

What in the world...?



“If you belonged to the world,” says Jesus, “the world would love you as its own.” Lord God, my prayer is to know your strength and wisdom whenever I falter and hesitate to witness to you. Amen.

Beating the bounds

by Lisa Tulfer

Originally, Rogationtide processions were solemn religious events. Participants, spiritually fortified by fasting, would pray for the crops in the fields. Over time they evolved into festivals and a celebration of pride in the parish, to the extent that they could lead to confrontations with neighbouring parishes.

The processions defined the parish boundaries. The elders and

boys of the parish carried wands of birch or willow to “beat the bounds” – boundary stones or other markers around the perimeter. As they went they prayed for the crops in the fields for protection against natural disasters. Each boundary stone or marker would be beaten with long willow or birch twigs, giving rise to the term “beating the bounds”. Sometimes a boy would be subjected to a beating, to impress the exact location of the boundary on his mind. In the era before maps were widely used, this “interactive” learning was how the knowledge of the geography of the parish was passed down the generations. ☺

Andrew Lyon *reflects on* John 17:6-19

One of my favourite hymns is “Will you let me by your servant” by Richard Gillard. The words are: “We are pilgrims on a journey / Fellow travellers on the road / We are here to help each other / Walk the mile and bear the load.” It perfectly illustrates how our time here on earth is temporary.

“We don’t belong here, you know,” my old nan used to say. “We’re just passing through.” She had a very acute sense of how our real home is in heaven, our time on earth a journey in that direction.

Today’s Gospel reveals part of Jesus’ long prayer to the Father the night he was betrayed. The disciples, those for whom he was praying, were soon to abandon him, and yet Jesus, knowing this, and about to leave them on their own in the world, prayed for their protection. Being one of his followers had brought his friends into conflict, making them the subject of hatred, because the world is hostile to God’s message.

If we are followers of Christ we too recognise that we are in this world but not of this world, but are here rather as emissaries to witness to Jesus as his Church. It is a calling which can make us seem peculiar to others, or which may bring ridicule and even hatred. Following Christ will lead us into conflict, but we are assured of the Father’s protection. ☺

Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

Now that the lambs are growing well with their mothers and the orphans are continuing to make their way on the bottle, it’s the turn of the poultry. Keeping rare-breed animals and birds so that the breeds survive and flourish is important even on a smallholding,

so I put a dozen eggs in the incubator. These are special. Shetland ducks are really very rare now but are characterful, adventurous, black and white ducks with a beautiful green sheen which lay eggs and taste good. I managed to hatch eight from a dozen eggs and watched them move from bedraggled wet creatures coming out of the shell to fluffy Disney-like ducklings. Without the raising and eating of these lovely creatures they will disappear as a breed. That variety in creation would be lost and we would all be the poorer. God’s variety is too precious to waste. ☺

“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”
John Piper

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

Today 2-4pm: Wanted – servers for café for about 20 folk. The kirk will receive a donation for this. Liz

Tuesday 7pm: Fellowship. A one off meeting on 15th May to plan and organise the service we are leading in June.

Tuesday 8pm: Choir

Thursday 10-12: Community Café

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

Café Transport: If you, or anyone you know would like to come to the Community Café on a Thursday morning but don't have transport, please get in touch with Anne Groundwater on 811394 to arrange a lift.

Reading

1 John 5: 9-13

John 17: 1- 21

Hymns

484 Great God, your love has called us here

510 Jesus calls us here to meet him (omit v. 4)

354 O love how deep, how broad, how high

468 Son of God, eternal Saviour

522 The Church is wherever God's people are praising

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.