

# The Magazine for Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Church-



September 2020

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## Minister's Letter

It has been six months since the last monthly newsletter was published. For most of that time our church buildings have been closed, and many of our activities have stopped.

The pandemic has been a difficult time for lots of us: not being able to meet with loved ones, not being able to do the things that we normally do, and facing uncertainty about the future. One of the hardest things from my perspective has been the restrictions on funeral services, which at one point meant not even being able to enter the chapel at the crematorium. Please continue to remember all those who have been bereaved in the last few months, including the families and friends of Sr Nona Harvey, Sr Connie Binks and Sr Moira Carr.

Church has kept going but in different ways. The online services have been well received, and I would like to thank Sr Claire Newman for the editing and Br Dick Porter for the music, as well as all those who read the Bible passages. I am grateful to both Church Committees who have had lists of members with whom they have kept in touch, and to all who have supported each other in different ways. Gomersal's Julian Meetings continued to happen online thanks to Sr Victoria Wright. Finally, thanks to Sr Mary Holmes who has produced the bi-weekly newsletters, keeping everyone up to date and providing worship materials for each Sunday.

The end of July was spent getting the two churches ready for services to begin again in August. Throughout the process we have followed government guidance and provincial policies. Unfortunately, the local lockdown in Kirklees delayed Gomersal's re-opening, but both congregations are now meeting each week to worship together, albeit in a slightly different way.

It is strange not singing, but that is something to look forward to when restrictions are lifted.

In September we hope to get some of our other activities up and running. More details are below. There will be some activities that will have to wait a little longer, including the Heritage Open Days which will not be happening this year. We will also be able to share communion, following guidance from the Province, during the morning service on the first Sunday at Fulneck and the second Sunday at Gomersal. See below for more details.

In October we will have our autumn Council Meetings to look at the annual reports and accounts. These meetings will take place in church and will probably be moved from the dates in the church calendars. At least two weeks' notice will be given, with papers sent out by email or by post for those without email. The business will be kept to a minimum, with an expectation that people will have read the papers before the meeting, and the opportunity to submit questions in advance.

Some of the measures that we have put in place will inevitably change over the coming months as government guidance changes, but we will not take any unnecessary risks. We will keep going, with God's help, and I am sure that we will come through this time with a greater appreciation of the freedoms that we usually enjoy.

In the meantime, here is a prayer for all those affected by the coronavirus pandemic:  
*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

Br Michael Newman

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

## Fulneck News and Notices

### Thursday Morning Services

Morning Prayers on a Thursday will begin again on 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 9.45am. The same social distancing and hygiene measures will apply as on Sunday mornings. Br Newman will lead the first few services.

### Use of the Boys' Brigade

From 14<sup>th</sup> September 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 and there will be 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.

### Bible Book Club: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2.00pm in the Boys' Brigade

Last time the Book Club met, we decided that we want to look at the minor prophets in the Old Testament. We begin in September with Hosea and Joel. If you would like a copy of the notes please ask Br Newman. Please bring a face mask, the notes, and your own Bible to the meeting.

### Harvest Festival

#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September

Harvest gifts should be brought to the service in church and left on the pews next to where you sit. They will go to St George's Crypt in Leeds to support their work with the homeless. The following suggestions come from the Crypt:

Coffee – instant granules, Nescafe, supermarket own brand etc.  
Tinned meats - corned beef, meatballs, hot dogs  
Tinned tuna  
Baked beans and spaghetti in sauce  
Tinned vegetables – peas, carrots, potatoes, sweetcorn  
Pasta sauces  
Gravy granules  
Tinned tomatoes  
Tinned fruit, cream, custard  
Breakfast cereals – cornflakes, Weetabix  
Long life milk



### Choir House

A big thank you to Br and Sr Davey for their many years serving as Administrators of the Fulneck Choir House. At the end of August they retired from this role, and Br Ian Haggas has now taken it on. We wish them all well.

# Gomersal News and Notices

## Julian Meeting

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 10.30am in Church



After meeting online in May, June and July, the September Julian Meeting will take place in church with social distancing measures in place. Please bring a face mask.

## Walking for Health

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 10.30am outside Church

Our first health walk of the autumn will take place on the third Wednesday in September. We will start and end outside church. In October we will return to walking on the first Wednesday of the month.



## Harvest Festival

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September

Sr Jane Dixon will be leading our Harvest Festival service. Harvest gifts should be brought to the service in church and left next to your seats. They will go to the collection point at St Paul's in Birkenshaw which supports a number of local foodbanks.



## Midweek Meetings

*From 14th September the Church can be used for midweek meetings subject to certain restrictions. There is a maximum of 20 people allowed per meeting, and the kitchen is not to be used yet. All meetings must be booked through Sr Holroyd and there can only be one event per week which must take place on a Wednesday. A copy of the risk assessment for the Church will be given to group leaders, who will be asked to complete a form about the risks of their specific activities before bookings can be confirmed.*

## Sing Out, My Soul!

In the last newsletter I invited you to think of songs that had a religious phrase or meaning. I can now share with you the interesting responses I received.

Anita writes that two of her favourite songs about faith are:

“People Get Ready” by Curtis Mayfield, written in 1964 in homage to Rev Martin Luther King Jr’s ‘I Have a Dream’ speech.

*People get ready there’s a train a comin’  
You don’t need no baggage, you just get on board  
All you need is faith to hear the diesels hummin’  
You don’t need a ticket, you just thank the lord.*

“Mary Don’t You Weep” by Aretha Franklin in 1972, this song has some lovely words.

Trevor offers:

“Until The End Of The World” by U2 which is sung from the perspective of Judas Iscariot in the Garden of Gethsemane. The song takes place as he betrays Jesus - delivering a pre-arranged signal that identifies him to the Temple Guards, who arrest him, ultimately leading to the crucifixion. “I kissed your lips and broke your heart,” sings Bono/Judas. “You, you were acting like it was the end of the world.”

“Turn! Turn! Turn!” by The Byrds - a 1965 hit is based, almost verbatim, on chapter three of the Book of Ecclesiastes, where King Solomon contemplates the meaning of life, God and eternity.

Gomersal Church have now had their first Sunday service . It was taken by Br Haggas who asked them about their ‘lock down’ hymns \ songs that had been in their heads throughout lock down . Here are three he would offer:

You are my vision version Rend Collective  
In Christ alone version New Irish Choir and Orchestra  
How great is our God (The Splendour of the King) version New Irish Choir and Orchestra.

They are even suggesting , when we can, a Singstunde to share such songs and hymns. Sounds like a good opportunity to ‘sing out’ once we can.

Meanwhile, here is the link to my article about Singstunde from our Church website:

[http://www.fulneck.org.uk/?page\\_id=2316](http://www.fulneck.org.uk/?page_id=2316)

Thanks to you all for these contributions.

Sr Mary Holmes

On the subject of singing, here’s a photograph I found online. Sure we can all spot a few folks we know!  
Guess they were posing before bursting into song to the pleasure of all those present.



## General Notices

### Communion Services

There is now a Provincial policy in place for Holy Communion services during the coronavirus pandemic, which has been adapted from the Church of England guidelines. The policy includes the following:

- Wafers and wine glasses will remain covered until immediately before distribution.
- Distribution will be done solely by the minister, who will put on a face mask and sanitise their hands before touching the wafers and wine glasses.
- To avoid physical contact, wafers will be dropped into people's hands, and wine glasses will be either placed on the pew shelf (at Fulneck) or taken by the congregation from a well-spaced tray (Gomersal).
- Face masks should only be removed when partaking of the wafers or wine.
- There will be no right hand of fellowship.

This policy will enable us to share Communion as safely as possible. However, we cannot remove all risk, therefore if anyone does not wish to receive communion at this time, they should remain seated and the minister will pass by without stopping.

**Yorkshire District Conference Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 9am**

This meeting will take place online using Zoom.



## Materials for Worshipping at Home

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September

Matthew 18: 15-20

Reflection How might this passage speak to the communities we find ourselves in today? What tensions and difficulties arise? And how do we deal with them in a way that builds up the community?

#### Hymn

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*O Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, only light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

*O master, grant that I may never seek...*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive;  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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#### Prayer for Others

Eternal God, we pray for those who this day need our prayers:  
those we see around us...  
family and friends near and far...  
strangers and communities we will never meet or know,  
but whose peril we see on our screens...  
those whose life is ebbing away...  
those who grieve deeply for lives and loves lost...  
those who are forgotten, unnoticed, unloved, unmissed...  
Lord God, in your abundance of mercy, hear these and all our prayers. Amen.

#### Personal Prayer

Sometimes, O God, I wish I was on my own, not troubled and disturbed by those around me, not jostled and tussled this way and that, but just left to my own devices. But I am not just me, I am part of the community in which I live. Give me patience with those around me, give me love and compassion for those in need, give me understanding of people who are so different from me and give me, above all else, a yearning to do your will. Amen.

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September

Matthew 18: 21-35

#### Reflection

How might your life and your community be transformed if you lived with this attitude of forgiveness?

#### Hymn

O Lord, all the world belongs to you,  
and you are always making all things new.  
What is wrong you forgive;  
and the new life you give  
is what's turning the world upside down.

The world's only loving to its friends,  
but your way of loving never ends –  
loving enemies too.  
And this loving with you  
is what's turning the world upside down.

The world lives divided and apart;  
you draw us together and we start  
in our friendship to see  
that in harmony we  
can be turning the world upside down.

The world wants the wealth to live in state,  
but you show a new way to be great:  
like a servant you came  
and, if we do the same,  
we'll be turning the world upside down.

Patrick Appleford © 1965 Josef Weinberger Ltd, CCL Licence No. 270121

#### Prayer for Others

Jesus' parables inspire us to pray for those who forgive us,  
for big things and small...  
for those who do not forgive, no matter what...  
for those who do not know how to forgive...  
for those who do not want to forgive...  
for those who have not been forgiven.  
God of forgiveness, for them all, we pray. Amen.

#### Personal Prayer

I am not worthy, yet you love me, God. I do not deserve so much and yet I have it. I have many needs and before you I acknowledge them; fill my life with your presence, that others too may come to know your healing balm. Amen.

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Philippians 1: 21-30

### Reflection

When was the last time you really struggled to make a choice? How is it helpful to know that Paul struggled with choices, like we do?

### Hymn

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;  
past put behind us, for the future take us,  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith © Oxford University Press, CCL Licence No. 270121

### Prayer for Others

Eternal, ever-living, ever-present God, in the struggles and joys of this day, we pray:

for those who are overburdened, weighed down, demoralised, fearful or desolate because of what life has thrown at them...

For those engulfed in pain and anguish, facing illness and death...

For those troubled in mind and spirit, who find no peace or calm...

For those alone and lonely, without friend or comfort...

For those frightened and bewildered, who see no direction or purpose in their lives...

Eternal, ever-living God, bless them all in this and every hour, in this and every step of life's journey. Amen.

### Personal Prayer

In trial and tribulation, God of comfort, be near me. In loss and devastation, God of grief, grieve with me. In uncertainty and confusion, God of the way, show me a path. In want and in need, God of provision, provide for me. In times of sluggishness and laziness, God of patience, wait for me. In comfort and in joy, God of love, let me not forget you. Amen.

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September

Philippians 2: 1-13

### Reflection

In a world obsessed with self-interest and self-image, putting aside your own interests for the interests of others is quite a challenge, and one that we, as followers of Jesus, need to wrestle with. What does this look like in practice? How can we balance this with the need for self-care?

### Hymn

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him King of glory now.  
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning was the mighty Word:

Humbled for a season, to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came;  
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious when from death he passed.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue  
all that is not holy, all that is not true;  
crown him as your captain in temptation's hour,  
let his will enfold you in its light and power.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,  
with his Father's glory, with his angel train;  
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him King of Glory now.

### Prayer for Others

O God, so often we want to pray for others but don't know how. We can't remember names or numbers, or other issues weigh heavily on our hearts. Thank goodness, God, that you know what we mean when we pray. So, we bring in this moment, those names and faces, images and desires for others that pop in and out of our minds throughout the day...

the old lady at the bus stop...

the young mum at the checkout...

the chap up the road who's calling for his dog...

the teachers struggling with their class...

a young family who can't make ends meet...

those without work, who can't find new jobs...

those with mental health issues and seeking help...

those who know they need help for whatever reason,

but are too ashamed to ask, or are ignored...

O God, for all these people and countless others, we offer our prayers. We know you do not need reminding, but you do need willing workers – even us – to help them know your love and have their needs met. Hear our ramblings, O God. Amen

### Personal Prayer

I simply pray that you, Lord God, will help me show your love to those around me. Amen.

# Calendar

*The following events will take place unless government restrictions prevent them from happening. Other activities may be able to take place once risk assessments have been completed.*

## September

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship & Communion led by Br M Newman
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Br R Hopcroft
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm	Fulneck	Church Committee in the BB
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Gomersal	Julian Meeting in Church
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship led by Br T Kernohan
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship & Communion led by Br M Newman
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Gomersal	Church Committee
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Gomersal	Walking for Health
	2.00pm	Fulneck	Bible Book Club in the BB
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship led by Br I Haggas
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Br M Newman
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Harvest Festival Service led by Br M Newman
	10.30am	Gomersal	Harvest Festival Service led by Sr J Dixon
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	Gomersal	CTGB&EB Meeting (online)

## October

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00am	District	YD Conference (online)
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship & Communion led by Br M Newman
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Br R Hopcroft

Please submit material for the next edition to Br Newman or myself by Thursday 17 September. Thank you, Mary