

26th May 2021

Enough

**“No, ‘tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church’s door;
but ‘tis enough, ‘twill serve.”**

William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet

Early in my ministry, I was asked to conduct the funeral of a young father. The mother asked if her daughter, aged six, could sit with us so we could explain to the little girl what was happening. I was careful what I said about daddy’s death and the crematorium, about illness and remembering people who’d died. The child listened intently, while cuddling into her mother. After a bit, she lifted her head, looked up and said, “Mummy, can I ask an important question?” *Here it is*, I thought, *the sixty-four-thousand-dollar question about death and dying*. So, it was with trepidation I heard a young mother say, “Of course, my love. Ask any question you want.” “Mummy,” said the little one, “are we going to have fishfingers for tea?”

I *loved* that moment ... not because I wasn’t asked the ultimate awkward question, but because I was being taught by a child when enough was enough, or, at least, “‘tis enough, ‘twill serve” for now.

A friend who’s a political journalist was explaining to her son the workings of the proportional voting “list system” in the Scottish Parliamentary elections. The boy’s eyes were glazing over. My friend asked, “Do you understand all of that?” “Yes mum,” he replied, “but I was wondering whether I could go to play *Minecraft* now.” Enough is enough!

When I was in college, a fellow student took morning worship in a country church. There was a foot of snow on the ground, and only four worshippers came – including the organist. But the student offered two readings, five hymns, two prayers, and a twenty-minute sermon. Leaving the church, an old farmer said to the student, “Thanks, laddie. Ah’m aff noo tae feed the cattle. Mind you, if only twa coos come tae the gate, Ah’ll mak’ sure Ah dinnae gie them the hale load o’ hay.” Enough is enough!

We too can learn when enough is enough. From a bereaved child to a wise farmer, in a politics or an act of worship, someone is silently shouting, “‘tis enough, ‘twill serve”, and hoping you or I take the hint!

A prayer for today

Lord, when I go on a bit, let me listen to your voice. And if you say, “‘Tis enough, ‘twill serve”, help me to know that’s your answer. Amen.