

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 is in the kirk on Thursdays from 10am to 12 noon. Government guidelines are followed. The Orcadian is 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.

Depending on your point of view, the weeks fly past, or drag past, as the progress of the Pandemic continues, and guesstimates for easing of restrictions and controls, and a return to 'normal', are overtaken. What is evident is that the Coronavirus is unpredictable. Our scientists are learning about it all the time, and there are warnings about a 'second wave', and the possibility of re-infection as different strains are identified. However inconvenient or tiresome they seem, for the sake of ourselves, and others, we need to follow the advice and observe the precautions. All very depressing, but there are positive aspects too. While our churches have remained closed, we have been obliged to find new ways to worship, and to pray, and to keep in touch with one another, especially with the most vulnerable. There are many excellent Sunday services and midweek events online, including some from Orkney, but not everybody can access them, and we need to remember to lift the telephone more often. The Lockdown has reminded us that the Church is people, not buildings, and that the Church Without Walls is all the more important in helping folk join together - even with social distancing - to build, and re-build, relationships with one another and the wider community. Through these relationships we all benefit, and we further the work of Christ in this place. When, eventually, we return to 'normal', it may be a very different normal. It may even be a much better normal. It is up to us to make that a reality. Look out for one another, and keep safe. God bless you all.

Martin.

and:

May the blessing of light be on you - light without and light within.

*May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire,
so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it.*

*And may light shine out of the two eyes of you,
like a candle set in the window of a house,
bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.*

*And may the blessing of the rain be on you,
may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean,
and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines,
and sometimes a star.*

*And may the blessing of the earth be on you,
soft under your feet as you pass along the roads,
soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day;
and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it.*

*May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly;
up and off and on its way to God.*

And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen