

Fulneck and Gomersal  
Moravian Church  
Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday 19 August 2020



**Letter**

Dear friends,

I hope you are all you well, healthy and enjoying the good weather we have had.

**Chat corner**

Sitting in the sun, socially distanced, I have recently had the pleasure of a coffee and chat with Vi. As well as reminding me of the many History Society meetings at her home, this was a chance for her to share some photographs with me. Here is one of a Church window all ready for the harvest festival service.



Now for a **film question**: the story of which old testament judge is retold in David Grossman's film Lion Honey (2005)?

While checking my facts on this, I discovered that there is a Lion's Honey that can be bought; it is from the 'finest apiaries of India.'

**Keeping fit.** Looking back at the magazine for last July/August, I am reminded that there were Summer Walks from both Churches. Plus, at Gomersal (clearly a fit bunch!) they could also go walking and do dru yoga.

This got me wondering what is dru yoga. So here is what I found on a website:

'Dru attracts many people, because anyone can do it, regardless of age, body shape or ability. Dru is a graceful and potent form of yoga, based on soft flowing movements. It is deeply relaxing, yet rejuvenating. It can take you to any level of

fitness you'd like, improving your strength, flexibility and building core stability.

Dru specialises in integrating your body, mind and spirit, helping you to positively transform how you think, how to keep your emotions uplifted as well as how to revitalise your body. You will always feel great when you do Dru!'

**Celebratory service:** last summer we had the service to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fulneck Museum. Fifty one this year and going strong; next year will give you the opportunity to visit it once more. Refreshed and rejuvenated – and that's just the museum!

**Forthcoming events**

Here is a date for the diary if you wish to attend a Julian meeting, Gomersal. Wednesday 9 September 10.30.

Details for the event will be in the next newsletter.

**Pause for thought**

During a recent service at Fulneck, we listened to the hymn 'Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;'

During the following week Libby Purves (in The Times) wrote:

"Do you hear the people sing? Sing out, my soul! Sing inside yourself the one wild song! .... Of all the necessary cruelties of this season, the banning of choirs – even for worship – is among the bitterest."

So true, how we all love to sing .... hymns and songs. What songs can you think of that have a religious phrase or meaning?

I will start you off with two I like:  
Hey, Lord don't ask me questions by Graham Parker.  
With God on our side by Bob Dylan. This has also been recorded superbly by Joan Baez. Now, over to you to think of some.

I can now add Stormzy. Thanks to Br Ian Haggas, who preached at Fulneck on Sunday. He included Stormzy and his song 'Blinded by the Grace' from the album 'Gang Signs and Prayer' in the service. Unexpected, entertaining and fascinating. Thanks, Ian.

Warmest regards to you all.

Yours in Christ,

Sr Mary Holmes

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PS. Answer to the film question: Samson.

## Worship Resources for 23 August

Reading: Matthew 16.13-20

Reflection: What overshadows some of the stories you live by? What overshadows some of what you can put your trust in?

### Hymn

For I'm building a people of power  
and I'm making a people of praise  
that will move through this land by My Spirit  
and will glorify My precious name.  
Build Your church, Lord.  
Make us strong, Lord.  
Join our hearts, Lord,  
through Your Son  
Make us one, Lord,  
in Your body,  
in the kingdom of Your Son.

SING TWICE

(MP 151, Tune 'For I'm building...')

### Prayers for Others

We pray for people who struggle with their faith: through self-doubt, through difficult circumstances, through bad things happening, through being led astray, by wanting fame and fortune. We pray for people who feel in the dark, locked in a situation where they can find no answer, that they might come to understand that you are the key to everything they need. We pray for ourselves: when we are in difficult situations, when we try to unlock doors that aren't ours to unlock, when we don't focus on the kingdom, when we don't share our story. Amen.

### Personal Prayer

Mighty God, I think about the keys I hold. Each one shows a responsibility of some kind. Thank you for all that you entrust me with. Thank you most of all for Jesus, who gives me the keys of the kingdom. Amen.

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## Worship Resources for 30 August

Reading: Matthew 16.21-28

Reflection: How do you respond when life is tough? What does losing your life for Jesus' sake mean to you?

### Hymn

Father, hear the prayer we offer;  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but by steep and rugged pathways  
would we strive to climb to thee.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly quiet stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.

Let our path be bright or dreary,  
storm or sunshine be our share;  
may our souls in hope unwearied,  
make thy work our ceaseless prayer.

(MHB 312, Tune 'Sussex')

### Prayers for Others

Lord God, you reproached Peter because he had only human concerns; but Peter just wanted to protect the one he loved. We pray for people the world over who find themselves in difficult situations. We pray that they would all have someone to care for them and lift them before you. We pray for all who are persecuted for their faith: for all who are misunderstood, for asylum seekers who flee real danger in their homeland. We pray for those who work tirelessly to address wrongs. We pray for people whose lives don't always work out right, through their fault, or through no fault of their own. We pray for the people in our lives who need your protection, Lord, that we will always be faithful in prayer for them. Amen.

### Personal Prayer

Lord, when we are faced with bad news, or a tricky situation, it is human nature to make snap judgements, to do the first thing that comes into our head. Lord, help us to lay aside our own judgements, and always be willing to seek your wisdom. Amen.

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