

Fulneck and Gomersal
Moravian Church
Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday 24 June 2020



Dear friends,

We start with a letter from the Provincial Board.

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Many of you will be familiar with the work of International Kindergarten/Shristi Academy and we have a request for practical support over the coming months to help ease the impact of lockdown restrictions and enable the schools to run smoothly.

Shristi is English-medium and has classes from Kindergarten – Grade 5 (ages 4 – 10).

The school benefits from teachers from the USA, and sometimes the UK, volunteering during their own holiday periods. Unfortunately travelling to Nepal is not possible at the moment but we are able to offer online support. The British Mission Board have provided assistance through access to Zoom platform and we are exploring the use of G Suite – google classrooms.

Therefore, we are appealing for active and retired teachers / class room assistants / educators to consider offering some of their time to deliver live classes online over the next three months. The time difference between the UK and Nepal is 5.45 hours. We are particularly seeking classes for English, Maths & Music teachers, but all subjects would be considered including extracurricular courses (e.g. first aid).

We can support with online training so you would be familiar with the software platform (zoom or google) and I will also provide our expectations in relation to safeguarding practices.

We are seeking expressions of interest by getting in touch with me and we will liaise with Br Shanti & Sr Vani Pradhan.

Yours in Christ's Service

Roberta **Roberta Hoey. On Behalf of the Provincial Board of the Moravian Church**

Chat Corner

I am sure you have been finding things to do during this lockdown. Sr Hilary Smith, the Fulneck archivist, has been busy, as always. Here is a short summary of one fascinating piece of history. Thank you Hilary.

At the moment I am researching the 1780s for an enquiry from America. I came across the marriage of Henry Oates in 1783, which I already knew about, but researched further catalogues I had not previously looked at, only to find that he was a widower. This answered a puzzle for me because I had had been unable to tie Rachel Oates (b 1771) into this family when I was creating the Oates family tree. Rachel married two Moravian ministers, the first Br Jackson whom she accompanied to Jamaica where he died, and the other Br Edwards with whom she served in various congregations around the province. I knew her father was Henry Oates from her baptism record in Birstall parish church, and now that I knew he had been married previously I was able to place her and her full brother and sister within the family – this took up a lot of time adding them into the family tree!

Henry's parents were members of the Pudsey congregation living at Horton in the 1740s and some of his descendants are still members of the Moravian Church today. Over the 280 intervening years I have identified 33 serving the Moravian Church either in ministry, teaching or medical work, including Mary Gertrude Driver (nee Shawe) who was featured in our Heritage Open Day in 2018!

Please contact me if you wish to offer a snippet for Chat Corner.

Pause for thought. Dear God, may I live in faith eternally. Amen

Unity Prayer Watch: 2020:

The Prayer Watch began on 27th August 1727 when members of the Moravian Church in Herrnhut formed a Prayer Group known as the Hourly Intercession. This provided that every hour of the day and night someone was praying for the work of the Church at home and abroad. This tradition continued for one hundred years. In the 19th century Moravians in the British Province re-started the tradition and then in 1957, the 500th anniversary of the Moravian Church, it was decided to resume the Watch across the Unity and so it continues to this day.

Fulneck Church: we are praying from 5.30pm Saturday 4 July to 11.30am Sunday 5 July. Thank you to all who have volunteered to cover this 18 hour period. Provincial House has provided material to guide our prayers; if you have not yet received this please contact your Pastoral link.

Yours in Christ, Sr Mary Holmes

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Worship Resources for Sunday 28 June

Readings

Jeremiah 28.5-9; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42

Reflection

What do you do to welcome newcomers to your church?
Describe the best welcome you have ever received in someone's home.

Hymn

When I needed a neighbour
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter,
Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty,
were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked,
were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

When I needed a shelter
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter were you there?

When I needed a healer
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer were you there?

Wherever you travel
I'll be there, I'll be there,
Wherever you travel I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter,
I'll be there.
(Junior Praise 275, Tune 'Neighbour')

Prayers for Others

We pray for those on the fringes of society; for those who feel rejected; for those who are overlooked; for those whom others avoid. May they know they are welcome in your kingdom. May they know the welcome of your love. We pray for those who are lonely. We pray for those in prison; especially those kept in isolation. We pray for children excluded from school; for their families and those with responsibility for their education. Loving God, as you welcome us, may we welcome others with warmth and steadfast love. Amen.

Personal Prayer

Lord, thank you for all the welcomes I receive. Help me always to be welcoming. Amen.

Worship Resources for Sunday 5 July

Readings. Zechariah 9.9-12; Romans 7.15-25a; Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

Reflection. How might we help people who carry heavy burdens? What does 'my yoke is easy... my burden is light' mean to you?

Hymn

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast':
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down and drink and live':
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright':
I looked to Jesus and I found
In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till travelling days are done.
(Mission Praise 275, Tune 'Vox Dilecti')

Prayers for Others

We pray for all in authority, that they will be respectfully conscious of the weight on their shoulders, and that they will act responsibly for the people they serve. We pray for them in their personal lives, with the worries and cares that only they see. We pray for our friends, family, colleagues. We pray that as we walk alongside them, you will use us to bring them close to you, and they will learn of your love, O Lord. We pray that we might be sensitive to the needs of those around us – the people we see every day, perhaps as fleetingly as at the shops, or in the bus queue. We have no idea what burdens they are carrying, or if they need a kind word from you that only we can give. We pray that we will see the positive in people, even when it's hard, and reach out to encourage them. Amen.

Personal Prayer

Lord, you know how weary and bowed down I feel sometimes. I claim your rest for my soul. I come to you in my emptiness and cry to you for your fullness. Rescue me and fill me, Lord. Amen.