

Third in our series of special issues written by women about women

# Nothing too big

Heather Smith *reflects on*  
 Psalm 82

The psalmist pleads for God to give justice to and rescue those who are weak, orphaned and needy – words which could be written today. Weak and needy people are scattered across the world, in our own country and all around the earth. Journalists bring us their stories and their photographs appear on our screens, showing us the misery that is inflicted on those who are powerless.

It's tempting to close our minds to all this suffering. What can we do? How can we choose which cause to support and how to work for justice? But while it seems too big for our small minds, nothing is

too big for God. "For all the nations belong to you!" says the psalmist. Surely God is concerned for the fate of each and every person on earth.

St Teresa of Avila understood the frustration and helplessness we feel when faced with such enormous need. "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you," she said. "Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people."

We have a responsibility to do something. And whatever we do demonstrates God's love. The difference we make, no matter how small, is God's work. ☺



**God of love, teach us to work unceasingly for justice and to show your compassion to all, especially to those who suffer at the hands of the powerful. Amen.**

## Women in Christianity

by Georgina Byrne

When Jesus rose from the dead, his first instruction was given to a woman. He said to Mary Magdalene, "Go and tell my brothers," explicitly commanding her to bear witness to the resurrection. All Christians are called to speak of their faith, but it has not been conventional for women to speak – not only in the

Church, but in other realms of public life. Women were not politicians or barristers. Women who preached were eyed with suspicion, as heretics or eccentrics.

They may have lacked a public voice, but women have always taught. They have handed on their faith in the home to children. Some, certainly by the eighteenth century, were gathering thoughts together into pamphlets that others could use and share. Sunday schools were run by women before Robert Raikes appeared. They also wrote hymns – and most of us owe a great deal of the faith we remember to the hymns we sing. ☺

## Catherine Booth

*Co-founder of the Salvation Army, Catherine Booth is commemorated on Tuesday. Jeni Parsons looks at her life and legacy.*

Here is a woman of great spirit who, with her husband William, founded the Salvation Army. Her Methodist background and her work among very poor people led her to try to help people struggling with alcoholism from the cheap "grog" of the time. Catherine was

working against poverty rather than as a killjoy.

She founded food shops where the poor could buy a cheap meal. She was a remarkable preacher at a time when it was thought unfeminine for women to speak in religious meetings and her preaching was to those who were rich.

So here is a practical, energetic, Christian woman who raised her eight children and was active in the Church and the world. That makes her an interesting role model for all sorts of people of faith, because what motivated her was a profound belief in the equality of men and women before God, rather than a secular view of equality. ☺

“ I don't believe in any religion apart from doing the will of God.

Catherine Booth (1829-1890), co-founder of the Salvation Army

**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 20th August - 8pm** – Choir in the kirk hall

**Thursday – 10am – 12noon** Community Café in the kirk hall

A message from Graeme and Sybil Brown.

*“This is a request for help in enabling us to attend church. We are grateful for the support which we receive from three members who drive our car for us on a one Sunday a month arrangement. We would be grateful for help under the same arrangement for the other Sundays. In anticipation, many thanks. Graeme and Sibyl.”*

A message from Liz Slater.

*“A VERY URGENT PLEA FOR HELP PLEASE.*

*Can you spare a few hours on a Thursday morning to serve tea/ coffee every now and again.*

*Could you help bake a few fancies or scones /pancakes don't worry if you need it collected that can be arranged in advance. Your HELP is URGENTLY needed.*

*A rota is in the kirk hall if you can do a little or a lot that would be a great help.*

*THANK YOU!!!!!!!”*

**Readings:**

Psalm 80 v 1&2 then 8-19

Hebrews 11 v 29 to 12 v 2

**Hymns**

Hymn 518 Lift up your heart

Hymn 465 Be Thou my Vision

Hymn 552 O for a closer walk

Hymn 567 Focus my eyes on you O Lord

Hymn 556 I need Thee every hour

Hymn 641 Seek ye first the kingdom of 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.