

Connecting faith and daily life

Hungry + angry = "hangry"

Heather Cooke *reflects on* Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 and John 6:24-35

Moan, moan, moan! It's hard to miss the complaining in today's reading from Exodus. The "whole congregation" complained against Moses and Aaron. Fortunately, God was also listening, as always. Seeming to forget they'd been delivered from cruel slavery, the Israelites bemoan the lack of food now that they're in the wilderness. Understandable, you might think. The newly coined word "hangry" reflects how hunger can indeed make people short-tempered. God, whose shoulders are broad, doesn't resent the ingratitude expressed towards those chosen to lead the exodus. Instead, miraculous food is provided.

In today's Gospel, Jesus had just fed the five thousand with only five loaves and two fish, which is every bit as miraculous as quails and manna. Those in the crowd were no longer physically hungry. But Jesus spots that they might be spiritually "hangry". Indeed, the rest of this month's Gospel readings will show him facing complaints about his claim to be the bread of life. It would take his resurrection to prove the point, rescuing us from slavery to sin and death.

Do some of us, perhaps even our "whole congregation", sometimes complain against our church leaders? Or against God? When we feel we're in the wilderness, angry that our spiritual appetites aren't being satisfied, can we take heart from the promise God makes to all of us, to provide spiritual food – sometimes in the most unexpected ways? Just keep looking! 😊

God who leads us into eternal life, give us grace to see you in our daily lives. May we be thankful for the miracles of friendship and family, of love and laughter, and patient in times of trouble. Amen.

Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

In the church year it is the "green" season of Sundays after Trinity when the stories roll on and life is mostly uneventful. On the smallholding this month is quiet compared with times of lambing, shearing or tugging. The animals rest and recover from busier times,

gaining size and weight. "All shall be well," says Julian of Norwich.

Elsewhere, in the polytunnel, life rushes ahead. Tomatoes and courgettes, beans, peas, melons and cucumbers are abundant with baskets "pressed down" and "running over" (Luke 6:38). It becomes a time to share all this God-given bounty with neighbours and friends and the creatures that help themselves – caterpillars and birds, rats and mice. This sharing is important to me. I leave the gleanings because I have more than enough. "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it," as the psalmist says, so we share and live and let live, mostly. 😊



John Mason Neale

by Christine Clark

John Mason Neale, who is commemorated on Tuesday, was a nineteenth-century high church Anglican priest who did not have a particularly easy ride. Despite being the best classical scholar of his year at Cambridge he was not allowed to take his honours degree due to his lack of ability in maths. As Vicar of Crawley he was forced to resign due to disagreements with both his bishop and congregation. Being high church he was treated

with suspicion and aggression, this being a period of deep distrust of anything that smacked of Roman Catholicism. Indeed, he was attacked and mauled at a funeral and on occasions crowds threatened to stone him and burn his house.

But Neale played to his strengths. He is now remembered as a hymn-writer, bringing us "All Glory, Laud and Honour", "A Great and Mighty Wonder", "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "Of the Father's Heart Begotten", among others; and also as a translator, bringing to common use many great Latin, Greek, Russian and Syrian hymns. 😊

“My flesh is frail and weak. If I therefore at any time forget Thee, touch my heart, O Lord, that I may again remember Thee.

Queen Elizabeth I

Church of Scotland: Orphir and Stenness Parish

Interim Moderator: Rev June Freeth 721449

Locum Minister Rev Martin Prentice **Session Clerk:** Nicol 811242

Kirk Information

There is a loop system. Adjust hearing aids to benefit. Switch off phones. They cause interference with the organ. Thank you.

A warm invitation is extended to everyone to meet in the hall at the back of the church, after the service, for a cup of tea.

Intimations

Today – 2.30pm Our congregation is responsible for taking a short service at St Peter's home in Stromness. All welcome.

Thursday - 10 -12 Community Café in the kirk hall

Readings: Psalm 103:1 – 18 Hebrews 13:5 – 8 and 15 – 16

Hymns: 210 Awake my soul,
 Link Yesterday, Today, Forever (below)
 68 Oh Thou my soul,
 JP92 I do not know what lies ahead,
 192 All my hope on God is founded

Yesterday, Today, Forever

1. Oh, how sweet the glorious message
simple faith may claim:
Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the
same;
Still He loves to save the sinful, heal the
sick and lame,
Cheer the mourner, still the tempest—
glory to His name!

Refrain:
*Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the
same,
All may change, but Jesus never—glory to
His name!
Glory to His name! Glory to His name!
All may change, but Jesus never—glory to
His name!*

2. He who was the friend of sinners seeks
the lost one now:
Sinner, come, and at His footstool
penitently bow;
He who said, "I'll not condemn thee, go
and sin no more,"
Speaks to thee that word of pardon as in
days of yore.

3. As of old He walked to Emmaus, with
them to abide,
So through all life's way He walketh, ever
near our side;
Soon again we shall behold Him—Hasten,
Lord, the day—
But 'twill still be "this same Jesus" as He
went away.

Doxology

May the God of peace go with us as we travel from this place;
May the love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace.