

# Mission plan


Gillian Cooper *reflects on*  
Mark 6:1-13

They didn't get much training, the twelve mission partners. They hadn't had two years in Bible college, or supervised experience in the mission field. They hadn't studied pastoral care or sociology, or theology for that matter. Nor had they recently seen any positive practice. Their mentor had been remarkably unsuccessful at persuading people of the value of

his mission, even on his home turf. They definitely weren't ready to go out on their own with his message. Their mission should have been a disastrous failure.


But they did have something going for them. They had a relationship. They knew Jesus. They had listened to him and watched him. They had concluded that he was like no one they had ever met before, that he was special enough for them to give up their lives to travel with him. Their friendship with him had given them an understanding and a confidence

this amazing productivity encourages us even more. The God of abundant living showers down food that must be shared if it's not to go to waste.

All the stories of Jesus feeding people with bread and fish, or bread and wine, and the prophet Elijah being the one who tells a starving woman and her child that their jar of meal and the jug of oil will not fail if they are able to share it, give us reason to know that sharing food with neighbours, friends and others in need is the way of living that God delights in. Try it for yourselves and see that God is faithful! 

that no amount of training could provide.

When we go into our world with the Gospel we need all the resources we can muster. We need specialists who understand theology and who have thought deeply about the world

they are addressing. But we need something else too. We need that touch of magic, the imagination to believe that there is more than we can see and that God is in charge. Only then can we offer our broken world a message of hope. 

**Living God, inspire us with courage and wisdom, that we may go into your world with fire in our hearts, ready to proclaim the truth of your presence, to share your love and to offer hope for life renewed. Amen.**

## The joy of laughter


by Paul Kerensa

*Paul is a stand-up comedian and scriptwriter whose writing credits include Miranda, Not Going Out, Top Gear, Channel 4's TFI Friday revival, as well as radio shows such as Dead Ringers, The Now Show and The News Quiz.*

There's a Yiddish proverb: "Man plans, and God laughs." So perhaps when those plans don't work out, we're just joining

in with the divine chuckles. Laughter may be a God-given joy, but comedy revels in disorder. Church is ordered and structured – so a little disorder goes a long way, and laughs are only heightened as we try so hard to keep everything in its place. I see the Church as man-made but God-blessed. So I imagine our creator – the setup to our punchline – looking down through almighty fingers as we humbly attempt worship.

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## Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

Smallholding isn't all animals and birds. We have begun to grow vegetables and fruit in the poly tunnel and are now eating salad, courgettes and tomatoes at most meals. Giving food away has always been important to us and

**“The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.**

Albert Schweitzer



# 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 bite of lunch. We extend a warm welcome to everyone, including our visitors from Flotta and Hoy & Walls.**

## Intimations

**Thursday - 10 -12** Community Café in the kirk hall

## **Readings:**

2 Corinthians 12: 2-10 (New Century Version)

Mark 6:1-13 (New Century Version)

## **Hymns:**

189 Be still for the presence of the Lord the Holy One is here.

153 Great is thy faithfulness

204 I am the Church! You are the Church!

363 We have a gospel to proclaim

646 Forth in the peace of Christ we go

## **Prayers of Intercession:**

L: Lord Hear our prayer.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

## **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.