

Rushen Parish Magazine

March 2011



St David – 1st March



St Catherine's



St Peter's



Kirk Christ



St Mary's



ZX81

Letter from the Editor

Thirty years ago we were introduced to one of the first types of personal computer. It was called the ZX81, and whilst it didn't do a great deal you could, if you owned one, programme into its memory various commands which, if you managed to do it correctly, resulted in a very simple game which you could play by yourself or with a friend. You had to attach the computer to a television in order to play the game. My children, just like many others at that time, wanted one, and because of peer pressure ended up with later that year. Magazines were crammed with programmes to type into the computer's memory, and as time passed by they became more sophisticated. The trouble was that the computer had no means of storing the information that you typed into its memory, so every time you wanted to play a game you had to painstakingly programme the commands into the computer before getting the chance to play it. In addition, some of the more complicated games needed more memory, and this required the computer to have an attachment plugged into it. It was all very time-consuming, and it wasn't very long before the novelty wore off and the computer put away for future use.

Following this first computer were many other initiatives all of which were improvements. Computers were developed so that you could save the programme that was typed into its memory. Every school in the UK was offered a BBC computer and this enabled the user to type in his/her work and save it on to a tape cassette. This could then be retrieved some time later and added to if it was thought necessary. Eventually printers were developed so that saved work could be printed and used in project work, or presented as homework.

Today, some thirty years later, most households have a computer. Some of these are big and bulky, and some quite small. Even mobile phones have the capacity to be used as a computer. Such computers are used for a variety of things from word processing, data handling and spreadsheets, to using the internet, where at the touch of a few buttons we can find out information which was never at our finger tips in years gone by. We can contact our bankers to find out our account balance within seconds, as well as sending a short message to someone thousands of miles away. All this because someone, somewhere, had a vision of what the future might hold, and set in motion a number of initiatives which other people have developed.

Many years ago Pauline and I had to travel to London from Kent to visit our son in hospital. This was a daily event which meant that our car never seemed to have a rest.

On one of those occasions, on a cold and rather rainy evening, we were travelling home when the car broke down. The exhaust had blown and it would not have been sensible to carry on. We were travelling on a road where telephones were few and far between, and mobile phones owned only by the rich and famous. We were well and truly stranded and our only hope was a knight in shining armour to come our rescue. We waited, for what seemed to be an eternity, for someone to stop and at least offer some help. Eventually someone did and, believe it or not, he had a mobile phone. He was able to contact the AA for us so that its representative could take the action we needed, and also gave us the opportunity to talk to our other two boys at home who were becoming very anxious as to our whereabouts. He also checked that we were okay before leaving us to wait for the breakdown recovery team. We were so thankful to that gentleman, who we would never see again, and also for the technology that enabled him to assist us in what was a stressful situation.

Over the past year I have been using wire-free technology both with my computer and my printer. It means that I have no wires attaching both of them to anything. This editorial will somehow travel through thin air to my printer and will be printed as I see it now. I can use the internet and still there are no wires attached, and I can write a letter to someone which can be received within seconds, even if the receiver lives on the other side of the world. I find it so intriguing and ingenious that I wonder what will be the next invention to surpass it. Mind you, computers can break down, and when they do they can cause chaos, especially if they are used to assist us in our daily lives.

Strangely enough all this technology is nothing compared with what we have been given by Jesus, and it has been with us for over 2,000 years. It has been wire free in all that time and it doesn't need a machine, or a monitor, in order to use it. It far supersedes anything that man has invented so far, or will ever create in the future. It is a means of communication which enables us to talk to God through prayer and praise. We can tell Him anything we want to, we can ask Him for what we need, and we can request forgiveness for all of our indiscretions. He hears us immediately and He answers us every time. Sometimes His response may not be what we expect, but it will be pertinent and enable us to move forward with our lives and make us better people. This guarantee is provided for everyone, and it is everlasting. Let us prepare ourselves, as Lent approaches, to talk to God through prayer, and know that He will listen to us and act accordingly. How wonderful it is we have such a wire free guarantee which will never fail us, and never break down. Amen

David Bowman



Push Against the Rock

A man was sleeping at night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light and the Saviour appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might.

This the man did, day after day. For many years he toiled from sun up to sun down, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing it with all his might. Each night the man returned to his cabin sore, and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Noticing that the man was showing signs of discouragement, the adversary decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the man's weary mind. "You have been pushing against this rock for a long time, and it hasn't budged. Why kill yourself over this? You are never going to move it." thus giving the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These troubling thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man. "Why kill myself over this?" I'll just put in my time, giving just the minimum effort and that will be good enough.

And that is what he planned to do until one day he decided to make it a matter of prayer and take his thoughts to the Lord. "Lord" he said, "I have laboured long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even been able to budge that rock. What is wrong? Why am I failing?" The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But, is that really so?"

"Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back sinewy and brown, your hands are callused from constant pressure, and your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. Yet you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in my wisdom. This you have done. I, my friend, will now move the rock." At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is simple obedience and Faith in Him...

Author Unknown

The Buzzard, the Bat, and the Bumblebee



If you put a buzzard in a pen six or eight feet square and entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of his ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of ten or twelve feet. Without space to run, as is his habit, he will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top. The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkably nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

A bumblebee if dropped into an open tumbler will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

In many ways, there are lots of people like the buzzard, the bat, and the bee. They are struggling about with all their problems and frustrations, not realising that the answer is right there..."above" them...

Have a wonderful day and don't forget to look up!

Author Unknown

*Dear Lord
So far today I have done alright.
I haven't gossiped,
Haven't lost my temper,
Haven't been greedy, nasty or selfish or overindulgent.
I am really glad about all that.
But Lord, in a few minutes, I am going to get out of bed
And from then on
I am really going to need your help!*

Ladies Working Party – St Mary’s



Despite some very wet and windy Tuesday afternoons the Ladies all seem to arrive with smiling faces greeting each other with such friendliness that it makes it all worthwhile to have it each Tuesday. I think a stranger calling in would wonder why we still call ourselves, the Working Party for it would appear at a glance that we were just sitting talking and enjoying a cup of tea and biscuits! But I do assure you the word work is very appropriate for this band of Ladies! We do keep in touch with people no longer able to come

along, and some of those friends do get regular visits and it is great to hear on one of my visits to Hettie to hear, at almost 90 years, she has started going to swimming for the disabled each Tuesday and is finding she is enjoying swimming again! Muriel in Southlands is busy knitting squares in bright colours and when put together make wonderful blankets for her great grandson's bed! The smaller ones I take to the Premature Baby unit in Nobles and these are really welcome for the small babies, and given to the mums to take home with them. So it is so important that these Tuesdays continue. We will be busy this week getting ready for the Friendly Lunch on Friday 25th March. All the pies and soups are homemade, and there is always an amazing selection each time. The money we raise is kept by the Ladies and gradually passed on to the church each time that there any repairs to be done. During Lent, when two lunches are held, we give this away to two Island charities. So you can see we are the “working Party”

Last week we hosted the Parish Meeting for the Leprosy Mission when our friend Mr Derek Hartley gave us a wonderful presentation on the work which is going on in India by the charity. If caught in time Leprosy can be cured for the small amount of £15, the cost of the tablets. It was interesting to hear that they do a lot of fund raising themselves in India which was good to know. Derek had also brought along a large selection of Christmas cards. Most of the ladies now have a great supply ready for Christmas 2011! There were goods as well, so sales were brisk. We had a small Bring and Buy stall which was to help with our giving to this worth while charity. We had a receipt, two days later, to say that we had raised £385 which was excellent. Thank you to everyone for their support. Keep putting money in your box each week, and saving the stamps, which sell for a lot of money. There were bags and bags of stamps from St. Catherines Sunday School and friends. The date to remember for Mr. Hartley's visit next year will be 14th February 2012 and again the venue will be St.Mary's Hall, it will be an open meeting for any to come to from any church or anywhere. Tea and cakes will be served by the Ladies Working Party! As I am already on the last minute with this for the magazine, I will close, sending Love and Prayers to everyone, and thank you for all your support at our several events.

Brenda. for the Ladies Working Party

St Catherine's



Our series about David, the shepherd boy, continued with the well-known story of how David killed Goliath who was about twice as tall as David. With God on his side he was able to kill Goliath. We spoke about how, as a shepherd, David would have had to protect his sheep from wild animals which

had helped him to be brave and accurate with a sling. In our next lesson we learnt how God protected David from the jealousy of King Saul as David's popularity grew. Saul's son Jonathan and David were best friends and David was married to Saul's daughter Michal. Saul wanted to kill David but he was protected by God through both Jonathan and Michal who helped him to escape. In our final lesson in this series focussed on 'choices' and we discussed how we have to make choices in our lives every day. During the story of how David chose not to kill Saul when he had every opportunity, the children sat under the tables which doubled up as the cave in our story! Saul finally realised that David would make a good, fair and just king in the future. We also explained to the children that these lessons were just a small part of David's life.

As always we emphasised the lessons with practical activities. We particularly enjoyed making a poster 'God's Love of Hearts' (Valentine's Day was the next day!). This is now on display in the hall.

The Christingle Service was very enjoyable and a lot of work had gone into making the Christingles, as ever a team effort, which Eileen and I were happy to join on the Saturday morning. Thank you to Charles and Toby Crossley who joined the Sunday School teachers in the prayers. Until next month...

Love from All at St Catherine's

Craig Morris

I went to Craig Morris's Confirmation at St. Ninian's yesterday, one of 5 boys, all looking very smart. It was a lively service with their Music Group contributing. Our recent Vicar Norma was there sitting with the Morris family, which was nice. I went representing the Sunday School teachers, who of course couldn't be there as it was Sunday morning. Canon Payne who is a regular worshipper at St. Ninian's was there and was celebrating his 94th birthday. So it was a very happy occasion.

Valerie Vaughan

St Mary's Crib Service

Can I give a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our Christingle Service at Rushen Parish Church. I would also like thank all those of you who came along to St. Mary's Hall on the Saturday morning to prepare the Christingles. We had a mixture of children and adults from the various churches in the Parish. After several years of making them we now have a very slick production line and in no time at all we had made 50 splendid Christingles.

On the Sunday morning the church was soon full and the Rev. Upton-Jones welcomed everyone. Thank you to him for his help in preparing the service and for his enlightening talk on the significance of the festival of Candlemas, he explained how appropriate it was to hold a Christingle at this time in the Church year.

Thanks to our organist, Mike, and to St. Mary's choir for the music; to the families and Sunday school members who led the intercessions and thanksgiving prayers - and thanks to Jane for the readings.

Before communion the time came for the Christingles to be lit. The lights in the church were turned off and the Sunday School members sang the beautiful "Hope of Heaven". Our final hymn was "Shine, Jesus Shine" and we all left the church feeling uplifted.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation we were able to send £485 to the Children's Society - a fantastic result.

Carole Coole

St. Mary's Family Service

The theme of our service this month was 'Choices'. Jonathan King, as Moses, gave an inspiring dramatic reading from Deuteronomy, using responses from the children and congregation to great effect. Cedric, who led the service, chose to talk after each reading in order to develop the theme, using the Ten Commandments to illustrate how we must choose between good and evil. Finally, he tore them up to show that Jesus gave his life for us and took the consequences of our bad decisions. We need to keep choosing the life and love that comes from God. We were very sad that this was Cedric's last service with us and presented him with a card and token of our appreciation for all he has done for our Sunday School and congregation.

The Apple Basket



One day an elderly man entered into a hospital. He was grumpy from being on medication and the nurses thought him to be insane, as he yelled for his wife to get the apple basket. By the time they had checked him into his room the nurses were exhausted from the fight he was putting up. “Sir you have to calm down we are doing everything we can for you” they would try to explain. “I don’t need your help” the grumpy man would yell “I want my apple basket”. He finally slept.

The nurses sighed with relief and talked among themselves whether they should call the hospital psychologist about the old man and his obsession with the apple basket. As they talked and laughed about the situation the wife came in carrying the basket of apples. They looked kind of stunned as she asked if she could see her husband and deliver his basket. Sure, they agreed as they watched her slip past into his room.

Curiosity consumed them over the next few weeks as they tended to the elderly man. He was eaten with cancer and the doctors had given him no hope of survival. He turned out to be a very calm, happy man once he had his basket. His wife, they noticed, would come in with apples and go out with apples and the curiosity grew even more till one nurse couldn’t stand the suspense. One night as he was nearing the end, the nurse sat down in a chair by the wife.” May I ask why do you have that apple basket? I just don’t understand the significance. “

“I am an apple farmer by trade he sighed. From the time I was 20 till the day I do die I will forever have my apples.” The nurse nodded thinking she understood. He just likes his work, she thought, assured now he was a little bit crazy. As she started to leave, the old man asked her to sit down. “At age 20 I was saved, I accepted the Lord as my Saviour.” Oh no, the nurse thought. Here comes the lecture on religion. The old man continued. “The day I accepted the Lord as my Saviour I got this basket, and each time I had a problem or concern that I could not handle, I put an apple in the basket un-shined.”

“Why?” the nurse said shaking her head. “Because it reminded me to give those problems to the Lord for him to shine. See my basket now,” he stated. “As my problems disappear so do the apples. As I get new problems, ones I cannot handle alone, I put an apple in.” The humble nurse looked into the basket...only one apple was there. With that, he took a big breath and grabbed his wife by the hand and faded into eternal sleep. The wife paused for a moment and got up from her place to take from the basket the last remaining apple. She whispered in his ear that his reward awaits him in heaven. The nurse stayed still and asked with tears in her eyes, “What do you think his riches will be?” The wife knew what they were: eternal life with Jesus Christ. But she could see the concern and sadness upon the young nurses’ face and handed her the apple and said “the biggest apple pie you can imagine!” That was the day the young nurse was saved, and from that day on she always had a basket by her bed.

Author Unknown



- 1) Proverbs tell us that he who tends a fig tree will:**
 A - become weary B - eat its fruit C - grow strong in faith D - gain wisdom
- 2) According to Paul, in 1 Timothy, what is a root of all kinds of evil?**
 A – adultery B - lying tongue C - love of money D - deceitful heart
- 3) Paul tells us that if the root is holy, this also is holy:**
 A – tree B – leaves C – fruit D - branches
- 4) According to Isaiah, the grass withers and flowers fall, but this remains forever:**
 A - the cedars of Lebanon B - the word of our God C - the hope of the righteous
 D - the root and the offspring
- 5) Isaiah the prophet healed Hezekiah's boil by applying a poultice of:**
 A - grape leaves B – figs C – olives D - wheat
- 6) In the book of Revelation what were the leaves of the tree of life used for?**
 A - healing of the nations B - forgiveness of sins C - truth and guidance
 D - restoration of peace
- 7) According to Micah, in the last days men shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks, and every man shall sit:**
 A - in the peace of his home B - under his vine and fig tree C - on the hill of his foes
 D - in the glory of paradise
- 8) Proverbs tells us that a word fitly spoken is as:**
 A - apples of gold B - pomegranates in bloom C - a fresh spring D - a soothing balm
- 9) God told the Israelites that if they disobeyed him, they would be so full of fear they would flee at the sound of:**
 A - knocking on the door B - a crackling branch C - thunder in the wind
 D - a windblown leaf
- 10) Isaiah tells us that in the future the desert will rejoice and:**
 A – blossom B - be glad C - seek justice D - be filled with milk and honey

Answers next month....

News from St Catherine's

During February we have been looking at the estimates for work on the interior and exterior of our church. We have a lot of work ahead of us this year. We have repairs to the tower and chancel arch to carry out for which estimates have already been received for the erection of scaffolding. The actual cost of repairs cannot yet be given until the scaffolding is in place. Following this we have to request estimates for the cost of erecting scaffolding inside the church so that the interior can be re-decorated. We are also required to carry out major repairs to our storm drains as we have a collapsed pipe. It was investigated using a camera which was inserted into the pipe by Island Drainage. Their engineers found the damage which has to be dealt with quite soon. In addition we are also awaiting repairs to the organ and the piano, but these are of a minor nature. Work also needs to be carried out in the hall, but I would like to get our main church building sorted before moving into the hall.

We thank God for the life and worship, over many years, of a much loved friend Christina Gooderham, She was a lady who certainly loved Our Lord, the Christian life, and her church. Also this month we had a member of our Sunday School confirmed at St Ninian's Church. Craig Morris was confirmed on Sunday 13th February. He was baptised towards the end of 2010 by the Rev'd Peter Upton-Jones. We welcome and pray for Craig as he becomes a full member of our Anglican community.

We had a wonderful experience of Christian unity at our morning service at St Catherine's on 16th January when all our churches, plus the Methodist churches, in our parish, joined together for a service to commence the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. The Rev'd Peter Upton-Jones led our worship. The address was given by the Rev'd Shirley Bench. Our organists were Mike Porter and Mrs Jane Foxon. Mike arranged choir members from Meadowside, St Mary's Church and the Methodist Church to join together and lead the music and singing. We thank him for his excellent direction. The readings were read by Mr Roy Oliver and Mr Andrew Foxon. The service was followed by refreshments served by our ladies. I would like to give a huge vote of thanks for everyone who played a part in what was a magnificent occasion. This was a wonderful morning of worship and fellowship together, and the feedback from both Methodist and Anglican congregations has been when can we do it again? This request will be forwarded to the Rural Dean and the PCC for consideration. I have also heard that a similar request has been made by our Methodist friends to their comparable organisations.

I think this article is more than enough for this time, so until next month, may God be with us and guide us in all our decisions.

Gerry Callister

The LORD'S Prayer

A Few Thoughts on the Lord's Prayer

I cannot pray **Our Father** ...if my faith has no room for others and their needs.

I cannot pray **Who Art in Heaven**, if all my interest and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot pray **Hallowed be Thy Name**... If, with God's help, I am not striving to be holy

I cannot pray **Thy Kingdom Come**...if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot pray **On Earth as It Is In Heaven**...Unless I am truly ready to give myself to God's service here and now.

I cannot pray...**Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread**...Without expending honest effort for it...or if I would withhold from my neighbour the bread that I receive

I cannot pray **Forgive Us Our Trespases As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us** If I continue to harbour a grudge against anyone

I cannot pray **Lead Us Not into Temptation**...If I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted...

I cannot pray **Deliver Us from Evil**...If I am not prepared to fight evil with my life and my prayer...

I cannot pray **Thine Is the Kingdom**...If I am unwilling to obey him...

I cannot pray **Thine Be the Power and the Glory**...If I am seeking power for myself...and my own glory first.

I cannot pray **For Ever and Ever**...If I am too anxious about each day's affairs..

I cannot pray **Amen**...Unless I can honestly say...cost what it will this is my prayer...
Amen

Taken from another Church Magazine

Answers to January's

Quiz

1. 300 years
2. Famine
3. Elisha
4. Nehemiah
5. John the Baptist
6. A Dove
7. Any man in Christ
8. Like a Bride
9. Creation
10. Abraham

Say a Prayer

Young James and his family sat down to Sunday dinner at his grandmother's house. When James received his plate, he started eating right away. "James! 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 pray before eating at home." "That's at our house," James protested. "This is grandma's house, and she can cook!"

God and the Geese



There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays. His wife, however, did believe, and she raised their children to also have faith in God and Jesus, despite his disparaging comments. One snowy Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service in the farm community in which they lived. They were to talk about Jesus' birth, but he refused. "That story is

nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!" So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

Some time later, the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned into a blizzard. As the man looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening. Then he heard a loud thump. Something had hit the window. He looked out, but couldn't see more than a few feet. When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. Apparently they had been flying south for the winter when they got caught in the snowstorm and couldn't go on. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They just flapped their wings and flew around the field in low circles, blindly and aimlessly. A couple of them had flown into his window, it seemed.

The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It's warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside. But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and didn't seem to notice the barn or realise that it could mean for them. The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them, and they moved further away. He went into the house and came with some bread, broke it up, and made a bread crumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on. Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe. "Why don't they follow me?!" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?" He thought for a moment and realised that they just wouldn't follow a human "If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud.

Then he had an idea. He went into barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms as he circled around behind the flock of wild geese. He then released it. His goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn and, one-by-one, the other geese followed it to safety. He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!"

Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese, blind, lost and perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us. As the winds and the blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet and pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly he understood why Christ had come. Years of doubt and disbelief vanished with the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow, and prayed his first prayer:

"Thank You, God, for coming in human form to get me out of the storm!"

Author Unknown



Lord, I Want to Thank You

Lord, I want to thank you for eyes that see,
eyes that see your wonderful creation: people from around
the world, different in every way, yet one in you.

Lord, I want to thank you for ears that hear,
Ears that hear beautiful music from instruments of various
kinds, bringing worship alive: different ways of worship, yet one in you.

Lord, I want to thank you for lips that praise you,
Lips that praise you in different languages: singing praises in
different voices - yet one in you.

Lord, I want to thank you for making us wonderful
- and different, yet always one in you.

May our hearts cherish the diversity in our cultures,
languages and people, to learn, to love and to accept that
though we are all different, yet we are one in you. **Amen**



Godliness with Contentment is a Great Gain

One day a fisherman was lying on a beautiful beach, with his fishing pole propped up in the sand and his solitary line cast out into the sparkling blue surf. He was enjoying the warmth of the afternoon sun and the prospect of catching a fish.

About that time, a businessman came walking down the beach, trying to relieve some of the stress of his workday. He noticed the fisherman sitting on the beach and decided to find out why this fisherman was fishing instead of working harder to make a living for himself and his family.

“You aren’t going to catch many fish that way,” said the businessman to the fisherman, “you should be working rather than lying on the beach!” The fisherman looked up at the businessman, smiled and replied, “And what will my reward be?” “Well, you can get bigger nets and catch more fish!” was the businessman’s answer. “And then what will my reward be?” asked the fisherman, still smiling.

The businessman replied, “You will make money and you’ll be able to buy a boat, which will then result in larger catches of fish!” “And then what will my reward be?” asked the fisherman again. The businessman was beginning to get a little irritated with the fisherman’s questions. “You can buy a bigger boat, and hire some people to work for you!” he said. “And then what will my reward be?” repeated the fisherman.

The businessman was getting angry. “Don’t you understand? You can build up a fleet of fishing boats, sail all over the world, and let all your employees catch fish for you!” Once again the fisherman asked, “And then what will my reward be?” The businessman was red with rage and shouted at the fisherman, “Don’t you understand that you can become so rich that you will never have to work for your living again! You can spend all the rest of your days sitting on this beach, looking at the sunset. You won’t have a care in the world!”

The fisherman, still smiling, looked up and said, “And what do you think I’m doing right now?”

Author Unknown



Never Leave your Parents

This is a story for everyone. The tree in it is like our parents. When we were young, we loved to play with our Mum and Dad. When we grew up, we left them and only came to them when we needed something or when we were in trouble. No matter what, parents will always be there and give everything they can just to make us happy.

A long time ago, there was a huge apple tree. A little boy loved to come and play around it everyday. He climbed to the treetop, ate the apples, took a nap under the shadow...he loved the tree and the tree loved to play with him. Time went by...the little boy had grown up and he no longer played around the tree every day.

One day, the boy came back to the tree and he looked sad. "Come and play with me" the tree asked the boy. "I am no longer a kid, I do not play around trees any more" the boy replied. "I want toys. I need money to buy them." "Sorry, but I do not have money, but you can pick all my apples and sell them. Then you will have money." The boy was so excited. He grabbed all the apples on the tree and left happily. The boy never came back after he picked the apples. The tree was deeply saddened.

One day, the boy who had now turned into a man returned and the tree was excited "Come and play with me" the tree said. "I do not have time to play. I have to work for my family. We need a house for shelter. Can you help me? " " Sorry, said the tree, but I do not have any house. But you can chop off my branches to build your house." So the man cut all the branches of the tree and left happily. The tree was glad to see him happy but the man never came back. The tree was again lonely and upset.

One hot summer day, the man returned and the tree was delighted. "Come and play with me!" the tree said. "I am getting old. I want to go sailing to relax myself. Can you give me a boat?" said the man. "Use my trunk to build your boat. You can sail far away and be happy." So the man cut the tree trunk to make a boat. He went sailing and never showed up for a long time.

Finally, the man returned after many years. "Sorry, my boy. But I do not have anything for you anymore. No more apples for you ..." the tree said. "No problem, I do not have any teeth to bite" the man replied. "No more trunk for you to climb on" "I am too old for that now" the man said. "I really cannot give you anything... the only thing left is my dying roots" the tree said with tears. "I do not need much now, just a place to rest. I am tired after all these years" the man replied. "Good! Old tree roots are the best place to lean on and rest, Come, and sit down with me and rest." The man sat down and the tree was glad and smiled with tears.

Author Unknown

Picture Perfect Moment



A little boy walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, he made his daily trek to his primary school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with thunder and lightning. The mother of the little boy felt concerned that her son would be frightened as he

walked home from school and she herself feared that the electrical storm might harm her child. Following the roar of thunder, lightning would cut through the sky like a flaming sword. Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did so, she saw her little boy walking along, but at each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up and smile. Another and another were to follow quickly and with each the little boy would look at the streak of light and smile. When the mother's car drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called to him, "What are you doing? Why do you keep stopping?" The child answered, "I am trying to look nice. God keeps taking my picture."

May God bless you today as you face the storms that come your way - and don't forget to Smile!

Author Unknown

The House of 1000 Mirrors

Long ago in a small, far away village, there was a place known as the House of 1000 Mirrors. A small, happy little dog learned of this place and decided to visit. When he arrived, he bounced happily up the stairs to the doorway of the house. He looked through the doorway with his ears lifted high and his tail wagging as fast as it could. To his great surprise, he found himself staring at 1000 other happy little dogs with their tails wagging just as fast as his. He smiled a great smile, and was answered with 1000 great smiles just as warm and friendly. As he left the House, he thought to himself, "This is a wonderful place. I will come back and visit it often." In this same village, another little dog, who was not quite as happy as the first one, decided to visit the house. He slowly climbed the stairs and hung his head low as he looked into the door. When he saw the 1000 unfriendly looking dogs staring back at him, he growled at them and was horrified to see 1000 little dogs growling back at him. As he left, he thought to himself, "That is a horrible place, and I will never go back there again."

All the faces in the world are mirrors. What kind of reflections do you see in the faces of the people you meet?



Rushen Mothers' Union

February's meeting this year fell on Valentine's Day, so instead of inviting a speaker for the afternoon it was decided to have an afternoon, with the theme of love running through it. The afternoon started with the Hymn Love Divine, so familiar to us all. Our short form of Service was used and Sue Maddrell gave us the reading from Corinthians Chapter 13, which is many folks

choice of reading when the theme is Love. After the service and the notices were given out, the meeting took on a much lighter feeling, and the ladies were invited to give some thoughts of their own memories of Valentine times. Margaret Couper had brought along a photo of her Wedding Day, Margaret looking so pretty and happy and Douglas, young and handsome in his kilt with all the correct extras, a really lovely photo to be treasured. They had both returned from their jobs in Africa to be married in Margaret's home town and her church there. They had wanted to get married on Valentines Day but the vicar already had something on that day, but said he could marry them the next day which is the day they settled for. So the following day after our meeting they were celebrating their anniversary and we were able to wish them a Happy 48th Anniversary. Elizabeth was able to tell us the story of a very old heart-shaped baking tin which had been specially made for a cousin's wedding cake who had requested a four leaf clover shape. Elizabeth had known the old blacksmith who had made the tin, and when the tin came into Elizabeth's ownership it has been cherished and loved for all these years, and each Valentines Day she bakes John a cake! Judith had kindly compiled a quiz where the members had to match up their partner, for e.g. Elizabeth Taylor and? This was done in twos and was won by Marjorie and Marion from Arbory. Judith presented them each with a red rose which will last for ever as they were made of wood! Everyone had some chocolate hearts and small packets of love hearts and also a Valentine Card made by Sally Lewis, I must also thank the ladies who put together the song sheet of old time songs, we enjoyed having a good sing. Mrs. Winifred Quayle gave a vote of thanks to all who had any input into the afternoon. After the final hymn and the Grace the ladies enjoyed a cup of tea and biscuits and a lot more talking. It was lovely to have Bryony with us.

We send our love to those unable to be with us. Our next meeting is on Monday 13th March, in St. Catherines at 2p.m.

Love and Prayers
Brenda



What Love is all About

It was a busy morning, approximately 8:30 am, when an elderly gentleman in his 80's, arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He stated that he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00am. I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him.

I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound. On examination it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress his wound.

While taking care of his wound, we began to engage in conversation I asked him if he had a doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry. The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. I then inquired as to her health. He told me that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer Disease.

As we talked, and I finished dressing his wound, I asked if she would be worried if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognised him in five years now. I was surprised, and asked him. "And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?" He smiled as he patted my hand and said. "She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is." I had to hold back tears as he left, I had goose bumps on my arm, and thought, "*That is the kind of love I want in my life.*"

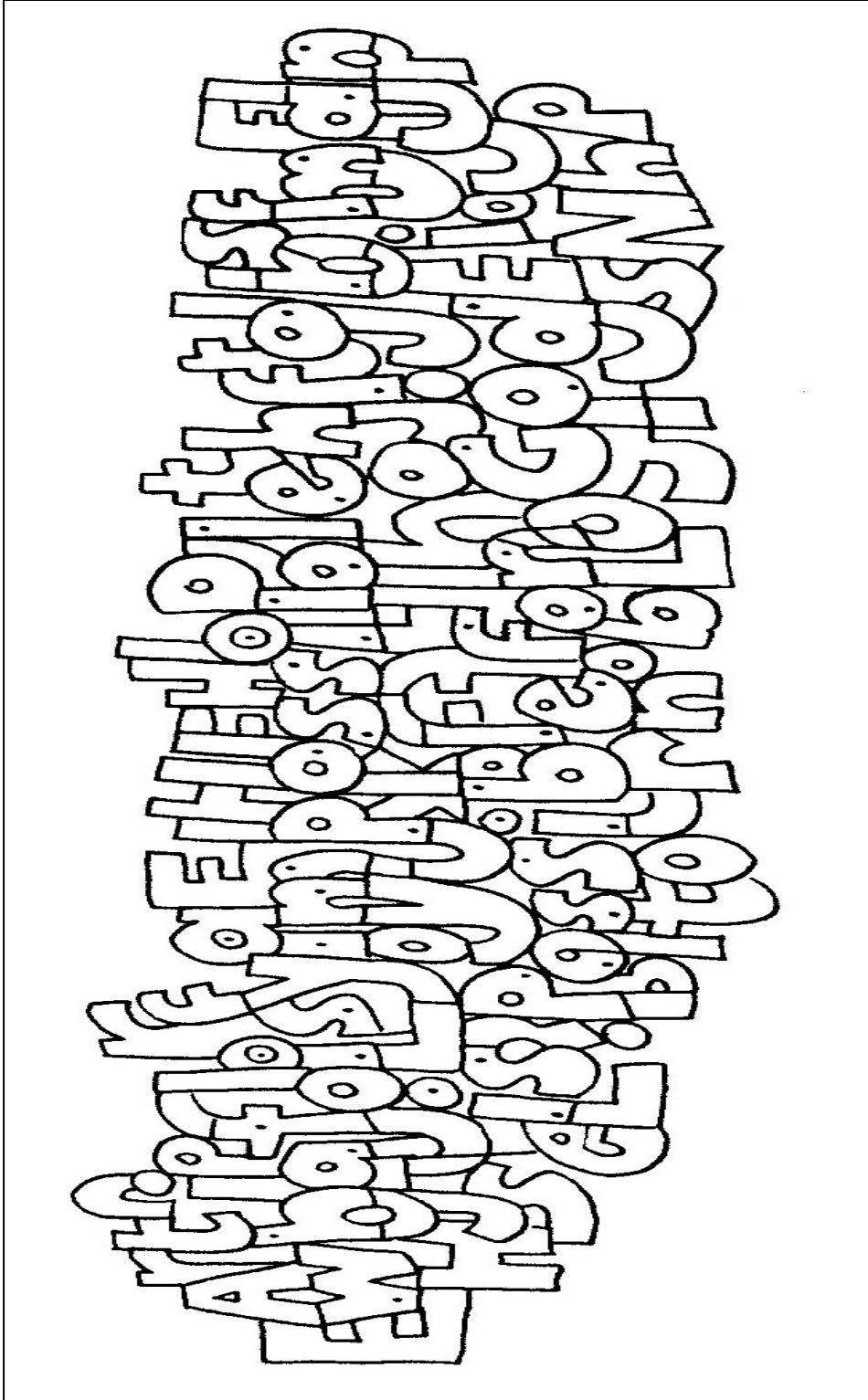
Author Unknown

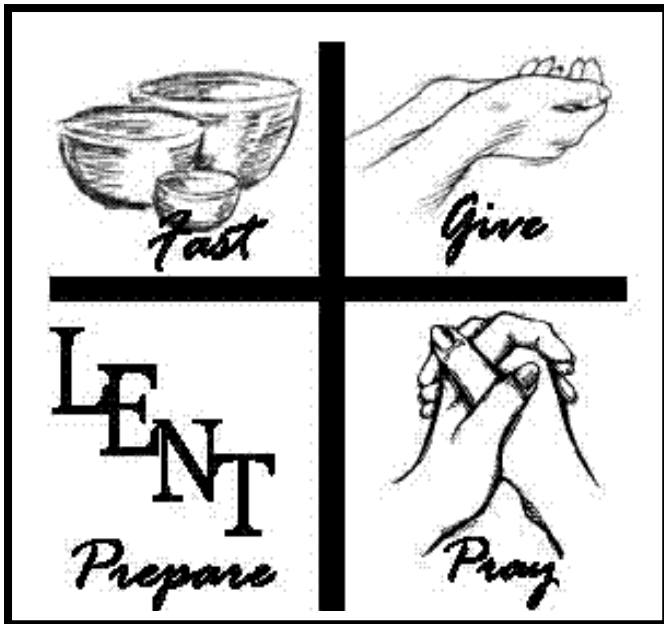
USPG Boxes

At the beginning of March Canon John Sheen, an Assistant Mission Advisor for USPG, and a long time member of the USPG Council, will be putting Lent Boxes at the back of our four churches. USPG relies on your donations to ensure that Anglican Churches throughout the world are able to develop their mission and become change-makers in some of the world's poorest communities. USPG asks if you would accept its challenge to put your faith into action. To find out more about the work of USPG you can telephone 0845 273 1701, email enquiries@uspg.org.uk, or visit www.uspg.org.uk. You could also read its quarterly newspaper 'Transmission' a copy of which can be found at the back of St Catherine's Church.

Children's Page

**FIND THE SECRET MESSAGE
COLOUR IN ALL THE DOTTED SHAPES AND
THE MESSAGE WILL APPEAR
(It's from Luke 18:27)**





March 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
Friday	4 th	Morning Coffee	10.00am	St Catherine's Hall
Tuesday	8 th	St Mary's Ladies WP	2.15pm	St Mary's Hall
		PCC Meeting	7.30pm	St Catherine'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 Catherine's Hall
		Mr Galpin (Dolphins and Basking Sharks)		
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
Friday	18 th	Prayer Group	9.30am	15 Close Cam
Tuesday	22 nd	CAMEO	2.00pm	St Catherine's Hall
		St Mary's Ladies WP	2.15pm	St Mary's Hall
Wednesday	23 rd	RUSH	6.30pm	St Catherine's Hall
Friday	25 th	Prayer Group	9.30am	15 Close Cam
		Friendly Lunch (St Mary's)	12 noon	St Mary's Hall
Saturday	26 th	Mothers' Union	10.30am	Cathedral Peel
		Festival Service		
Tuesday	29 th	St Mary's Ladies WP	2.15pm	St Mary's Hall
Wednesday	30 th	RUSH	6.30pm	St Catherine's Hall

Contact Details for Rushen Parish

Rural Dean

During the interregnum the priest overseeing the life and worship of the churches is the Rural Dean, Canon Peter Robinson email: pcrobinson@manx.net 823509

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

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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

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

Services March 2011

2 nd March	10.30am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)
	11.45am	Southlands Holy Communion
	2pm	St Mary's Play & Praise
6 th March	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 March	10.30am	St Mary's Holy Communion (BCP)
13 th March	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
	6.30pm	St Mary's Evensong (BCP)
16 th March	10.30am	St Catherine's Holy Communion (BCP)
20 th March	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
23 rd March	10.30am	St Mary's Holy Communion (BCP)
27 th March	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 Evening Prayer
	6.30pm	St Mary's Holy Communion (CW)
30 th March	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