

## Church of Scotland: Orphir and Stenness Parish

**Interim Moderator:** Rev June Freeth 721449

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

### Intimations

- The church building is currently closed. Do keep in touch with others in the community by phone or through email. The Orcadian will not be available at the kirk until further notice
- Orphir and Stenness kirk will send an email each weekend with the Link and a service prepared by Martin. "Just a thought" emails, which Martin will select/prepare, will also be forwarded. Please let Nicol know if you are in contact with anyone who would like their email address added to the mailing list.
- 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.

### Lockdown: by Richard Hendrick, 2020, (edited)

Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation. Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness. Yes, there is even death.

But:

they say that in Wuhan, after so many years of noise, you can hear the birds again; they say that, after just a few weeks of quiet, the sky is no longer thick with fumes, but blue and grey and clear. They say that, in the streets of Assisi, people are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open, so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland has been offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy sharing her number throughout the neighbourhood so that elderly people may have someone to call on.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting. All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality:

to how big we really are; to how little control we really have;

waking up to what really matters:

to Love.

So we pray, and we remember that

Yes there is fear, but there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation, but there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying, but there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness, but there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes there is even death, but there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe; listen: behind the factory noises of your panic

the birds are singing again, the sky is clearing, spring is coming, and we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul, and, though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

If I can be of particular help to anyone, please contact me by phone on 01856-851139 or by email on [MPrentice@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:MPrentice@churchofscotland.org.uk)

May God bless you all.

Martin