

Fulneck and Gomersal
Moravian Church
Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday 22 July 2020



Letter

Dear friends,

As always, I trust this letter finds you well and healthy.

I start with sad news of the death of Connie Binks. She was a lovely person, warm and friendly and will be much missed by her friends at Fulneck and beyond. When she lived at Bankside, Connie served the Church in many ways and visited her aunt (a member of the Hannan family) regularly. For health reasons, she moved to the East coast over 20 years ago but never lost touch with Fulneck, always keen to know what we were all doing. She visited regularly, initially coming over by train and latterly with a driver. All those who had the joy of visiting her were treated to fish and chips locally, a real delight. Connie, a true Moravian at heart.

Returning to Church: you will recall that in the last Newsletter Revd Michael said that the plan is that Churches will re-open for services from 2 August. Work is on-going and you will receive information before then about how this will happen to keep safe all who are able to return.

However, I am offering some guidance in the cartoon below. No, you do not recognise members of the congregation, you just think you do!!



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

Thanks to Moravian Church UK who tweeted this in May.

Chat Corner

Have you a favourite hymn I was asked? Here are the choices from Mary Smith – thank you.

We have so many lovely hymns making my choice difficult. After much thought I looked back to when I was young and we got our first small black and white TV. My dad invited his ninety year old friend to watch the Cup Final. When the band started to play, both men stood up to sing “Abide With Me” it was so moving and something I will remember always.

My mother’s favourite hymn was “The Day Though Gavest Lord Is Ended “ which we sang at her funeral. “Love Divine All Loves Excelling” is another favourite as both our daughters chose this for their wedding service. These three hymns bring back so many memories for me.

My favourite hymn is “As The Deer Pants For The Water”.

Thank you for this Mary. Your final hymn reminded me of the day John & I walked the Paps of Jura, the remote island off the west coast of Scotland. We saw a herd of deer roaming and I saw my first otter out of the sea. The sea was glistening in the sun; a beautiful day. The next day I could barely move but all worth the effort.

‘Ancient Words’ is a hymn I have recently discovered, thanks to Watchword. There is a lovely version on YouTube if you have access to that.

ZOOM IN TO SUMMER CAMP

Ages 10-17, daily activities 3 to 5 August. Summer Camp with a difference will be great fun. Remember, tents are not needed this year!

Joy Rayner wishes to remind everyone that it’s nearly time for Summer Camp, this year with a difference but still action-packed. The leaders are working hard to make this a great event, and boxes of resources will be sent out to all who are involved, so please book this week if possible.

Email Joy at youth@moravian.org.uk

Pause for thought

The reflection in the 2 August service relates to sharing. Picking up on this theme, let us each give thanks for something others have shared with us recently, however small. Looking forward, what do we share with others?

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 interesting; or how about a photograph of some past Church event? Also, I would welcome contributions to Pause for thought.

Yours in Christ, Sr Mary Holmes

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Worship Resources for Sunday 26 July

Readings: 1 Kings 3.5-12; Romans 8.26-39;
Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Reflection: What hidden gems do you see in your daily living? How might we make the kingdom of heaven more visible?

Hymn

The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
And all things cry glory to God all in all!
(Mission Praise 651, Tune 'Hanover')

Prayers for Others

Lord, you took so much care to describe your kingdom in ways everyone could understand, including us. Your kingdom come, O Lord, your will be done. We pray today that you will pass on to us that gift of making ourselves accessible. Keep us from being a stumbling block to those who would seek you; from using language that puzzles; from actions that confuse; from anything that keeps us apart from your people around us. Your kingdom come, O Lord, your will be done. Amen.

Personal Prayer

Lord, I pause before you to contemplate the things I see as valuable in my life. Help me to hold them lightly and to be ready to give them up at the sound of your call. Amen.

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Worship Resources for Sunday 2 August

Readings: Isaiah 55.1-5. Psalm 145.8-9,14-21.
Romans 9.1-5. Matthew 14.13-21

Reflection: What are the best things about joining together with your church community? What would you share with them?

Hymn

Break thou the bread of life,
dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves
beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page
I seek thee, Lord;
my spirit longs for Thee,
O living Word!

Thou art the Bread of Life,
O Lord, to me,
thy holy word the truth
that saveth me;
bless thou the truth, dear Lord,
to me, to me.
as thou didst bless the bread
by Galilee.

Give me to eat and live
with thee above;
teach me to love thy truth,
for thou art love;
then shall all bondage cease,
all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace,
my all in all.

(MHB 490, Tune 'Lathbury' in MP 64)

Prayers for Others

Lord, today, we pray for people who have little or nothing: for those who feel trapped in their situation, and can't see the bigger picture, or even any tiny glimmer of light. We pray for people who are hungry: for parents who struggle to feed their children, and themselves. We thank you for the work of food banks, and pray that they would have the resources to continue to meet so many needs. We pray that you would give us an appreciation of our food: the work that goes into producing and distributing it. Teach us not to be wasteful, but to preserve and pass on the goodness of your earth. Amen.

Personal Prayer

Lord, a new week lies ahead of me and I don't really know what it will bring. Help me to be aware of people around me who are struggling in any way. May I be sensitive to their needs and seek your wisdom as I come alongside them. I want to be there for them, Lord, bearing your blessing. Amen.

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