

Connecting faith and daily life

Hearing the call

Janice Scott *reflects on Luke 1:57-66. 80*

This first birth in the New Testament, that of John the Baptist, heralds a new start. It becomes clear from the moment John is born that things are going to change. John's father Zechariah was a priest. He had been worshipping in the Temple when the angel Gabriel appeared to him and told him that, after many years of infertility, his wife Elizabeth was going to bear a son. In a moment of doubt (reminiscent of Abraham in the Old Testament) Zechariah had been struck dumb.

When the baby is born Elizabeth insists that he should be called John, meaning "God has acted graciously". It was the name given by God and passed down by Gabriel and, despite the disbelief of the neighbours, who assumed that the baby would be named after his father in the time-honoured tradition, Zechariah instantly supports his wife's proclamation.

Then we're told that the boy grew strong physically and spiritually and went into the desert to prepare for the great task which lay ahead of him. Much of Jesus' birth story mirrors that of John. Jesus' birth was announced by Gabriel and his name defied the tradition of taking his father's name. Jesus too grew in stature and spirit, and spent time in the desert to prepare him for his ministry.

Announcement, call to change, preparation, new ministry. Have you been called in this way by God? ☺



God of all life, enable me to discern your call amid my many distractions and give me the courage to react as you determine. Help me to listen and to hear, to respond and to change. Amen.

Rest and relaxation –
a series for
summer

Creating community,
by Heather Smith

Summer is a time not only for holidays, but also for carnivals, festivals and fetes. They all take a lot of collaborative effort and hard work to organise. Perhaps you might think this is not the topic to include in a series on rest and

relaxation. The complete change of focus from everyday activities might confirm the notion that "a change is as good as a rest". But these summer celebrations, with the need to work together, go a long way towards improving our sense of community. We are social beings. So often we find ourselves fulfilling different roles and building different kinds of relationships in the various groups with whom we interact. It helps us to find out more about ourselves and to fulfil our true potential. But we should not forget to include the lonely and the outsider. It can be hard to see everyone enjoying the benefits of community if you aren't included. ☺

“It was pride that changed angels into devils;
it is humility that makes men as angels.

St Augustine of Hippo

The joy of
vocation

An Anglican vocation,
by John Witcombe

It is often said that Anglicanism has "a foot in both camps". Both Catholic and Reformed, it offers vocation to both priests and people, and sends people into both the Church and the world. This means that a vocation for an Anglican will never simply be in the Church, but also in the world.

A vocation may take many different forms, from a calling to intercede at home, or to make coffee after church. It may be a volunteering role in the community, or a profession, or a role in a family, a church or the world. This is expressed beautifully in the liturgy of the Scottish Episcopal Church: "The ministerial priesthood and the priesthood of all believers are related. Each in its proper way partakes of the one priesthood of Christ."

From *The Joy of Being Anglican*, published by Redemptorist Publications (2017).

Code: 1762 Price: £9.95

ISBN: 9780852314777 ☺

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

Tuesday 7.30pm Choir

Thursday - 10 -12 Community Café in the kirk hall

Sunday 1st July: Sunday School Prize Giving during the service

Sunday 8th July: There will be a joint service with Flotta and Hoy & Walls at **11.45am**. Please note the change of time to suit the boats. There will be a lunch served after the service.

Hymns

36 – “God is our refuge and our strength”

192 – “All my hope on God is founded”

348 – “Praise the One who breaks the darkness”

570 – “When the storms of life are raging, stand by me”

JP197 – “Peter and James and John in a sailboat”

Readings:

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

Mark 4:35-41

The raging storm and the fear of the disciples contrasts with the image of the sleeping Christ in the stern of the boat (Mark 4.35-41). The disciples are horrified that Jesus does not seem to care (v.38). Mark wants others to hear Jesus' words: 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' The story of the storm at sea provides us with a powerful image of what it means to be the church today and what discipleship can look and feel like as we seek to live out our faith in and through all the opportunities and challenges of contemporary life. Joshua 1:9: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

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