

Connecting faith and daily life

Churning up the ground

Ricarda Witcombe *reflects on* Mark 1:14-20

Poppy seeds can lie dormant for years with no one even knowing they are there. When the ground is churned up, they push down their roots and grow. It's a strong theme for Remembrance Sunday, and it also gives us a way to look at what is happening in today's Gospel. John the Baptist has been arrested – it is the end of his ministry and almost the end of his life. His arrest is a ground-churning event that spurs into growth a new season for Jesus, as he begins to proclaim the good news of God. This proclamation is the first thing we hear him say in Mark's Gospel. As Jesus walks along the Sea of Galilee the ground is churned up for Simon

and Andrew, who can have no idea that everything is about to change for them, as they leave their nets and their father and follow Jesus. These men, like us, are called into relationship with Jesus. The work of the kingdom, and the heart of any vocation, is not about being alone but about being in community, centred on Jesus Christ. They respond with a freshness and clarity that will not always characterise their discipleship – the rest of the Gospel repeatedly shows their failings and lack of understanding. But this moment matters more – for this is when their lives take root in Christ and they begin to grow. May our lives also be so churned by God that we too may grow and flourish. ☺

Eternal God, who calls us daily to follow you, may we not fear when our lives are disturbed, but push our roots into the ground and grow strong in response to your calling. Amen.

Walking with Poppy

we will remember

by Gillian Cooper

Dogs' memories are limited but still have an effect on them. Poppy remembers her way around the streets near our home and knows where her friends live. She knows that a certain footfall and ring of

the doorbell means that there will be treats. And she is afraid of small clicking noises, because the radiators clicked in a house where she once suffered in a heatwave.

Today on our walk in Westminster, Poppy and I will see the soldiers and the veterans as they go to remember. The memories affect us, they are ours, even though we were not there. Today we know what inhumanity looks like and how much courage is required to defeat it, and we are afraid. But we also live in hope that the world can learn to love kindness and show mercy as we walk humbly with our God. ☺

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

John Wesley



Margaret of Scotland

by Christine Clark

If you travel to Edinburgh and continue northwards, either by road or rail, you may notice twin towns, one on each side of the Firth of Forth: North and South Queensferry. I have passed signs to these towns many times and always wondered about the history of their names.

Margaret of Scotland, whose feast falls on Friday, was born around 1045, a Wessex princess

whose family fled to Scotland following the Norman Conquest in 1066. Margaret married King Malcolm III of Scotland and of her eight children, seven were either kings or married kings. Margaret was very pious, and among her many charitable works she established a ferry across the Firth of Forth for pilgrims travelling to St Andrews in Fife, which as I have now learnt gave the Queensferry towns their names.

Margaret was canonised in 1250 in recognition of her personal holiness, her charitable work, her fidelity to the Church and her work for ecclesiastical reform. ☺

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

Remembrance Day -There is a retiring collection for the Poppy Scotland appeal. A wreath laying ceremony will be held at the Stenness war memorial at 1pm.

Readings: Micah 4: 1-5
John 15: 9-17

Hymns 161 O God our help in ages past
712 What shall we pray for those who died
706 For the healing of the nations
710 'I have a dream' a man once said
529 Forth in Thy name, O Lord I go (*tune 470*)

The Tryst

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

We will remember them.

Prayer of Intercession

L. At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
All We will remember them.

Doxology 706 v1