

What is wisdom?

Heather Cooke *reflects on* Proverbs 9:1-6 and John 6:51-58

“Is that wise?” How often have you heard that expression? When we’re about to do something foolish, a caring friend might well use that tactful question to get us back on the right track. But what is wise, what is wisdom? Apart from the Gospel, all today’s set readings focus specifically on the topic. And yet it is in today’s words from Jesus that we learn what is truly wise.

As he continues his lengthy discourse about the bread of life in John 6, can you see echoes of the Proverbs reading? Wisdom is calling even the foolish to share her bread and wine. From her posh, seven-pillared home she invites

everyone – just as Jesus, who has come down from a heavenly home, invites us all. No class distinction here either! It isn’t our background that matters, but our willingness to accept what the crowd (and next week even the disciples) found difficult.

You can hardly blame them, really. Jesus had not yet sacrificed his body and blood on the cross, still less risen again from the dead. We, who know about his death and resurrection, have less of an excuse to ignore his wise words to us today. Foolish or not, rich or poor, we are all invited to share in Christ’s heavenly banquet and eternal life. Would you turn away from that greatest gift of all? Is that wise? ☺

Wise and wonderful God, you invite us to share the bread and wine that will nourish our souls. May those holy gifts strengthen our faith, build us up in fellowship and protect us from the folly of selfish pride. Amen.

A foray into foraging fungi

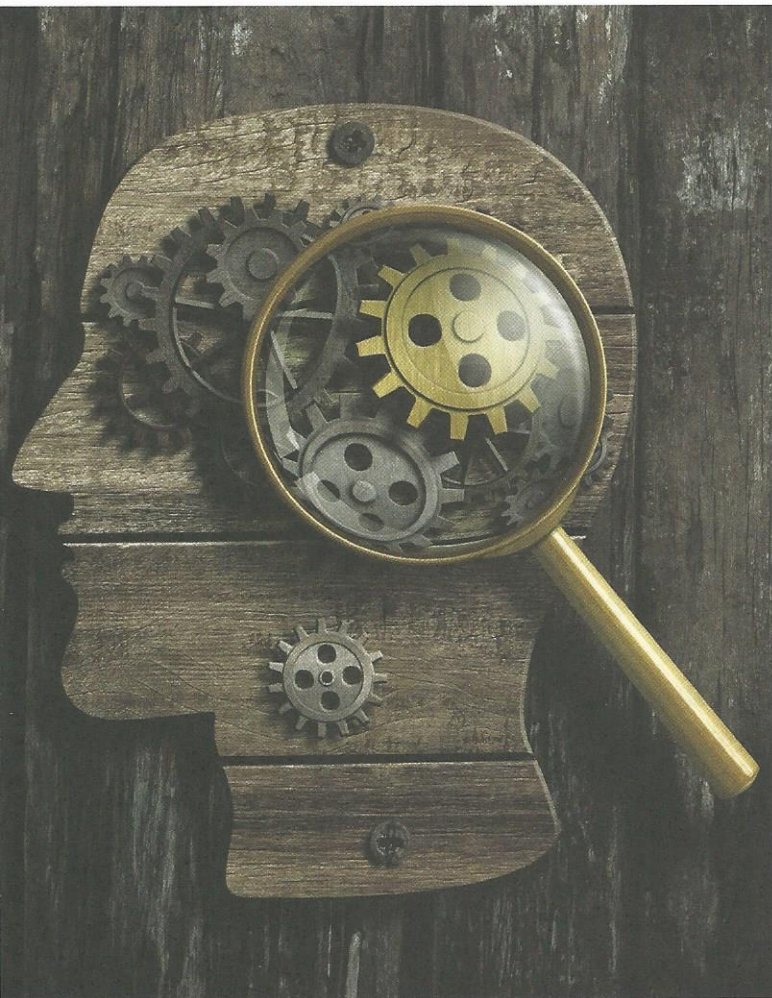
by Caroline Hodgson

It goes without saying that any fungi-hunter needs to really know what they are doing. Happily for would-be foragers, organisations like the National Trust and the Woodland Trust organise guided walks around this time of year, where you can learn what to look for, what to avoid and how to forage sustainably and responsibly.

I now know enough to recognise a few fungi, and I love it. It turns an autumn walk into a treasure hunt, reminding me of the verse from Matthew 3:44: “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field...” Some of them look really jewel-like! I love coming home to a fry-up breakfast or a wild garlic mushroom pasta. If you say grace before meals, it makes it all the more meaningful to thank God for something you have found and picked yourself.

For more information go to www.nationaltrust.org and www.woodlandtrust.org.uk ☺

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Matthew 3:3



Chaplain’s blog – “Look, it’s Mr Bull!”

by Marcus Bull

It seems to surprise students to discover that their teachers have a life outside school. They are amazed to see us on the train or in the supermarket. Twenty-two years ago, when we were on our honeymoon, my wife and I were interrupted by a voice calling across

the gardens of a stately home: “Look, it’s Mr Bull!” I don’t know who was more embarrassed, us or the girl’s mum!

The summer holidays give us a chance to re-engage with a life that may have been put on hold for most of the year, to reconnect with family and friends, as well as to rest. Even at this time of year, though, teachers are often hard at work preparing and planning for new classes and new courses starting in September.

In a couple of weeks’ time we’ll be hard at it again. Don’t begrudge us this time off and spare a moment to give thanks for the dedication of teachers up and down the country. ☺

Church of Scotland

Orphir and Stenness Parish

Interim Moderator: Rev June Freeth 721449

Locum Minister Rev Martin Prentice

Session Clerk: Nicol 811242 **Service co-ordinator:** Elaine 811205

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

Thursday - 10 -12 Community Café in the kirk hall

Sunday 26th: Communion

Kirk website: Would you like to publicise a group or event on the website? Chat to Susan or email: susan.coulter@yahoo.co.uk or call 811447.

Wanted - 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.

Readings: Revelations 22

Hymns:
540 I heard the voice of |Jesus say
533 Will you come and follow me
532 Lord you have come
525 Have you heard the raindrops
490 Jesus lover of my soul

Doxology

May the God of peace go with us as we travel from this place;
May the love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace.