

## Church of Scotland: Orphir and Stenness Parish

**Interim Moderator:** Rev June Freeth 721449

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

### Intimations

- 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.
- Message from June. There has been some speak of churches opening for private prayer, however, like Stromness Church and others, we will follow this intimation ...

#### **Private prayer**

*We could now open this church building for private prayer – but we won't.*

*Why not? Because if you came here to pray we'd have to:*

*make you wash or sanitise your hands at the door,*

*instruct you to wear a mask,*

*ask you if you had COVID symptoms, underlying health problems or got a flu jab,*

*(and turn you away if the answer to any of these was yes),*

*tell you which seat you could sit in,*

*warn you not to sing,*

*make sure you left by a different door,*

*then clean and sanitise every surface you touched.*

*Alternatively you could,*

*sit on an armchair at home with a cup of tea,*

*sit on the seashore and watch the birds,*

*walk up the Orphir and Stenness hills*

*and talk to God just as easily. You don't need special words, a special place, special objects or special people to talk to God. God loves you and He is listening. So just do it*

### **Choosing A Braver Faith**

The scripture readings for this week speak to the difficulty of living love in spite of the world's dangers and contradictions that appear to make it foolhardy. Trust is hard to build, and hard to maintain. Despite fear and struggles, the psalmist writes "I trust in your unfailing love". In hard times – in all times – Jesus calls us to be brave: to choose love and faith over power and money. He asks us to welcome, and to offer love, even in small gestures such as giving a cup of water.

Have you wrestled with love and fear? Did you find the courage to choose love?

Can you remember acts of kindness that you have received, or that you have offered, that made a difference in your day, or in your life, or in somebody else's life??

#### **Prayer:**

Faithful God, may we grow in trust, quell our fears, and build a courageous and brave faith to carry us in trying times. Amen