

St Ives Feast Celebrations 2020

As President of the Federation, I was delighted to be invited, along with my husband Chris, to join the Mayor of St Ives in the civic procession through the streets to bless the well of St Ia as part of St Ives Feast celebrations. During the procession small oranges are thrown to the watching crowd as a symbol of the feast and the silver ball. The children of St Uny School danced *Bodmin Furry* to the music of Bagas Porthia playing *Bodmin Riding*. A sudden downpour of rain caused musicians and dancers to seek shelter so only the hardest made it to the well, Venton St Ia, until 1843 the main water supply for Downalong.



Later we all sought shelter in the Parish Church. Accompanied by St Uny School recorder group the congregation sang the hymn *All people that on earth do dwell* followed by dancing around the aisles. Chris and I couldn't resist joining in.

We assembled in the church garden to watch the Mayor at exactly 10.30 am throw the silver ball to the waiting crowd of children and young people on the beach below as part of the age-old tradition of Hurling. The Silver Ball is about the size of a tennis ball and is made of wood covered with Silver Leaf. The ball is passed to one another through the town. The person holding the silver ball at noon takes it to the Mayor at the Guildhall and receives a silver coin as a reward.

Also as part of the day's ceremony, pennies are distributed to children under seven years of age from the Guildhall steps. After the return of the silver ball children over seven years of age collect pennies thrown from the Guildhall balcony. We then retired indoors to a welcome pasty lunch after a morning of sunshine, heavy showers, strong wind, thunder and lightning and even a bit of hail.

The lifeboat was having a practice run to add to the spectacle of the day.

