

# Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Church Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday 5 August 2020



and moves on. Nature is still busy working hard all around us.

Thanks to Trevor and Victoria.

## Letter

Dear friends,

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

Sadly, we start with the news of another member departed. Moira Carr died at the weekend; she was a long-standing and faithful member who will be remembered fondly by many.

The first Sunday in August should have been the opportunity to return to Church for those able and willing. Unfortunately, only Fulneck was able to open in the north of England; not a claim one would ever have wished to make. Thanks to Revd Michael for the uplifting service; we also prayed for all those unable to be with us or in their own Church.

## Chat corner

Favourite hymn. This week the contribution is from Molly Johnson; one of her favourite hymns is 'Be still for the presence of the Lord.' Like many of us, I am sure she appreciated Dick playing this on the Fulneck organ during the Sunday service on 26 July – thank you Dick.

It was also during that service that I was impressed to see three 'furry friends' supporting the Bible reading. Vicar of Dibley comes to Fulneck.



At a recent Julian meeting on Zoom, Victoria read us a poem about the sunshine, how the warmth on your shoulders can help you relax. She also reminded us of how the seasons move on and change. Amazingly enough I had received a photograph of Fulneck in the snow from Trevor.

The poem helped me solve a dilemma of how to use a picture of snow during the summer. The answer was obvious; it helps to remind us that the world changes

## Heritage Day

Recently I was talking to Myra who asked me to confirm to you all that there will be no Heritage Day this year. I am sure there are many visitors to both our Churches who will miss such events. However, I am sure that they will return in strength next year.

At Fulneck we had already start pulling together some ideas around music, drama and literature. This led me to explore Moravian music for some articles I have placed on the Church website. As members of Fulneck and Gomersal have served in Labrador, I am sharing this picture as I was stunned to see a brass band sitting on a Church roof – hope it amuses you too.



## Pause for thought

We have heard about summer sunshine and seen winter snow. As we move towards autumn, what images do you have of each season? Is there a particular hymn you associate with autumn?

I am sure you will join me in hoping that all those attending and involved in the Summer Camp have had a great time, with or without their tents.

Yours in Christ, Sr Mary Holmes

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## Worship Resources for 9 August

Reading: Matthew 14: 22-23

Reflection: What step/leap of faith have you taken recently? Are we too risk averse in living the Gospel?

## Hymn

Lord, thy word abideth,  
and our footsteps guideth;  
who its truth believeth  
light and joy receiveth.

When our foes are near us,  
then thy word doth cheer us,  
word of consolation,  
message of salvation.

When the storms are o'er us,  
and dark clouds before us,  
then its light directeth,  
and our way protecteth.

Who can tell the pleasure,  
who recount the treasure,  
by thy word imparted  
to the simple-hearted?

Word of mercy, giving  
succour to the living;  
word of life, supplying  
comfort to the dying!

O that we, discerning  
its most holy learning,  
Lord, may love and fear thee,  
evermore be near thee!  
(MHB 9, Tune 'Ravenshaw')

## Prayers for Others

Lord God, we come before you to pray for all those people for whom taking risks is a way of life. We pray for our emergency services – paramedics, the police, the fire service – all who daily face difficult situations as they seek to help to protect us and make our world a safer and more peaceful place. We pray for people who work in troubled areas – the armed forces in war zones, those who bring humanitarian aid into areas of natural disaster, and many more. We pray for people who take risks in your name, Lord Jesus – those who take your word where it is most needed – and for people who grapple with faith and doubt. Lord, reveal yourself to them all and keep them safe. Amen.

## Personal Prayer

O Lord my God, you are worthy to be praised. You are the Son of God who walks on water, who mesmerises huge crowds with powerful words, but who also calms a frightened Peter – and you calm me and give me peace. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

## **Worship Resources for 16 August**

Reading: Matthew 15.21-28

Reflection: When have you ever experienced life from the viewpoint of an outsider? How can we be better at listening to those who are 'outsiders'? What new understandings might we gain from listening to them?

## Hymn

In Christ there is no East or West,  
in him no South or North,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find,  
his service is the golden cord  
close-binding all mankind.

Join hands, then, brothers of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be;  
who serves my Father as a son  
is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,  
in him meet South and North.  
All Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.  
(MHB 393, Tune 'St Stephen' MHB 117)

## Prayers for Others

The Canaanite woman sought your help. She loved her daughter so much, she was so desperately in need, that she wouldn't give up till she had her answer. Lord, may we learn from this woman, to wait on you expectantly, patiently, persistently, doggedly. Grant us the courage of our convictions when we truly believe we are doing your will. We pray today for those who feel excluded, whatever their situation, whatever the reason: for prisoners, refugees, the homeless; for the sick, the mentally unstable; for any who feel that they are outsiders. We pray for ourselves when our faith is weak, or we feel that we don't belong. Amen.

## Personal Prayer

Lord, the Pharisees were offended by your words. You could have been offended by the Canaanite woman's words. I ask that, as I go about my business, I will take the time to consider each person I meet as unique, special to you, and worthy of my listening ear. May I not be offended just because something is out of my comfort Zone. Amen.