

## 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 open in the kirk on Thursdays from 10am to 12 noon. 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.

### **In Ecclesiastes 1: 2-11 we read:**

*Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What do people gain from all the toil at which they toil under the sun? A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hurries to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south, and goes around to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they continue to flow. All things are wearisome; more than one can express; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, or the ear filled with hearing. What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has already been, in the ages before us. The people of long ago are not remembered, nor will there be any remembrance of people yet to come by those who come after them.*

Perhaps you feel a bit weary today, even now as you're trying to pray: not in the mood; too busy; too preoccupied; too tired. Or just fed-up with all the restrictions on our 'normal' life. If that is how you find yourself right now, just acknowledge that feeling, and present yourself, nonetheless, to God, just as you are, for God will listen to you, and accept you, just as you are.

This reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes is about world-weariness: a depressing passage, you may think. What about you? Is there anything in your own memories, in your own experience of life, that confirms the suggestion that there is 'nothing new in the world', and 'all is vanity'?

Or is there anything in your experience that contradicts this feeling? What have you come across in your life that you found genuinely new, and different, and interesting and exciting? Read the passage again. Is it about truth, or just tiredness? Is it hitting the nail on the head, or just being grumpy? How much of it reflects your own feelings?

If you feel the need for a boost, a renewed enthusiasm for life, why not ask God for that right now? Or, if that's not how you feel, what other feelings, what desires would you like to bring before the Lord now?

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

- From *Pray As You Go*, 24.09.20 (edited).

Blessings,  
Martin.