**Newsletter article – Sunday 12th May**

**Confused Identity**

We were out one evening a few months ago with a small group of friends. The conversation had turned to the recently announced pregnancy of Meghan Markle and the media attention at the time. I noticed that one of the men was looking increasingly confused by the whole thing and asked him why. It turned out that he had been thinking of Angela Merkel, pregnant at the tender age of 64. *Etwas unwahrscheinlich.*

Confusion over identity is one of the main themes running through the Biblical account of Jesus’s time on earth after his resurrection. John’s account in Chapter 20 shows Mary mistaking him for the gardener. In Luke Chapter 24 we read of two disciples heading to Emmaus who spent considerable time in the Lord’s presence before finally recognising him. Again in John Chapter 21 the disciples only realise it is Jesus standing by the Sea of Galilee when they land a miraculous haul of fish.

But then the physical resurrection of a crucified man, buried in a tomb - sealed with a heavy stone - must have seemed *auserordentlich unwahrscheinlich* (ask Hildegard). It is the stuff of fantasy, confused identity mixed with wishful thinking. It belongs to the realm of myth.

Well, yes but - as CS Lewis puts it – ‘The story of Christ is simply a true myth: a myth working on us in the same way as the others, but with this tremendous difference that it *really happened*’. When the Holy Spirit works in our hearts He reveals this truth to us. That which is a ‘stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles’ becomes for us the saving power of God.

Returning to confused identities and to celebrate the royal arrival, can you fill in the puzzle below with the first names of the Queen’s eight great grandchildren? Ed has promised a prize for all winners and no Googling is allowed.

Yours in Christ

**Charles**