

Church of Scotland: Orphir and Stenness Parish

Interim Moderator: Rev June Freeth 721449

Locum Minister Rev Martin Prentice **Session Clerk:** Nicol Sclater 811242

Intimations

- Orphir Post Office will re-open in the kirk on Thursdays from 10am to 12 noon starting from Thursday 20th August 2020. Government guidelines will be followed. The Orcadian will be available. Please take the correct money for papers; £1.50.
- For the time being, Orphir and Stenness kirk will not be open for Sunday worship.
- If you, or someone you are in contact with, would like to access pastoral care by telephone please contact Olivia Tait 811392, Carol Mainland 873596, Nicol Sclater 811242 or Martin Prentice 851139.

As we work our way through this time of Lockdown and restrictions, it would be easy to become confused and discouraged by all the advice and warnings that come our way. We hear conflicting ideas about policy and behaviour. We learn about 'important' people ignoring the guidance, and we might be tempted to follow their example, and let our own standards slip, forgetting that government policy is founded on the best available medical and scientific information. We need to keep ourselves safe, and to help other people to stay safe too. Maybe we wonder how to do that, how best to behave. In the quotation below, Rev. Dr. David Preston Sharp, a Presbyterian minister in USA, asks that question, and imagines God's reply. You may find it helpful.

Stay safe, and help others to stay safe as well.

If you do what the Lord wants, he will make certain each step you take is sure.

Psalm 37:23 (CEV)

Every Blessing,
Martin.

.....

God, how would you have me be in the world today?

*Transcend intellect today
as best you can,
and allow me
to be master of your day.*

*Let your heart experience
the divinity and majesty
of my presence.*

*Let my presence fill you
as you open to my
love and grace.*

Breathe in my love.

*As you exhale, let go of your belief
that your intellect is who you are.*

*Allow intuition and wisdom
to guide you
as your intellect becomes my divine
servant,
and your whole being
an offering to my will.*

David Preston Sharp in *Power for Life*
(Quoted in *Seasons of the Spirit*)