

Tumbling down



Ricarda Witcombe *reflects on* Mark 13:1-8

We are almost at the end of the church year, and today's Gospel reading prevents us from simply coasting to the finish. The Gospel journey is never easy, but neither is it unaccompanied by the God who makes life possible in any situation. Mark gives us a glimpse of a private conversation between Jesus and his disciples. It is a conversation that speaks of fear and reassurance in equal measure. Herod's Temple was incomplete but still known as the most beautiful building in the world. The disciples, like everyone else, are in awe of its sheer beauty and size. Jesus, however, draws their attention to something deeper. None of it will last, he says. This building, that has taken such years of skilled work, such vision to build, and such expense, will come tumbling down.

It's a salutary reminder for our own lives. Most of us pour energy into things that ultimately will fade into insignificance. It's well known that on their deathbed, few people would say they wish they had spent more time working. Jesus goes on to warn against those who will interpret world events wrongly and, acknowledging that there will be war and rumour of war, he tells them not to be afraid. Within all of this is a call to something deeper, to the God who is greater than the whole of creation, whose kingdom lasts for ever. ☺

Eternal God, whose love is stronger than anything in all creation, give us the grace to trust in you when our foundations are shaken, that in every circumstance we may find the path of life and walk it. Amen.

Universal Children's Day

by Lisa Tulfer

Next Tuesday, 20 November, is Universal Children's Day. Established by the United Nations in 1954, it is designed to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide, and to improve children's welfare. It also marks the UN's adoption of the Declaration

(and later Convention) on the Rights of the Child.

In the UK, the day tends to be eclipsed by a closely related event, BBC Children in Need, which has been all about fun and fundraising since 1980. In that time it has raised over £600 million for disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. Individuals, schools, businesses and churches participate in events to raise money to help bring about the vision of every child being safe, happy and secure, with the chance to reach their potential – aspirations which are themselves based on the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of the Child. ☺

National Parks

by Jo Jones

National Parks were established as part of the reconstruction of Britain after the Second World War. People living in increasingly crowded, industrialised towns craved access to open country – access that was denied by increasing enclosure of land by landowners. In 1932 a mass trespass on Kinder Scout in the Peak District intensified pressure for change. In the 1950s

the Peak District became the first of fifteen national parks across England, Wales and Scotland. They were established to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of their area, promote enjoyment and understanding by the public and foster the economic and social well-being of local communities.

How often in the Bible the wilderness is the place where God is found. Designed to be in reach, we need to treasure these national parks as places where our souls get a chance to breathe – along with much other wildlife! ☺

“The man of prayer finds his happiness in continually creating, searching, being with Christ.”
Roger of Taizé (1915-2005), founder and prior of the Taizé community

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 25th November: a communion service will be held in the Orphir and Stenness Kirk.

Readings:

Psalm 23

John 10: 1-18

Hymns:

462 The King of Love

JP86 I am trusting you Lord Jesus

14 The Lord's my Shepherd (Crimond)

336 Christ is our light

718 We cannot measure how you heal

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.