

Connecting faith and daily life



Everyday miracles

Gillian Cooper *reflects on* 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c and Luke 17:11-19

Your faith has made you well", says Jesus to the grateful leper. It is not the faith shown in saying thank you that has contributed to his healing. It is the asking: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" And then it is the willingness to follow instructions. When there is no instant miracle, how tempting to shrug the shoulders and give up. But the lepers do as they are told, and it is in the ordinary walk along the road to see the priests that their miracle happens.

One of our choices for the Old Testament reading today tells the story of Naaman the Syrian commander, another leper. A proud

and important man, he wants spectacular magic, not secondhand advice to take a bath in the river. He has to learn that God's healing miracles can sometimes look quite ordinary.

The miracle of healing comes to us in many human ways: through the skills of doctors and the research of scientists; through the support of those who love us; through time and patience; through taking our pills and following instructions. And yet, like Naaman and the leper healed by Jesus, we return time and again to give thanks to the God who is the ultimate source of all healing and wholeness. 🕊

Healing God, we praise you for the daily miracles that restore us to wholeness. Give us thankful hearts, and help us to look in faith for that day when all the world's hurts will be healed in your kingdom. Amen.

World Food Day

by Caroline Hodgson

Since its very early years of existence, the UN has made tackling hunger and malnutrition a key priority. World Food Day is observed on October 16th and is when people celebrate the founding of the UN Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) and take action to try and get rid of hunger during their lifetimes. It is also a day for people to reflect on that fact that food is a basic human right.

Each year on World Food Day awareness events are held and information campaigns are launched worldwide to address the "intolerable" wrong of hunger. Last year the UN reported that more than 815 million people do not have enough to eat. Some 155 million children under the age of five – twenty-three per cent – may endure the effects of chronic malnourishment for their lifetimes.

For all the stark statistics, the message is one of hope – that a #zerohunger world by 2030 is possible, provided we join forces. For more go to: www.fao.org/world-food-day 🕊

Faith and disability

Difference and disability
by Heather Smith

Until recently we had set up our world, without a thought, to cater for a certain range of abilities to the exclusion of others – those we call disabled. Jesus knew that disabled people suffered from being excluded. His healing miracles not only restored health, but restored those who were healed to full participation in their communities. The ten lepers

in Luke 17:11-19 were forced to live apart from society, but once their healing was confirmed by the priests they were restored to life among their family and friends.

We have learned a lot about inclusiveness in recent times, and legislation now requires us to consider the needs of disabled people, although ability and disability come in many different forms. There are obvious changes that church communities can make – a ramp as an alternative to steps, for example, so that a wheelchair user doesn't have to ask for help, and accessible toilet facilities. Most of all, though, we can give a warm welcome to everyone. 🕊

“ Bless me, O Lord, and let my food strengthen me to serve thee.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748), minister, educationalist and hymn writer

Church of Scotland: Orphir and Stenness Parish

Interim Moderator: Rev June Freeth 721449

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

There is a loop system. Adjust hearing aids to benefit.

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

Tuesday 15th Oct 7pm - 8pm - We are looking at 'Each of us is special to God' and 'Disabilities - knowing our true value'. Please come along and join the discussion or just come along and listen. All welcome. For more information contact Carol Mainland tel: 873596 or email : vmainland@btinternet.com

Tuesday - 8pm – Choir in the kirk hall

Thursday 17th Oct – 10am – 12noon Community Café in the kirk hall

Sunday 20th Oct – Harvest Thanksgiving. Donations for the Foodbank can be placed on the windowsills.

The collection for the International Justice Mission at our Freedom Sunday Service came to £178. <https://www.ijm.org/> Thank you for making a difference.

Readings:

2 Kings 5: 1-3 and 7-15c

Luke 17:11-19

Hymns:

Hymn 124 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation

Hymn 721 We lay our broken world

Hymn 717 O Christ, the healer, we have come

Hymn 32 As pants the hart

Hymn 182 Now thank we all our God

Doxology Hymn 786

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.