

Update from Doug & Jackie Marshall in Malta

Doug Marshall



Dear friends, Hello and welcome to our 12th link letter! It has been a busy start to the year, with some travel for Doug, sickness for all as well as a time of new challenges. Jacqui’s work at the food bank continues, with a steady stream of people being referred. The kids enjoyed a short break over Easter and are happily back at school for their final term. This August we will have been in Malta for an amazing four years. Where does the time go?

Working with people who have been forcibly displaced is not a science or an algorithmic response to a systematised number that the asylum procedure spits out. Doug attended the annual (Refugee Highway Partnership RHP) round table for Europe, which was held during February in the Netherlands. A question that arose during the session on faith-based asylum applications was how many of those, who can demonstrate a fair amount of knowledge of Christianity and have attended church, actually come back to church after a positive asylum decision? Not many actually keep coming back to church. This raises some serious issues, and often these difficult immigration questions are not properly addressed and can end up being used for promoting anti-immigrant rhetoric. So what do you do? How does a state assess the faith of an asylum applicant? How would you assess the faith of anyone?

It has become evident in the past two-three years that life in Malta is being made more difficult for migrants. We have heard numerous reports about the labour environment becoming more hostile in terms of conditions and pay. Previously, pay was regular and complete but it is now the opposite, with incomplete pay cheques never adding up to actual hours worked, and pay dates becoming irregular. For example, some are working 70 hours a week but only getting paid for 50. An East-African friend received a phone call from a prospective employer, offering him a job. As he had recently become unemployed, this was good timing. Providence, maybe. However, when my friend asked what his wage would be, the person said: “for people like you, €3/hour.”

Thank you for your prayers for Malta and the plight of refugees; there are small steps coming that will make life somewhat easier. Please continue to pray for the hearts of people to soften toward the forcibly displaced.

- Pray for those who are still trying to reach Europe, and the hellish experience they are having in the northern Sahara as the Italian interior ministry is funding militias to stop the flow of migrants. Pray that they will know God in a time such as this.
- Pray for some friends of mine who are working on their asylum applications and long-term residency, that they may find favour with the authorities.
- Pray for us as a family; it is a busy period of life right now, between school, food bank and refugee work. We need to maintain a good balance and have realistic expectations.
- Pray for our upcoming church visits in the summer, that we find a suitable schedule (as we are based in Glasgow)

Doug and Jacqui

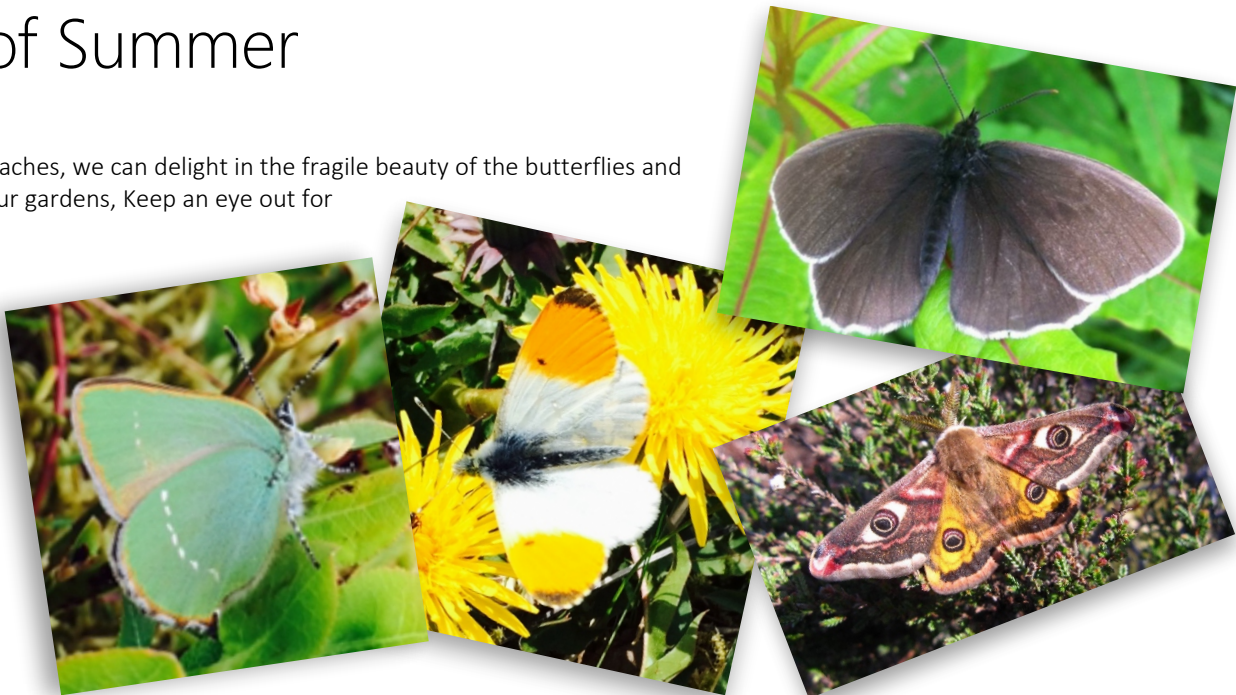
Signs of Summer

Maureen Potter

As summer approaches, we can delight in the fragile beauty of the butterflies and moths that visit our gardens, Keep an eye out for these ones!

Clockwise
From top right:

Common Blue
Butterfly:
Emperor Moth:
Orange Tip
Butterfly:
Green Hairstreak
Butterfly



Picture Quiz

Where are these Churches? Answers in September



a chat over coffee and cake with old friends and new... right here in Busby

**The Drop-In Club for Seniors is on
every Wednesday from 10.30am until 12.00 noon
in the Stage Hall at Busby Parish Church**

**Come along for coffee, cake and a chat
Everyone is welcome - not just Church members**

BUSBY PARISH CHURCH
DROP-IN CLUB

Busby Parish Church Feasibility Study

John Lamb

We are currently working on our study of how we see the future of our Church, its role in the village and how we can improve it to meet the needs of our congregation and the wider community with improved facilities and activities for all.

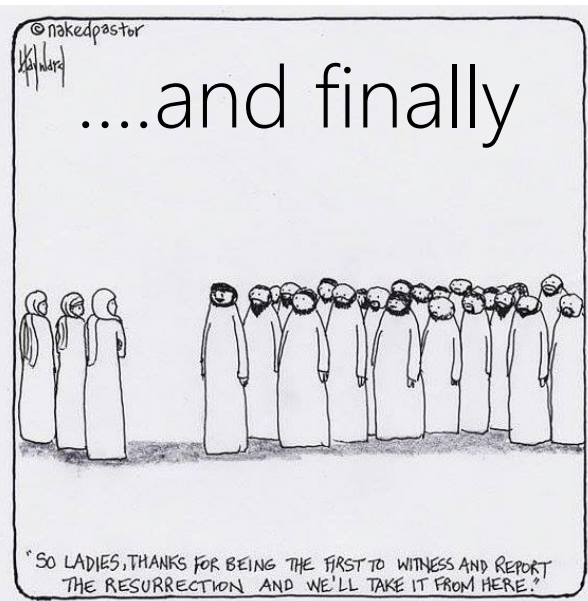
We would really welcome suggestions of what we could offer all age groups and how we could improve the Church for the benefit of everyone in the community.

If you have any suggestions, please send them to busbyfocus@btinternet.com, post them to Busby Parish Church, Church Road, Busby G76 8EB or drop them off at the Church on Sunday mornings

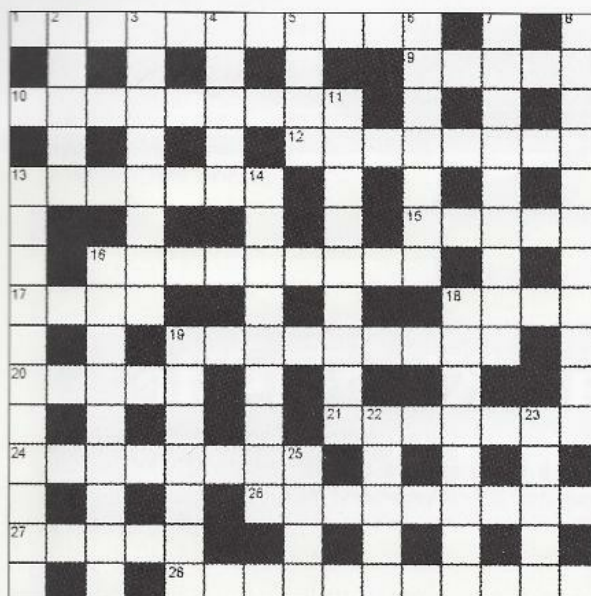
March Crossword Solutions

Solution to March 2018 Crossword
Across: 1 Scrum; 4 Nucleus; 9 New every morning; 10 Raiment; 11 Electro; 12 Hur; 13 Malachi; 15 Snidest; 16 Delilah; 19 Wheelie; 21 Ego; 22 Toolbar; 23 Officer; 25 Thy faithfulness; 26 Doubter; 27 Thorn
Down: 1 Sawmill; 2 Revue; 3 Marathi; 4 Numbers; 5 Carmelite; 6 Epistle; 7 Sign of the cross; 8 Unpremeditated; 14 Celebrant; 17 Look you; 18 Heritor; 19 Woolfat; 20 Lactern; 24 Folio

Solution to March 2018 Cryptic Crossword
Across: 1 Pepper pot; 6 Resin; 9 Littler; 10 Autocar; 11 Religious belief; 12 Mass; 14 Navigation; 16 Skittle out; 17 Pews; 20 Odour of sanctity; 22 Sun disc; 23 Intense; 24 Rerun; 25 Sanhedrin.
Down: 1 Pilgrim; 2 Petal; 3 Eulogy; 4 Personal effects; 5 Transfiguration; 6 Rothesay; 7 Sacrifice; 8 Nurofen; 13 Shipowner; 15 Star sign; 16 Sponsor; 18 Soy bean; 19 Scythe; 21 Inner



May Crossword – Compiled by Jeannie Hollands



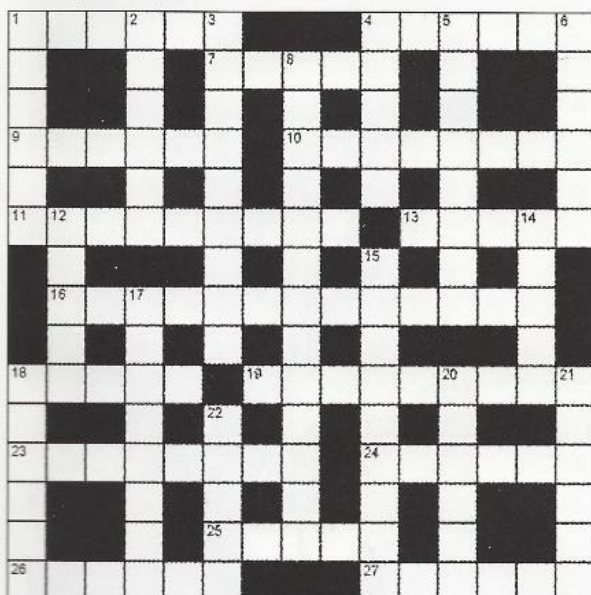
Across

- 1 Timothy ____ - ____, modern hymn writer (6-5)
- 9 '____ voices ever singing' (hymn) (5)
- 10 Delete (6,3)
- 12 Artificially high voice (8)
- 13 Long-tailed ducks (7)
- 15 Quoted (5)
- 16 Vehicle lever (4-5)
- 17 Type (4)
- 18 Small ship (4)
- 19 Raw youth (9)
- 20 Rash speed (5)
- 21 French composer (7)
- 24 Small town NW of Leeds (8)
- 26 Boarders aren't taught here (3,6)
- 27 Violin from Cremona (5)
- 28 'A new ____ I give unto you' (modern hymn) (11)

Down

- 2 Excessive (5)
- 3 Dolerite (anag.) (8)
- 4 Relinquish (5)
- 5 Cylinder for keeping hands warm (4)
- 6 Kneeler (7)
- 7 Disturbance (9)
- 8 'Tell me the ____, ____, ____, (hymn) (3,3,5)
- 11 Shaped (9)
- 13 '____ sound the Saviour comes' (Advent hymn) (4,3,4)
- 14 Hung (9)
- 16 Having knowledge (9)
- 18 One-horse carriage (8)
- 19 Relating to origin (7)
- 22 Industrial city in Germany (5)
- 23 Apostle ____ (5)
- 25 Town SW of Middlesbrough (4)

May Cryptic Crossword – Compiled by Peter Chamberlain



Across

- 1 Baghdad's natural fluency (6)
- 4 States fall towards end of year (6)
- 7 Humming a whispered report (5)
- 9 I leave serviceman to join up (6)
- 10 Point made by high churchman (8)
- 11 Silly sentimental money? (5,4)
- 13 Priest no end of a poor performer (5)
- 16 Wonderful employee! (7,6)
- 18 Two ways for the staff (5)
- 19 Guilty person rode off but not right at the start (9)
- 23 Bring up others the escapee fears (8)
- 24 Felix's successor spent half of religious feast with us (6)
- 25 Churchman born earlier (5)
- 26 Leaving second book (6)
- 27 150 wild grey ministers! (6)

Down

- 1 Tartar suspiciously entered ancient city (6)
- 2 Greek character Desmond coming from Greek island (6)
- 3 Give up ritual killing (9)
- 4 Extreme characters going on water that's blue (5)
- 5 Levy on one foul-smelling place for cabs (4,4)
- 6 Cores, uncle removed one (6)
- 8 Our candescent raging as it had not been made holy (13)
- 12 As far as something can go except in the case of speed where it can be exceeded (5)
- 14 Oscar leaving Paris stock exchange with flat case for use at Mass (5)
- 15 Joseph ordered Franco to accept one French heroine (4,2,3)
- 17 Clergyman always in split (8)
- 18 Old scholar found rudimentary dwelling in southeast (6)
- 20 Medicine, wise man has same again first (6)
- 21 A sorry arrangement of beads (6)
- 22 Some Middle West town (5)

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