'The Naversdale Runestone: Pater Noster to Pigs Nose'?

Dr Sarah Jane Gibbon

In September 2013 Donnie Grieve discovered a runestone at the farm of Naversdale in Orphir, Orkney. The inscription, 19 characters long, is written in a similar style of runes to those in Maeshowe and so can be date-bracketed to the twelfth-fifteenth centuries with the contextual implications suggesting a date in the earlier part of this period. However, unlike the Maeshowe runes the inscription is written in Latin and is therefore a very rare find for the Northern Isles. Tjere Spurkland translated the inscription as ‘…who art in Heaven hallowed’. Thus this find joins a corpus of *Pater Noster* inscriptions found across the Scandinavian World.

This paper will be in two parts; the first part will discuss the context of the find with the aim of establishing why the stone was at Naversdale whilst the second part will focus on the wider significance of this find and its value as a material expression of Christian practice in medieval Orkney.