

The Magazine for Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Church-



October 2020

Minister: Rev. Michael Newman The Parsonage, 38 Fulneck, Pudsey, LS28 8NT
tel: 0113 256 4828 email: michael.newman@moravian.org.uk
www.fulneck.org.uk www.churchestogether.org/gbeb/gomersal-moravian-church
The British Province of the Unitas Fratrum (Moravian Church), Registered Charity Number 251211
Editor: Sr Mary Holmes tel: 0113 2558547 email: mary@woodhall28.co.uk



Minister's Letter

Leaves and Light

Autumn is one of the most colourful times of year in the natural world, as the leaves on the trees change and fall in preparation for winter. It is a reminder of the constancy of the seasons and can also remind us of the constancy of the love of God, the Creator. In this difficult time, it is hard to make plans, as we don't know what measures will be in place, where will be able to go and who we will be able to meet. However, we can be sure that God is always with us, and that his compassion and mercy do not change.

At the end of this month the clocks will change, and once again we will become more dependent upon streetlights and headlights to find our way in the evenings. This is another autumn image that reminds us of God's love, and how his Son, Jesus Christ, is a light in the darkness. If we can reflect God's compassion and mercy in our dealings with others, it will be a little easier for all of us to cope when we are struggling to see the way ahead. So, stay safe, and shine bright.

Br Michael Newman

Letter from the Provincial Board (received on 11th September)

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Following the recent government announcements in relation to Covid-19 restrictions, the Provincial Board met to discuss the new regulations coming

into force. Our previous guidance remains in place. We are pleased that we can continue to come together safely to worship. Our congregation committees have worked hard to ensure that buildings are Covid-19 secure and we will review risk assessments on a regular basis. Other organised activities will also be able to meet as planned in our Covid-19 secure buildings and each congregation will be supported by the Provincial Board to ensure that all necessary measures are in place. We will continue to monitor and update guidance as necessary. While we can continue to meet it is important that strict adherence to social distancing is observed and we limit interaction of more than one household or support bubble to six people [for areas in local lockdown, interaction between households is not allowed]. We commend all our congregations and members for their resolve to adapt and continue to be the Church through these difficult and changing times

Yours in Christ's Service,

Sr Roberta Hoey On behalf of the Provincial Board

Services for the Remainder of 2020

Since re-starting services, both congregations have averaged about 20 attendees. We have been able to hold communion services following the provincial guidelines, and communion will remain part of a morning service while Lovefeast services are not allowed. Regular services will be able to continue as long as everyone keeps their distance before, during and after the service. A Provincial working party is looking at guidance for Christmas services, which are likely to be very different to normal.

In Essentials: Unity; In Non-Essentials: Liberty; In All Things: Love

Fulneck News and Notices

Funeral

The funeral service for Audrey Smith took place in church on Friday 25th September. Audrey was well known to many in Fulneck. She came to Fulneck School, lived on Ashdene Crescent for nearly 60 years, and supported the Dramatic Society as well as some of our church events. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Burial Ground Gate

The Church Committee have given permission for the school to use the top section of the burial ground slope to create a one-way system for parents dropping off and picking up children while social distancing measures are in place. The burial ground gate continues to be locked from about 5:30pm at weekends to deter groups gathering in the evenings.

Use of the Boys' Brigade

The Boys' Brigade can be used subject to certain restrictions. The downstairs room is set out for meetings of up to 8 people, and the upstairs room can accommodate 6 people. The kitchen is not available at this time. All activities must be booked through Sr Newton with at least 72 hours between bookings. A copy of the risk assessment will be given to group leaders, who will be asked to complete a form about their specific activities before bookings are confirmed.

Roadworks

The gas main is due to be replaced between the Roker Land end of the settlement and the burial ground entrance during the school half term (school ends on Friday 16th October and starts again on Monday 2nd November). This may result in temporary closures of this part of the road through Fulneck.

Brethren's Festival

Sunday 11th October

There will be no Brethren's Breakfast this year. However, our Family Worship on the 11th of October will still celebrate the Brethren's Festival and will be led by Br Ian Haggas.

Outreach Meeting

Wednesday 14th October, 7.00pm on Zoom

We had our last Outreach Meeting in February. Much has changed since then, and there are many ways in which we are restricted in what we can do, however it is still important that we reach out to our local community. We will be having a Zoom meeting to discuss ideas for how to do this through Advent and Christmas and into the new year. If you would like to join us, please send Br Newman an email (address on front page) and he will send a link to the online Zoom meeting. If you need guidance on using Zoom, he can also send some instructions. We hope that you can join us.

Bible Book Club

Wednesday 21st October, 2.00pm in the Boys' Brigade (or possibly on Zoom)

We are continuing to look at the minor prophets in the Old Testament. This month's books are Amos and Obadiah. If you would like a copy of the notes, please ask Br Newman.

Traidcraft

Br Brierley has delivered the catalogues to Sr Vi Haytøn. If you wish to collect one from her please call her (0113 257 6381). Orders will be available to collect from her before Christmas.

Morning Prayers

Morning Prayers continue to take place on Thursdays at 9.45am. There will be no Morning Prayers on Thursday 22nd October due to the Council Meeting the night before.

Congregation Council Meeting

Wednesday 21st October 2020 at 7.30pm in Church

Please note the following important information: The meeting will be held in church and the same measures will apply as for a service (masks should be worn). To keep the meeting as short as possible, minutes and reports will be distributed in advance and taken as read, and questions or comments about the minutes and reports should be submitted in writing (this can be by email) to Br Newman by Monday 19th October (two days before the meeting). Items for Any Other Business should be submitted in writing to Br Newman by Wednesday 14th October (one week before the meeting) and will only be included if they cannot wait until the Spring meeting.

Agenda

Opening Devotions

Apologies for Absence

Approval of Agenda

Minutes of the last Council Meeting on 17th February 2020 (distributed beforehand and taken as read) (questions or comments to be submitted in writing to Br Newman by Monday 19th October)

Matters Arising

Reports (distributed beforehand and taken as read)

(questions or comments to be submitted in writing to Br Newman by Monday 19th October)

Minister

Treasurer

Property

Dates for 2021 (subject to coronavirus restrictions)

Congregation Council meetings on Monday 22nd February and Monday 18th October

Changes to Services and Unit Services:

Morning Communion on Sunday 3rd January

Unit Maundy Thursday Communion on Thursday 1st April at Gomersal

Morning Communion on Sunday 4th April (Easter Sunday)

Morning Communion on Sunday 1st August

Unit Service on Sunday 15th August at Fulneck

Unit Service on Sunday 26th December at Gomersal

Special Services:

Marriage Celebration Service on Sunday 25th April

Sisters' Festival on Sunday 16th May

Church Anniversary on Sunday 23rd May

Junior Church Festival on Sunday 4th July

Harvest Festival on Sunday 26th September

Brethren's Festival on Sunday 10th October

Nativity Play on Sunday 19th December

Carol Service on Sunday 19th December at 7pm

Other Events

Heritage Open Days on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September

New Business

Impact of Coronavirus on Christmas Services and Events

Any Other Business (notified in writing to Br Newman by Wednesday 14th October)

Closing Devotions

Gomersal News and Notices

Gift Day

Sunday 11th October

We were unable to hold the usual Gift Day on our Church Anniversary in July. Now that we are back in church again, we are going to have our Gift Day on Sunday 11th October. Please bring your donations to the service that day. Thank you.

Wellbeing Wednesdays

Julian Meeting: Wednesday 14th October, 10.30am in Church

The October Julian Meeting will, once again, take place in church with social distancing measures in place. Please bring a face mask.

Virtual Coffee Morning: Wednesday 21st October, 10.30am on Zoom

As we are not able to meet in person for most of our regular Wellbeing activities, we would like to invite you to a virtual coffee morning on the third Wednesday in October. If you would like to join us, please send Br Newman an email (address on front page) and he will send you a link to the online Zoom meeting. If you need guidance on using Zoom, he can also send some instructions. We hope that you can join us.

Walking for Health:

We look forward to re-starting our walks in the Spring. In the meantime, here is a walk that you might like to do in your own time with members of your household or support bubble.

AN AUTUMN WALK THROUGH THE HEDGEROWS

Fancy a walk this Autumn through the Hedgerows? A time when the hedgerows are in their final harvest throes. The honey suckle is switching from flowering to berrying, crab apples start to fall, and the bramble leaves start to take on shades of Autumn. You may see a small mammal such as a wood mouse scurry about or a spider at the top of the hedgerow spinning a line.

This walk is a hidden gem on the outskirts of Cleckheaton, so you will need a car to get there. This is one of my favourite walks at this time of year. Please wear suitable footwear. It will take about an hour to do a full loop round. There are no stiles. I hope you enjoy it.

Getting there by car - Take the A643 out of Cleckheaton. Look out for St Luke's Church on your right-hand side. Just after that you will need to take a right-hand turn onto Wellands Lane. Park your car here to start the walk.

The walk – Walk between Wellands Farmhouse and Wellands Barn and pick up the path between the hedgerows. You will pass the stables on your right-hand side. Continue on the path and walk under the motorway. Once you have walked under the motorway bridge continue straight on. Then look out for a turning to the right. You then need to take this right-hand path. Continue on this path with hedgerows either side and keep bearing to the left. Eventually, you will reach a wooden gate. You do not need to open the gate as there is a gap at the right-hand side for you to walk through. At this point you will notice some houses appearing. You are on the outskirts of Scholes village. Look out for a right-hand turn onto Wellands Lane/Towngate. Follow the road round and take a left onto Salisbury Road. At the end of Salisbury Road, take a left and you are back on the path which will take you back down Wellands Lane to your car.

Sadly, the maps that Victoria has included will not copy into here. If you would like the maps, please email me and I will gladly send them to you. Mary (mary@woodhall28.co.uk)

Cleaning rota

There will be some who are happy to continue on the cleaning rota at this time. There will be others who do not want to continue. There may be some who have not been on the rota before but would be willing to help out. If you are in any of these categories, please can you let a member of Church Committee know before the next committee meeting on 20th October, when we will draw up a temporary rota for the coming months. Thank you for your help.

Congregation Council Meeting

Sunday 18th October 2020 at 11.00am in Church (after Family Worship)

Please note the following important information:

The meeting will be held in church and the same measures will apply as for a service (masks should be worn). To keep the meeting as short as possible, minutes and reports will be distributed in advance and taken as read, and questions or comments about the minutes and reports should be submitted in writing (this can be by email) to Br Newman by Friday 16th October (two days before the meeting). Items for Any Other Business should be submitted in writing to Br Newman by Sunday 11th October (one week before the meeting) and will only be included if they cannot wait until the Spring meeting.

Agenda

Opening Devotions

Apologies for Absence

Approval of Agenda

Minutes of the last Council Meeting on 2nd March 2020 (distributed beforehand and taken as read)
(questions or comments to be submitted in writing to Br Newman by Friday 16th October)

Matters arising

Reports (distributed beforehand and taken as read)

(questions or comments to be submitted in writing to Br Newman by Friday 16th October)

Minister

Treasurer

Property

Dates for 2021 (subject to coronavirus restrictions)

Congregation Council meetings on Monday 1st March and Monday 25th October

Changes to Services and Unit Services:

Unit Maundy Thursday Communion on Thursday 1st April at Gomersal

Unit Service on Sunday 15th August at Fulneck

Unit Service on Sunday 26th December at Gomersal

Special Services:

Young People's Festival on Sunday 16th May

Ladies' Festival on Sunday 20th June

Moravian Missions Sunday on Sunday 11th July

Church Anniversary on Sunday 25th July

Harvest Festival on Sunday 26th September

Wellbeing Service on Sunday 17th October

Christingle on Sunday 19th December at 4pm

New Business

Impact of Coronavirus on Christmas Services and Events

Any Other Business (submitted in writing to Br Newman by Sunday 11th October)

Closing Devotions

Calendar & Materials for Worshipping at Home

*The following events will take place unless government restrictions prevent them from happening.
QR codes are at the entrances of all our buildings for you to check in using the new NHS Covid-19 app.*

October

Sunday 4 th	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship and Communion led by Br M Newman
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Br R Hopcroft
Wednesday 7 th	7.15pm	Fulneck	Church Committee in the Boys' Brigade
Thursday 8 th	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers in Church
Sunday 11 th	10.30am	Fulneck	Brethren's Festival Worship led by Br I Haggas
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship, Comm. & Gift Day led by Br Newman
Wednesday 14 th	10.30am	Gomersal	Julian Meeting in Church
	2.30pm	Fulneck	MWA in the Boys' Brigade
	7.00pm	Fulneck	Outreach Meeting (online)
Thursday 15 th	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers in Church
Sunday 18 th	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship led by Br I Haggas
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Br M Newman
	11.00am	Gomersal	Congregation Council Meeting in Church
Tuesday 20 th	7.30pm	Gomersal	Church Committee in Church
Wednesday 21 st	10.30am	Gomersal	Wellbeing Coffee Morning (online)
	2.00pm	Fulneck	Bible Book Club in Boys' Brigade (or possibly online)
	7.30pm	Fulneck	Congregation Council Meeting in Church
Sunday 25 th	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship led by Br T Kernohan
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Sr K Woolford
Thursday 29 th	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers in Church

November

Sunday 1 st	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship and Communion led by Br M Newman
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Br R Hopcroft

Sunday 4th October

Reading: Philippians 3: 4b-14

Reflection:

What are the goals you are reaching for?
How does it feel to see heaven as a 'goal'? What impact does 'knowing Christ' have on your identity?

Hymn (Moravian Hymnbook 209)

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all : the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds enquire no more.
He left his Father's throne above -
So free, so infinite his grace -
Emptied himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me!
Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray -
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Prayer for Others

God of one and God of all, we pray:
for those who don't know who they are, who can't understand themselves or their place in society;
for those who don't 'fit in', who are or seem to be different;
for those who don't know where they come from, their heritage or home, their family or bloodline;
for those who feel lost and isolated, confused and afraid, rudderless or homeless, strangers in a strange land;
for those who wish they were someone else, or somewhere else, in some other time and place;
In your great mercy, Lord, hear our prayers and grant surer journeys for them all. Amen.

Personal Prayer

I am me, Lord, and I know I get things wrong. I also know I get some things right. I am me and I know you love me. Help me to follow the way you would have me travel. Amen.

Sunday 11th October

Reading: Philippians 4: 1-9

Reflection:

When was the last time you wrote a letter to someone?
When have you said goodbye to someone, for a long time? What kind of reassurance gives you peace of mind?

Hymn (Mission Praise 419)

Like a mighty river flowing,
like a flower in beauty growing,
far beyond all human knowing
is the perfect peace of God.

Like the hills serene and even,
like the coursing clouds of heaven,
like the heart that's been forgiven
is the perfect peace of God.

Like the summer breezes playing,
like the tall trees softly swaying,
like the lips of silent praying
is the perfect peace of God.

Like the morning sun ascended,
like the scents of evening blended,
like a friendship never ended
is the perfect peace of God.

Like the azure ocean swelling,
like the jewel all-excelling,
far beyond our human telling
is the perfect peace of God.

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Prayer for Others

O God, we come to pray not for ourselves, but for each other – for those we know and those we don't, for situations we understand and for those that confound us. The news tells us of trauma and heartache across the world and we try to grasp the intensity of it all. Bless, O Lord, all involved in the hurting and the healing.
We hear of death and dying, of grieving and weeping...
We hear of pain, scarring and disfigurement...
We hear of anguish and confusion...
We hear of those in need of help, and those who struggle to find it...
We hear of the grieving and the sorrowful...
We hear of the lost and the alone...
And we know, Lord, there are myriad others known only to you. Bless them all in their hurting and their healing. Amen.

Personal Prayer

I do not always know who I am or what I want, Lord. I am sometimes happy in my skin and sometimes I just want to leave it all behind. Sometimes I want to be 'out there' and noticed and other times I want to be alone and obscure. Sometimes, Lord, my tears are of joy and sometimes of sorrow and anguish. But always, Lord, you know my innermost thoughts, even those I do not understand myself – help me to rest always in you. Amen.

Sunday 18th October

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Reflection:

How aware are you of the influencers in your life? How would you feel if someone saw you as an influencer? How can your church community develop an ethos which is worth imitating in your own life?

Hymn (Moravian Hymnbook 23)

Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.

Of his deliverance I will boast,
till all that are distressed
from my example comfort take,
and charm their griefs to rest.

O magnify the Lord with me,
with me exalt his name;
when in distress to him I called,
he to my rescue came.

The hosts of God encamp around
the dwellings of the just;
deliverance he affords to all
who on his succour trust.

O make but trial of his love:
experience will decide
how blest are they, and only they,
who in his truth confide.

Fear him, ye saints, and you will then
have nothing else to fear;
make you his service your delight,
your wants shall be his care.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Prayer for Others:

Lord God, in our corner of the world it isn't easy to really
feel the pain of persecution for our faith, but we know
that it happens.

We pray for those who are persecuted and punished,
violated and scarred because of their faith.

We pray for those who despite these things speak out
and speak up, and witness to you, the living God.

We pray for the families of these people that they may
be given strength and support in their own faith and dis-
cipleship.

We pray for those who teach us of you, who unpack
your truths, who explain what living a Christian life is and
how to follow you.

We pray for those who guide us in times of struggles
with our faith, those who stand by us in times of denial
and bewilderment.

We pray for those who are dying in the faith, and those
who are struggling to find their faith before they die.
For these and all your witnesses, Lord, we pray. Amen.

Personal Prayer:

Lord Jesus, in my quiet moments, may I offer my inner-
most desires and yearnings to you, that I may more and
more walk my path in life conscious of you being at my
side. Amen.

Sunday 25th October

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Reflection:

What experience does Paul's image of a nurse most re-
mind you of? How/when does care for someone require
strength? How/when does care for someone require
gentleness? What about both?

Hymn (Sing Out Today 18)

Hands stretched out from many countries
Seek our friendship, love and care;
Different faces, many races,
Friends and neighbours everywhere.

Lord, your hands touched many people,
Bringing health and saving grace;
With your preaching You were reaching
Needy folk with love's embrace.

We enjoy our chosen diet,
Thank you for each ample meal;
We are feeding, they are needing,
Help us show our faith is real.

Take and use the gifts we offer;
We can pass to willing hands
Seed for sowing, crops for growing,
Bringing hope to many lands.

Lord, our great concern we bring you,
May all slaves of want go free:
Hands are praying, hearts are saying,
'Make your world a family'.

Mark Bishop (1920–1997) © C P Bishop, CCL Licence No. 270121

Prayer for Others

Lord God, we pray for those who have brought us to
faith, who have shown us your love, who have tended to
our needs, physical, emotional and spiritual.

We pray for those who have put themselves in harm's
way for us and others.

We pray for those whose lives have been made harder
because they have sought to serve you
and to help their fellow human beings.

We pray for those whose selfless acts have caused them
distress.

We pray for those who have at any cost shared the gos-
pel of Christ.

We pray for those imprisoned and tortured for their
faith and witness.

May they all be blessed in abundance with your love and
care. Amen.

Personal Prayer

God of all times, may I live my life so that others know
that I care for them, am there for them, am loving them
in your name. Amen.