flower to his nose and declared with surprise, "It sure smells pretty and it's beautiful, too. That's why I picked it. I did it for you." The weed before me was dying or dead, but I knew I must take it, or he might never leave. So I reached for the flower, and replied, "Just what I need." Instead of him placing the flower in my hand he held it up into the air. It was then that I noticed that the boy holding the weed could not see. He was blind. I heard my voice quiver and tears began to form in my eyes. I thanked him for picking the very best flower. "You're welcome," he smiled, and then ran off to play; unaware of the impact he'd had on my day.

I sat there and wondered how he managed to see a self-pitying woman beneath an old willow tree. How did he know of my self-indulged plight? Perhaps from his heart, he'd been blessed with true sight.

Through the eyes of a blind child, at last I could see the problem was not with the world; the problem was with me, and for all of those times I myself had been blind, I vowed to see beauty, and appreciate every second that's mine.

And then I held that wilted flower up to my nose and breathed in the fragrance of a beautiful rose and smiled as that young boy, another weed in his hand, was about to change the life of an unsuspecting old man.

Author Unknown

For those in peril...

Before the Baptism the organist was playing softly as a voluntary the hymn "Eternal Father strong to save". Suddenly the vicar said: "Tell Ted we're here to baptise – not drown them."

Journey Through Life

As we start off a new year,
I will be trying not to fear;
What the future lies ahead,
Or where last year has led.

For God watches over me,
He lights the dark for to see;
And any obstacles in the way,
He guides me without delay.

He gives peace in my heart,
Patience from the very start;
Even when I was a little boy,
His Spirit was giving me joy.

No matter where I had gone,
I praised Him each new dawn;
Knowing to be within His plan,
So thinking positive that I can.

I continue with every breath,
Until this life has seen death;
It is when He calls me home,
And no longer will I roam.

Richard Sherrer

Prayer for those who Live Alone

I live alone dear Lord, stay by my
side;
In all my daily needs, be Thou my
guide;
Grant me good health, for that
indeed I pray
To carry on my tasks from day to
day.
Keep pure my thoughts, my every
deed;
Let me be kind, unselfish in my
neighbour's need.
Spare me from fire, from flood,
malicious tongues,
From thieves and fear of evil ones.
If sickness or an accident befall, then
humbly Lord
I pray thee, hear my call.
And if I'm feeling low or in despair
Lift up my heart and hear me in my
prayer.
I live alone, dear Lord, yet have no
fear
Because I feel your presence near.

Source Unknown

Words that could be used before Personal Prayer

*Spirit of God,
calm all my fears;
strengthen my thoughts
with knowledge of you*

*Spirit of God,
forgive all my sins;
cleanse me, O Lord,
create me anew.*

*Spirit of God,
empty my heart;*

*empty my heart,
and fill it with you.*

*Spirit of God,
peace from above,
descend on me gently
on wings of a dove.*

*Spirit of God,
come to me now.
Come to me now.
I am waiting.....Amen*

New Year Poem

Today is our's – let's live it.
 And love is strong - let's give it.
 A song can help – let's sing it.
 The past is gone – don't rue it.
 Our work is here – let's do it.
 The world is wrong – let's right it.
 If evil comes – let's fight it.
 The road is rough – let's clear it.
 The future vast – don't fear it.
 Is faith asleep? – let's wake it.
 Today is free- let's take it.

Unknown

Epiphany



Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take twelve whole months,
 Clean them thoroughly of all
 bitterness, hate, and jealousy,
 Make them just as fresh and clean
 as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-
 eight, thirty, or
 thirty-one different parts,
 but don't make up the whole batch
 at once.

Prepare it one day at a time out of
 these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of
 faith,
 one part of patience, one part of
 courage,
 and one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope,
 faithfulness, generosity, and
 kindness.
 Blend with one part prayer,
 one part meditation, and one good
 deed.

Season the whole with a dash of
 good spirits,
 a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play,
 and a cupful of good humour.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love.
 Cook thoroughly over radiant joy,
 garnish with a smile,
 and serve with quietness,
 unselfishness,
 and cheerfulness.

You're bound to have a happy new
 year.

Unknown



Rushen Mothers' Union

We have just had our last meeting for this year and it was lovely to have a good number of friends from our various churches in the Parish. The "Garland for Christmas," started many years ago when Mrs Doris Maddrell had the idea and arranged the whole afternoon without help. Now all the people who read, bring something different to the afternoon. and it never ceases to amaze me

how we never get two the same! Thank you to the members for the wonderful plates of food that you brought and put on the table - a wonderful selection of savouries and cakes etc. This was appreciated at the end of the meeting by everyone, and also today by the Ladies Working Party, who were able to enjoy what was left. Everyone there agreed that the garland must keep going for many more years!

The Diocesan Advent service on the 5th December, at Arbory Church, was well attended and it was a great honour to have the York Provincial President with us and to gave us the address. Lynn, who says she loves the island, said she was thrilled to be back here. The Lord Bishop was also with us before dashing back to Douglas to light the Lights on the Hospice Christmas Tree, his lovely wife was with us as well. At the end of the afternoon the ladies from Arbory Mothers' Union served mince pies and mulled wine. A big thank you to Arbory for hosting us all! I think having it on a Sunday afternoon was very successful.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday the 10th January 2011, at two 'clock in St Catherine's Hall , Port Erin, where our well known Speaker, Mrs. Joyce Corlett, will give us a talk called, "Music Makes Friends" Everyone is welcome to come along and join us. We pray the weather will be kind to us all by then and I look forward to seeing you all. I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Blessed New Year, with Health and Happiness.

**With Love
Brenda
Branch Leader**





Lessons from a Dandelion

I recall as a young child bringing bouquets of brilliant yellow flowers to my mother. It didn't matter that the stems felt sticky or that both my parents cursed the presence of these flowers in the lawn. I thought they were beautiful!

And there were so many of them! We spent hours picking the flowers and then popping the blossoms off with a snap of our fingers. But the supply of dandelions never ran out. My father or brothers would chop off all the heads with the lawn mower at least once a week, but that didn't stop these hardy wonders. And for those flowers that escaped the honour of being hand-delivered to my mother or the sharp blades of the lawn mower, there was another level of existence.

The soft, round puffs of a dandelion gone to seed caused endless giggles and squeals of delight as we unwittingly spread this flower across the yard.

As I worked in my garden last week, pulling unwanted weeds out of the space that would become a haven for tomatoes, corn, peas and sunflowers, I again marvelled at the flower that some call a weed. And I thought, "If only I had the staying power of a dandelion."

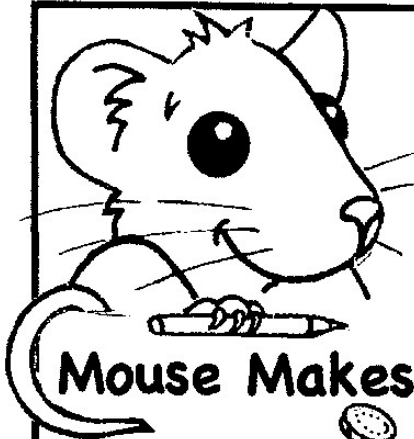
If only I could stretch my roots so deep and straight that something tugging on my stem couldn't separate me completely from the source that feeds me life. If only I could come back to face the world with a bright, sunny face after someone has run me over with a lawnmower or worse, purposely attacked me in an attempt to destroy me. If only my foliage was a nutritious source of vitamins that help others grow. If only I could spread love and encouragement as freely and fully as this flower spreads seeds of itself.

The lawns at my parents' homes are now beautiful green blankets. The only patches of colour come from well-placed, well-controlled flowerbeds. Chemicals have managed to kill what human persistence couldn't.

I hope you and I can be different. I hope that we can stretch our roots deep enough that the strongest poison can't reach our souls. I hope that we can overcome the poisons of anger, fear, hate, criticism and competitiveness. I hope that we can see flowers in a world that sees weeds.

Donna Doyon

Children's Page



Mouse Makes

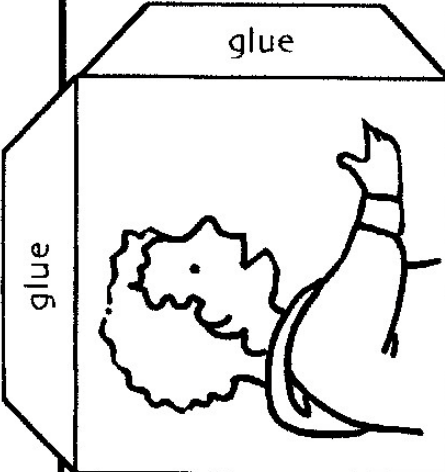
Share a little of what God has given you and help other children in the world who are in great need. Make this little money box to save some pennies or other coins in. When full send it on to a charity that helps others.

glue
"Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifice God is pleased".
Hebrews 13:16
cut out

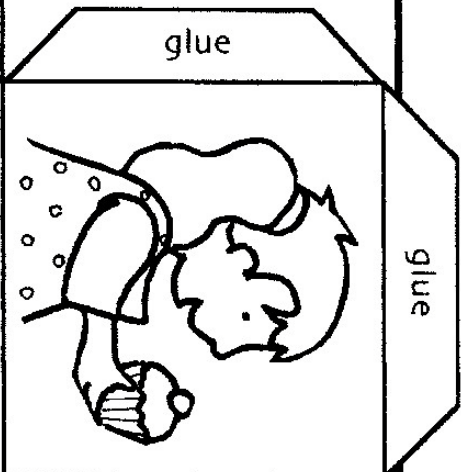


God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause'
2 Corinthians 9:8

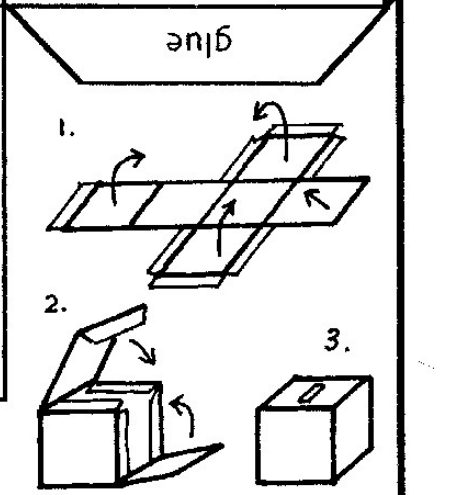
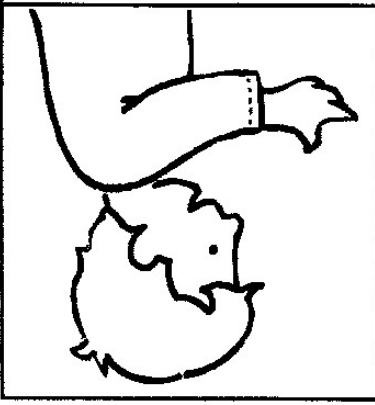
Jesus said "As I have loved you, so you must love one another"
John 13:34



"Lord, help us to remember and to give thanks for all that you have done for us"



Enlarge this page by 140% and print out onto a sheet of card. Cut around the outside then ask an adult to cut out the coin slot. Colour in. Fold along the lines and glue together to make a cube.



Conversion of St Paul 25th January

January 2011

Wednesday	5 th	Play & Praise Port Erin United Mens' Fellowship Mr Andrew Foxon (Things aint what they used to be)	2.00pm 7.30pm	St Mary's Methodist Hall
Monday	10 th	Mothers' Union Mrs Joyce Corlett (Music Makes Friendship)	2.00pm	St Catherine's Hall
Tuesday	11 th	St Mary's Ladies WP	2.15pm	St Mary's Hall
Wednesday	12 th	RUSH	6.30pm	St Catherine's Hall
Friday	14 th	Friendly Lunch (St Catherine's)	12 noon	St Catherine's Hall
Tuesday	18 th	St Mary's Ladies WP	2.15pm	St Mary's Hall
Wednesday	19 th	RUSH Port Erin United Mens' Fellowship Rev'd Shirley Bench (National American Spirituality)	6.30pm 7.30pm	St Catherine's Hall Methodist Hall
Thursday	20th	Last date for Magazine Articles		
Tuesday	25 th	CAMEO St Mary's Ladies WP	2.00pm 2.15pm	St Catherine's Hall St Mary's Hall
Wednesday	26 th	RUSH	6.30pm	St Catherine's Hall
Friday	28 th	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, Cubbon House, Marathon Rd. Douglas 672316

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, Pony Fields, Port Erin 835249

PCC Treasurer

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

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Mrs Heather Cornwell-Kelly, Mellray, Gansey, Port St Mary	836913
Mr Malachy Cornwell-Kelly, (as above)	461937/836913
Mr Harry Dawson, Thalloo Reagh, Cregneash	478050/835770
Mr Cedric Owen, Sunnymount, Bradda Road, Port Erin	838022

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Canon John Sheen, Kentraugh Mill, Colby	832406
Rev Brian Shephard, Keayn Ard, Queens Rd, Port St Mary	833315

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PCC Secretary

Mrs Joan Fleetney, 43 Magherchirrym, Pony Fields, Port Erin	835249
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PCC Treasurer

Mr Peter Vanderpump, 1 Bradda Glen Close, Port Erin	832567
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Articles for the February 2011 magazine should be submitted to the editor no later than 20th January 2011.

Services January 2011

29 th Dec	10.30am	St Mary's Holy Communion (BCP)
2 nd Jan	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)
5 th Jan	10.30am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)
	11.45am	Southlands Holy Communion
	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise
9 th Jan	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 Evening Prayer (BCP)
	6.30pm	St Mary's Evensong
12 th Jan	10.30am	St Mary's Holy Communion (BCP)
16 th Jan	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 Evening Prayer (BCP)
19 th Jan	10.30am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)
23 rd Jan	9.30am	Kirk Christ Holy Communion (CW)
	11am	St Mary's Morning Prayer (CW)
	11am	St Catherine's Morning Prayer (CW)
	3.15pm	St Peter's Evening Prayer (BCP)
	6.30pm	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
26 th Jan	10.30am	St Mary's Holy Communion (BCP)
30 th Jan	11am	Kirk Christ Parish Christingle Service

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