

Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Church

Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday 29th April 2020



Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

The current restrictions in place in this country and others have caused many events to be cancelled or postponed, from local events like Pudsey Carnival and the Little Gomersal May Day Fayre, to global events like the Summer Olympics. We have received the following letter about this summer's Provincial Synod:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings from the Provincial Board!

We are living through challenging and unprecedented times; Coronavirus has had a severe impact on the lives of the whole nation and on the Church. It has been a privilege to witness to how the Moravian Church across the British Province has responded and adapted to these difficult circumstances, but we do not take lightly the disruption to our normal activities.

After much prayerful discernment, the Provincial Board has made the decision to reschedule the Provincial Synod which was due to be held from 9th–13th July 2020. It will now take place from 11th–15th March 2021 at The Hayes, Swanwick.

In many ways this was not an easy decision, the Synod is more than just a legislative institution, but one where brothers and sisters meet in fellowship committed to each other and the strengthening of our Church for the future.

However, we feel that it is the best course of action due to the current uncertainty of how long the current lockdown will continue. We must be able to ensure the safety and welfare of all who would be attending. More than anything we need to ensure that the Province can focus our attention fully where it needs to be in sustaining and supporting each other through this pandemic.

Yours in Christ's Service

Sr Roberta Hoey

Another event affected by the current situation is Christian Aid Week, which is due to take place from the 10th to the 16th of May. There are no house-to-house collections this year, but in next week's newsletter I will share information about how we can still support Christian Aid Week in different ways, including a quiz.

Last week I told you about the flooding in Uvira, a city in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, on the banks of Lake Tanganyika. There are about 100 Moravian congregations in DR Congo and 23,000 church members, some of whom have been directly affected. As well as remembering those affected in our prayers, we now have the option of offering financial help, as outlined in the following information from Church House:

Local government in the area have requested the Moravian Church in DR Congo to support where possible, and in particular in the following areas:

- *Supporting the 80,000 affected households.*
- *Hosting 1,200 families who have been completely displaced.*
- *Provision for the families including shelters, food, household items.*

The British Mission Board will make an immediate contribution of 5,000 US Dollars in support of this Appeal. We would encourage any congregations or individual who would like to make further contributions to send donations to Church House. We will send all money raised through our partners, the Danish Mission Board who directly support the Moravian Church in DR Congo.

How you can support the Appeal:

- *Bank transfer: 40-52-40, 00023436, please use the reference 'Uvira Flood Disaster'.*
- *Cash: donations can be sent through your local congregation.*
- *Cheque: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic we cannot accept cheques until Church House has reopened.*

We will keep you updated on developments.

Stay safe and well. If you have not 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)

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)