

Wake up and get ready!

Katharine Smith *reflects on* Luke 21:25-36

Today there are wars throughout the world and powerful oppressive regimes. There are disasters causing untold distress and suffering: earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts and flooding, famine and disease. We may feel helpless in the face of such things, but can we imagine what it would be like if these events multiplied and intensified, so that it seemed that our world really could end very soon? Might we not feel faint in our fear and sense of foreboding?

The message of Jesus in today's Gospel is that we are to be ready for such times. We are not to do what many of us do when we are unable to face the reality of their lives; living wastefully and irresponsibly, numbing pain with drink or drugs, or simply burying our heads in the sand in the hope that it will all go away.

The words of Jesus will certainly not go away – they are eternal and we are to focus on them, not allowing anything to muffle his voice. We are to be ready, we are to stand with our heads held high, firm in the belief that these signs surely mean that Jesus, the Son of Man, is coming in power and glory and brings redemption with him. This is the wake up call of Advent – let's listen and respond to that call. ☺

Lord Jesus, speak to us the eternal words of your love and redemption, so that we may live with courage and faith and be ready to stand before you when you come again in power and glory. Amen.

Walking with Poppy

by Gillian Cooper

When Poppy and I set out on a walk we usually make very slow progress at first. Poppy has to sniff every corner, find the right place to do what needs to be done, and beg for treats, before we can really get going. But there's a certain chain

of coffee shops that welcomes dogs and sells waffles. I only have to say the magic words, and a very different Poppy sets off at a pace in exactly the right direction.

Advent is a time of anticipation. We look forward, eager to see God's purposes fulfilled, not only at Christmas but at the end of time. But our looking forward is not as simple as Poppy's, because for us there is death and judgment to consider. We can only hope that in the end there will be a warm welcome for us at God's table in a place of love and peace. ☺



National Parks

the Yorkshire Dales

by Jo Jones

Jesus spent the days teaching; each evening he withdrew to a nearby hill (Luke 21:37). National parks were set up near large centres of population and part of their purpose is to provide people with access to the beauty of the countryside. They are there for us

withdraw to – to have our minds and bodies swept clean by the winds, refreshed by the views.

I stayed in a stone cottage in the Yorkshire Dales in summer. I went to an eclectic range of concerts, part of the Swaledale Festival, in between walking tracks across the high moors, listening as I went to the bubbling calls of breeding curlews and the plaintive peewit of plovers. In the valleys my breath was taken away by hay meadows rich in flowers, my heart full as I watched butterflies flit between them. Heaven on earth and – like God – there for us. ☺

“Real power in prayer flows only when man's spirit touches God's spirit.

Catherine Marshall (1914-1983), writer

Church of Scotland: Orphir and Stenness Parish

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. 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 or coffee.

Intimations

Tuesday - 7- 8pm: Fellowship

Tuesday - 8pm: Choir

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

Sunday 9th 7pm: Christmas Concert: in the Kirk.

The Kirk Belles Isla & Steven Flett Sarah Jane Gibbon & Emma Grieve

Cliff Seatter The Aim Family Keri, Ingrid & Sinead

Stamps: A large consignment of stamps has been sent to the Leprosy Mission and a letter of warm appreciation received. They tell of a young lad, Dilip, who was denied the basic right to education because of his condition. He was given financial help to attend a Vocational Training Centre, where leprosy was not an issue, to train as a welder. He will then be able to support himself and his mother who has also had leprosy and is not now treated as an outcast but is accepted. Thank you to all who have collected stamps for the Mission. Graeme

Tree Festival: Sundays December 9th 16th 23rd & 30th
Thursdays December 13th 20th & January 3rd
Saturdays December 15th & 22nd

Volunteers Needed: To bake and/or serve at the extra Saturday Tree Festival cafes or to be on 'welcome duty' in the kirk during the Tree festival. Please sign up on the yellow rota form on the Orcadian table in the kirk hall.

Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 Luke 21:25-36

Hymns: 61 Oh sing a new song (omit verses 3 and 6)
472 Come Thou long
473 Though kingdom come
277 Hark the glad sound
279 Make way
786 May the God of peace

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.