

# Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Church

## Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020



### Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

Over the last few weeks, despite not being able to come together as usual for services and other meetings, the life of the church has not stopped.

Many of you with internet access have been enjoying the various services provided each Sunday on YouTube.

I thought you might be interested to know some of the other things that I am aware of that have been going on in various congregations. I am sure there are lots of other things happening too.

Sr Claire Maxwell is engaged in pioneer ministry in London. On the 'Lamb's Way Ministry' Facebook page, she has been sharing reflections on pieces of artwork.

Brockweir, a small congregation in the Forest of Dean, have been holding services using Zoom, an online video conferencing program.

Before Easter, some members of the Fairfield congregation put together food hampers to be distributed to needy families in Tameside.

And the building work has been able to continue at Hornsey in London.

In many other Provinces the situation is much the same as it is in Britain, with church buildings closed. As is happening here, services and other resources are being made available online.

Br Algernon Lewis, president of the Eastern West Indies Province (the islands of Antigua, Barbados, St. Croix, St. John, St. Kitts, St. Thomas, Tobago, Trinidad), has written a letter of encouragement to all, including these words:

*It is God who has provided the various online platforms where we can attend worship services, participate in ministry groups, and present God's tithes and our offerings. It is God who has provided partnerships with agencies and human agents for us to reach into the homes of the most vulnerable, responding to their needs. It is God who has provided gifted pastors and laity, skilled members and adherents who continue to use their abilities and experiences to assist in navigating our way through this new reality.*

*Let us not fall into the trap of grumbling and complaining. Rather, let us affirm and acknowledge that God has and will continue to provide. Let us embrace opportunities presented for advancing God's kingdom and executing the mission of God in our communities.*

Finally, with us all preoccupied with the impact of the Coronavirus at this time, it is easy to miss some of the other things that are happening around the world.

The following information was received from the Unity Board last week, provided initially by Br Jacques Bya'unda, chairman of the Moravian Church Mission Area in Easter Congo.

*On this day when we are in total confinement on the whole of our country and our city of Uvira in particular, a disaster has just hit our city of Uvira hard. The damage is enormous in loss of human lives and houses. In fact, the flood of the Mulongwe river located in downtown Uvira washed away more than six thousand houses from five avenues along this river, leaving at least more than six thousand families homeless, causing the death of men. As of this hour, more than 50 dead have already been found and searches are continuing. Among the victims, we have 20 families who are members of our downtown congregation, they all came out safe and sound, but they lost everything. The final results will be communicated to you later because the river is not yet stable, its waters are stagnating everywhere. there is an extreme urgency in Uvira.*

Please keep the people of Uvira, and especially our Moravian brothers and sisters, in your prayers.

Stay safe and well. If you haven't received this newsletter electronically and would like to in future weeks, please send me an email.

Yours in Christ,

Br Michael Newman (0113 256 4828, [michael.newman@moravian.org.uk](mailto:michael.newman@moravian.org.uk))

### **Church Committee Members**

#### Fulneck

Br John Holmes (0113 2558547)  
Br Trevor Kernohan (0113 257 2209)  
Sr Janet Newton (0113 2576855)  
Sr Chris Robbins (0113 2570569)  
Br Jonathan Saynor (0113 8058154)  
Sr Linda Wood (0113 2853672)

#### Gomersal

Sr Ann Addison (01274 870017)  
Sr Christine Butcher (01274 875217)  
Sr Shirley Holroyd (01274 877429)  
Br Bob Hopcroft (0113 2109076)  
Sr Margaret Ives (01274 685562)  
Br Les Machell (01274 873408)