

# All you need

Andrew Lyon *reflects on* John 15:9-17

**H**ave you ever been in love? I can still remember the first time: the skip in the heart when your eyes meet; the deep sense of contentment at being in each other's company; the belief that you would do anything for this other person.

Love changes us. Beforehand, the orbit of our daily concerns circled around us alone; when we love someone else, the orbit extends to encompass all that is important for the other person as well. Their concerns become one with our own – ultimately, they overtake them. We wish principally for their growth, and feel compelled to put them first, and it is a delight, because we care enough to want to make sure they are okay.

Jesus asks his disciples to live, or abide, in his love. Earlier in the Gospel, Jesus says he is the "true vine". Abiding in God's love is like being the branches on that vine, connected to God in such an intimate way that we feel part and parcel of the same thing – our orbits are overlapping. We are taken into such close confidence that the Father's will for our lives is revealed to us. And if we stay in close proximity, remaining faithful in prayer, it will be our delight to fulfil God's will, to show this love to everybody else. ☺



**Heavenly Father, love is challenging and asks great things of us. My prayer is to be inspired by your endless, selfless love for me, so I will know in turn how to act lovingly to everyone I meet this week. Amen.**

## Beating the bounds

by Lisa Tulfer

*Lisa Tulfer is a freelance writer and consultant. Her academic background is in church history and she has worked extensively in parish consultancy, with a special interest in multi-parish ministry. In this series she looks at Rogationtide and the tradition of beating the bounds.*

The Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day are often referred to as Rogation Days, or Rogationtide, from the Latin *rogare*, to ask. The origins of this season and the practices associated with it are not known for certain, but one story dates back to 470, when the French town of Vienne was subject to a series of earthquakes and storms. The bishop, Mamertus, instituted three days of prayer, fasting and processions before Ascension Day. The practice caught on and was standardised by Pope Gregory the Great in the following century. By the mid-eighth century it was an annual custom in England. ☺

## The A-Z of healthy living W is for wholeness

by Sr Thérèse Garman

Through his healing work, Jesus taught us that God wants us to be whole, able to live life fully, happily and productively, involving every aspect of our being, including ourselves. Something amiss in the way we relate to ourselves and to life can cause physical illness.

Often what needs healing is a relationship. Emotional health can contribute to physical healing.

In what ways do you need to be healed? Are there loving relationships through which God can work to heal your hurts? Are there support groups or church groups that can help you cope with your problems? Are there difficult experiences that God may be using to make you aware of the need for change? Let's learn to recognise what God is trying to do in our lives to make us whole, and work with him. ☺

**“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9**

# Church of Scotland: Parish of Orphir & Stenness

**Interim Moderator:** Rev June Freeth 721449

**Locum Minister:** Rev Martin Prentice 851139

**Session Clerk:** Nicol 811242

## Kirk Information

There is a loop system. Adjust hearing aids to benefit.

**A warm invitation is extended to everyone to meet in the hall, after the service, for a cup of tea or coffee.**

## Intimations

**Tuesday 8pm:** Choir

**Thursday 10-12:** Community Café

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm:** Session meeting in the Kirk hall

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2-4pm:** Wanted - Bakers and servers

Sara-Jane Gibbon asked us to provide a café for about 20 folk. There is a walk around the shore then a talk about Storrer Clouston at the saga centre, as part of the Scapa Flow Celebrations. This is to be followed by tea/coffee and home bakes etc at the kirk café. The kirk will receive a donation for this. Liz

**Urgently needed - Bakers and servers:** Could you bake for the cafe or spare a couple of hours on a Thursday morning to serve and chat to folk? It would be gratefully appreciated. The same few folk always have to bake and serve. Help would be fantastic. Liz

## **Reading**

Acts 10:44-48    1 John 5:1-6    John 15:9-17

## **Hymns**

115	Love is the Touch of Intangible Joy
202	Stand up and bless the Lord
562	Through the love of God our Saviour
173	Sing to God new songs of worship
159	Lord of the years
JP 292	Wide, wide as the ocean

## **Doxology**

**May God's blessing surround you each day,**

As you trust Him and walk in his way,

May his presence within guard and keep you from sin,

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.