

## You've got a friend

**Kathryn Fleming** *reflects*  
on Job 1:1; 2:1-10 and  
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

In almost any discussion of the Bible, someone will say indignantly: "I can't deal with the Old Testament God, who's so remote, capricious and sometimes downright cruel." Certainly the story of Job's trials, sanctioned by God though implemented by Satan,

appears to support this viewpoint. It serves, too, to confirm the worst fears of those who, confronted by the problem of pain in a broken world, are quick to declare God a monster. For if God has power to shape the universe, could the innocent not be protected from disaster? The message that we receive here is hard to translate. If God is speaking, we don't think much of the message.

But that, of course, is not the whole story.

In the reading from Hebrews we hear that: "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors... by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son." A Son – human like us, bearing "the exact imprint of God's very being", sharing the divine DNA, but also bearing the pain, misery and indignity of undeserved

affliction. One for whom no aspect of our existence is out of bounds, tasting, and swallowing, death for us all. God in Christ goes through suffering before and beside us, transforming desolation by the power of love. God is not remote at all, but with us always, our friend and brother, leading the way home.

**Thank you, Lord, that your Son Jesus speaks your message of love for all to hear. Help us to listen for his voice today and every day, as we follow him through life, through death and to our home in heaven. Amen.**

## The joy of the Prayer Book part I

by the Revd Dr Daniel Newman

*Daniel is a trustee of the Prayer Book Society. In this series he gives a personal insight into the joy of the Book of Common Prayer.*

Discovering the Book of Common Prayer has contributed significantly to my being an Anglican today.

One Wednesday afternoon in the sixth form, after coming home from

squash, I turned on the radio and heard a choir. As I listened I was able to make out what they were singing. I opened my Bible and was excited to discover that I could pretty much follow the words exactly – they were chanting the psalms! I had tuned in to choral evensong. As I kept listening I heard readings from the Bible. I knew that my mother had a Prayer Book, so I found it and discovered that the choir had been singing other parts of scripture as well – the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis.

*From The Joy of Being Anglican (Redemptorist Publications).  
Special price for Sunday Link readers ordering by phone: £7.95.  
01420 88222*

## Prison chaplaincy part II

by Heather Smith

The religion of every prisoner, or their preference to declare no religion, is recorded when they arrive in prison, and they may attend appropriate religious services and groups.

These days prison chaplains are of all Christian denominations and all the major faiths. Their statutory duties include responsibility for the pastoral care of prisoners, staff and visitors alike. In addition, chaplains often provide a valuable

link between those in prison and family, friends and communities on the outside. Chaplains now work alongside a wide range of specialists working in prisons, including probation officers, education officers, psychologists and professionals specialising in substance misuse, art therapy and other types of intervention.

Many people find that prison affords an opportunity to think about spirituality and faith, and chaplains have an important responsibility to accompany prisoners on their spiritual journeys. A prisoner's relationship with God is intertwined with getting to know him- or herself, and gaining a deeper understanding of his or her human relationships.

**“A comprehended God is no God at all.”**  
Gerhard Tersteegen (1697-1769), German devotional writer



# Church of Scotland: Orphir and Stenness Parish

Interim Moderator: Rev June Freeth 721449

Locum Minister Rev Martin Prentice    Session Clerk: Nicol 811242

## Kirk Information

There is a loop system. Adjust hearing aids to benefit. Switch off phones. They cause interference with the organ. Thank you

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

## Intimations

**Sunday - 2.30pm** St Peter's

**Tuesday - 7- 8pm** : Fellowship. Genesis 18 v 1- 22, 19 v 1- 29 Angels among us All welcome.

**Tuesday 8pm** – Choir

**Thursday – 10am – 12noon** Community Café in the kirk hall

**Traidcraft** - "We are sad to have been informed that Traidcraft is closing current loss-making trading operations. The stock in the cupboard will continue to be sold, but once products have gone they cannot be replaced. Many thanks for supporting Traidcraft over the years. *Catherine Homestead*

**Kirk Survey** : Many thanks to all who returned their copy of the kirk survey . All comments were valued and taken into account when collating the report which goes to the session on 18<sup>th</sup> October .

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October – 7.30pm** Session Meeting in the kirk hall

## Readings

Matthew 20 v 1 – 16

## Hymns

\*Hymn 737 Will your anchor hold

\*Hymn 141 Oh, the life of the world is a joy and a treasure

\*Hymn 721 We lay our broken word

\*Hymn 718 We cannot measure how you heal

\*Hymn 97 Oh God you search me and know me

Doxology Hymn 786

## **OPENING RESPONSES**

L O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

**ALL You know when I sit down and when I rise up. You know my thoughts from far away.**

L You search out my path and my lying down.

**ALL You are familiar with all my ways.**

L You are before me and behind me.

**ALL And so utterly known, supported and loved. we come to worship, God our Maker.**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

L; Peace be with us all.

**All; With justice comes peace.**

L; Let us build peace together and change our world.

**All; We share a sign of peace**

## **SENDING OUT**

L: Bright God

**All: Blaze in our darkness.**

L: Incinerate our iniquity.

**All: Light up our road.**

L: Riddle the ashes of our desires.

**All: Rekindle in us your justice and love.**