

Fulneck and Gomersal
Moravian Church
Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday 8 July 2020



Letter

Dear friends,

Let me start with an important message from Revd Michael.

There is now a Provincial plan for the phased re-opening of church buildings. Weekly services should be able to start from Sunday 2nd August subject to risk assessments being completed by the church committees in the coming weeks. Services will be different to usual, lasting for about half an hour and with no singing. Social distancing and hygiene measures will be in place for everyone's safety, and we will have to keep a register of everyone who attends. Full guidelines will be issued before the first service so that everyone knows what to expect and what is expected of them. While some of you will be eager to return to corporate worship services, others will be more apprehensive, so please return when you feel ready to do so. Online services and the bi-weekly newsletters will continue until for as long as they are needed. It is hoped that other activities will begin to be phased in from September onwards.

Revd Michael Newman
Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Churches

Now a message for Fulneck members from Br Kernohan about the on-going financial obligations of the Church.

The Church Committee is grateful to those members who have switched their giving to direct bank transfers. A number of the congregation have been putting their envelopes into Br Kernohan's letterbox at 35 Fulneck for which he is most appreciative, prior to the monies being banked. If you have your completed donation envelopes at home it would be helpful if, rather than waiting until you return to church, you could try to get them to Br Kernohan in order to help the church's cash flow.

Chat Corner

Psalm 46 and a Shakespeare fan?

Psalm 46 v1. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Start by getting your King James Bible and turn to Psalm 46. Count in 46 words from the beginning – shake – now count 46 words from back from the end – spear.

Work on the King James Bible started in 1604 and it was published in 1611. Shakespeare was 46 in 1610 and was at the time presenting some of his most popular plays, in London and at court.

So, was one of those working on this Bible a Shakespeare fan? We will never know.

I am sure you have been finding things to do during this lockdown and, for some of us, more exercise has been on the agenda. However, I know that lots of walking has always been popular as this photograph shows.

Do you recall when and what it was? Who can you spot?



What and when it was ... members of Gomersal and Fulneck Walking for Health on 3rd July last summer. Keep fit folks, these walks will return.

Pause for thought.

Having just referred to the Bible, let us remember John Hus.

Monday was 6th July, the date in 1415 that John Hus was burned at the stake. It is thanks to him, and those who built on his beliefs, that we have the King James Bible and can now even have the Bible, in English, on our Smartphone.

Please contact me if you wish to offer a snippet for Chat Corner. How about a favourite hymn or film? Very different but both would be short and interesting. Also, I would welcome contributions to Pause for thought.

Yours in Christ, Sr Mary Holmes

0113 2558547 mary@woodhall28.co.uk

Worship Resources for Sunday 12 July

Readings

Isaiah 55.10-13; Romans 8.1-11; Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

Reflection: Why do you think Jesus told stories (parables)? Why are stories powerful?

Hymn

Almighty God, thy word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heaven descend,
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in every heart,
To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundred-fold,
The fruits of peace and joy.

Let not thy word so kindly sent
To raise us to thy throne,
Return to thee, and sadly tell
That we reject thy Son.

Oft as the precious seed is sown,
Thy quickening grace bestow,
That all, whose souls the truth receive,
Its saving power may know.
(Moravian Hymn Book 583, Tune 'St Stephen')

Prayers for Others

Lord God, we pray today for all the people given the great privilege of spreading your Gospel. We pray for the Church worldwide, but in particular in the places where people are still persecuted for their beliefs. We pray for our ministers, who prayerfully seek your face, and bring us the words and understanding we need to become more faithful followers of you. We pray for writers and poets, as they pore over your word, and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to bring your message to life on the page. We pray for artists and all craftspeople who draw inspiration from your word, and speak to us through their creations. Amen

Personal Prayer. Lord God, how can I possibly understand what you have to say to me, if I don't take time to listen. Help me to carve out moments this week where, even in my busyness, I can find a quiet corner, or even just a glance heavenward, to be with you. Speak to me, Lord, and bless me; and make me a blessing to others. Amen.

Worship Resources for Sunday 19 July

Readings

Isaiah 44.6-8; Romans 8.12-25; Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

Reflection: Where do you see 'weeds' and 'wheat' growing together in the world? How might God be calling you to cope with the tensions this causes?

Hymn

Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!
fruit and crops are gathered in
safe before the storms begin:
God our maker will provide
for our needs to be supplied;
come, with all His people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

All the world is God's own field,
harvests for His praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown
here for joy or sorrow grown:
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear -
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come
and shall bring His harvest home;
He Himself on that great day,
worthless things shall take away,
give His angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in His care for evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come -
bring Your final harvest home!
gather all Your people in
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there together purified,
ever thankful at Your side -
come, with all Your angels, come,
bring that glorious harvest home!
(Mission Praise 106, Tune 'St George's Windsor')

Prayers for Others

Lord God, we pray for our world and its people. So many different cultures, colours, languages – but we are all your children, all special in our own right. Whatever our gender, race, colour or creed, we all belong to you. We pray that we might learn to live in harmony with each other, to recognise that even someone halfway around the world is still our neighbour in your sight. Far or near, we all belong to you. With today's technology we have access to news from afar, almost before it happens. Help us not to become blasé about the situations we see, but to pray and care faithfully for all concerned. In war or peace, we all belong to you. We pray for those near and dear to us: protect them, wrap them in your loving arms, and in sorrow and in joy, be with them. Near or far, we all belong to you. We all belong to you and need your love. Amen.

Personal Prayer

The field is the world. Lord, I live in a tiny patch of your world but it is still my field to serve you. I pray that I will give my time and gifts to you and yours in whatever way I can. Your kingdom come, O Lord. Amen.