

Burrow 6th Class service – each year there is a theme

Motivation – staying focussed – keeping at it when we are discouraged, when we face difficulties.

Importance of encouraging others

being the best person we can be.

OT lesson read of giving of the 10 commandments – God telling the people the best way to live with him, the best way to live with each other.

I just want to tell you of a Presbyterian Minister in a village about 20 miles from my last Parish of Ahoghill. He was in that congregation for 50 years. He was a keen gardener and loved daffodils. Every time he went out for a walk around the countryside he used to put a few daffodil bulbs in his pocket. He would plant them in different places so that over the years the laneways around that village were lined with daffodils. What you had over the years were simple, insignificant acts of service leaving a beautiful mark on that area.

In our service of God, in our service of each other, stay motivated, keep at it, don't be discouraged and you can leave a lovely mark on someone else's life.

When we were starting work on the Church I asked the youngsters in the Burrow to produce some posters to encourage us. The hoardings are down now so we don't see them but lots of people commented on

them with slogans like ‘Even though the roof looks odd you can still praise God.’

Down at the School the other day I recalled how the whole job started. Slates started sliding off the roof one Sunday. We asked how much it was going to cost and it was an awful amount of money. We were really discouraged. Then some one asked ‘How do you eat an elephant?’ The answer is ‘In small pieces.’ We got going, we started - there were concerts and lots of other things – people gave very generously. And there were times when we got discouraged – the elephant got bigger, it was going to cost a lot more.

But we are now ready to go back into the Church – we’ve eaten the elephant.

While all that was going on, even though the roof looked odd, we still praised God.’ We settled down to worship here in the Centre. Elke and others produced some lovely art work for the communion table and at the back. We discovered that it was lovely to sit together. It was a bit awkward to receive communion but boy the hymn singing was great. I just want to thank the choir for their part in that.

Let’s not forget what has been special about this last five months, that sense of togetherness – and with that the hymn singing has been wonderful. I am concerned that if we just head back to our old seats

then we will lose something special. So to remind us of that, how nice it is to be closer together, we are going to continue to have our Family Services here in the Parish Centre..

On Thursday night we will carry everything back in to the Church. On Sunday we have our Harvest and lots of people from neighbouring churches are coming to celebrate with us on our first Sunday back in the Church.

The people of Israel did not stay at the foot of Mount Sinai. God led them on in their journey. So we prepare to move out from here and back into our Parish Church to continue our journey of witness and worship. God will travel with us, the God who has been worshipped on this site for over 200 years and will be in the years to come. In fellowship with those who have gone before us (and I'm conscious of those who, unknown to us were buried in our grounds for over a thousand years) let us press on in our journey with Christ, and into Christ that his name may be glorified and his kingdom advanced in the years to come.