

Dear all,

Along with this letter you will have received Manx Methodists at Service Together (MMAST) sheets for July 11th and 18th. These sheets have a dual purpose. If you are connecting with the recorded services on our YouTube channel at www.methodist.org.im they will help you to follow the service. If you are not able to do this they act as a stand-alone resource to assist you in your devotions. New versions of MMAST are added each Sunday and can be accessed at any time. Huge thanks go to those who continue to add this to their weekly work duties.

As I write this Richard and Ruth have not yet left so we are living in a time that Paul would describe as “now and not yet”! As Christians we are constantly living with this tension knowing that Christ has won the war but there are many battles still to be fought and the best way to do that is together with other Christians across all denominations. One of my roles within the District is that of “Ecumenical Officer” and I personally take great delight in those occasions where we can come together and work for the Kingdom of God.

So I want to encourage you by sharing that it was wonderful to work alongside Christians from many denominations across the Island as we supported SUMT providing the LifePath days at Rushen Abbey. Every year all the primary schools are invited to send their year 5 pupils (ages 9-10) for an interactive day of learning about the Christian faith. They spend time with the Cistercian monks experiencing different aspects of a typical day, they explore interactive ways of praying and the different types of prayer, they get to question a disciple, an abbot, Bishop Wilson, and a Christian of today, and they learn about the signs and symbols that mean so much to the Christian faith.

This event could not happen without the many extra volunteers who pitch in to share their faith with the children, teachers and parents who come for the day. Some volunteers are there for all six days, others only

manage half a day but all are truly valued and welcomed for what they offer - not only to the schools but to each other.

For that is what the Christian faith is about - sharing the gospel, yes, but also “encouraging one another and building each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11) which is best done by working together because of our differences, not in spite of them.

*Praise to God for this great gifting
of relationship and friend:
imaging divine relating;
found in heaven with no end.
Bless us Maker, Word and Spirit
as companions on the way.
Thanks to God for friends who help us
to fulfil our lives each day.*

Singing the Faith 619 © Gary Hopkins

God bless you all.

Rev Rebecca Ingrouille