

The Magazine for Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Churches



November 2020

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News from the Unity

Every month, Br Jorgen Boytler, the Unity Administrator, sends a newsletter by email with information about what is happening around the Moravian Unity. I thought I would share some of the most recent newsletter which talks about how different provinces are adapting to the restrictions caused by coronavirus.

The Moravian Church in South Africa, one of the largest Unity Provinces, has produced its Children's Lovefeast for 2020 as an online Lovefeast due to Corona restrictions. It includes a vivid sermon for children, short speeches, and many songs. The German-Dutch gospel choir of the European Continental Province called 'The Moravians' also participated in this Lovefeast. The variety of contributions for the online Lovefeast is amazing. For more than half a year now, Corona-related restrictions have hindered communication not only between individuals, but also between churches, organisations and Unity Provinces. For this reason, signs of hope and solidarity – even if only digital – are extremely important. The Moravians in Switzerland greeted all its members and friends with an online brass chorale, playing the hymn of Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 'Christian hearts in love united'. From the city of Mbeya in Tanzania, Southwest Province, the chairman of the Province, Br Zakaria Ebel Sichone greeted his Province. In the face of the now frequently asked question "Where is God?", he refers to an important name of God, "Immanuel", which is Hebrew for "God is always with us".

Covid-19 Update

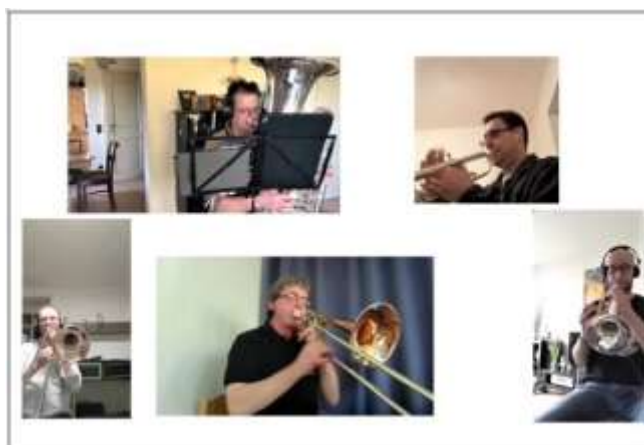
The Provincial Board has reviewed its guidelines on meeting for Worship and have issued the following guidance, which will be continually monitored:

Tier 1 (Medium)

Current Church guidance remains in place as well as any additional government guidelines that may be imposed.

Tier 2 (High)

Physical worship can continue under current Church guidance with the following additions:



Local

Congregations committees will review their current measures. If there is uncertainty around observance of the measures, the congregations will temporarily suspend physical worship.

Any congregation that has more than 50% of their members coming from outside the immediate local community, will suspend physical worship. People are discouraged from using public transport or car sharing.

*If congregations continue to meet, **strict observance of social distancing must be enforced.** In addition to this, face coverings must be worn on entering the building and not removed for the duration of the service.*

Tier 3 (Very High)

***Physical worship should be suspended** for at least four weeks and will only resume when the risk level has returned to Tier 2 or below.*

***Indoor activities and rentals should be suspended** unless providing an essential service.*

Note: Ministers & those attending worship should not be travelling from home into an area that is in a different tier to get to Church. The events listed in this magazine are therefore provisional depending on whether our areas are in Tier 2 or Tier 3. If in Tier 3, services will be made available on YouTube and some activities will still be able to take place on Zoom. If only Fulneck enters Tier 3, this will also impact on Gomersal as Br Newman will be unable to travel.

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

Fulneck News and Notices

Outreach Meeting

Five of us met on Zoom to discuss outreach. Many of the things which we discussed at our last meeting in February have gone on hold due to the coronavirus. However, we have some ideas for things that we can still do this Advent.

Fulneck Advent Calendar

We hope that, each day through Advent, a window will be decorated for people to look out for people to look out for as they walk through the settlement, until we have 24 decorated windows on Christmas Eve. We will ask those who see the windows to make a donation to St George's Crypt. Those Fulneck residents who have a window overlooking the road should already have received a letter inviting them to take part.

Nativity Scene Festival

Many of us have a nativity scene at home, and some will have more than one. We hope to put a picture of a different nativity scene on Facebook each day through Advent. If you would like to take part, please take a photo of your nativity scene and send it to Br Newman (address on front page) before the end of November.



It would also be nice to include some information about where the scene came from and what it means to you, although this isn't compulsory.

If you have any other ideas for outreach that we can do safely over the next few months, please let Br Newman know. Thank you.

Christingle Service

Because of coronavirus restrictions, this year our nativity play and Christingle will be an online service on YouTube.

The service will include all the usual elements, including contributions from the children. If your children or grandchildren would like to record a video, no more than two minutes long, of them singing, reading or playing something which will help us to celebrate Christmas, please send the video by email to Br Newman (address on front page) by Sunday 13th December so that it can be included. Thank you.



Chapel Servants

Sr Vi Hayton has recently retired from her role as head lady chapel servant. We are extremely grateful for her many years of service as a chapel servant. Sr Liz Coker will take her place on the chapel servants' rota, and Sr Linda Wood will become head lady chapel servant. We wish them both well.

Bible Book Club: Wednesday 25 November, 2.00pm on Zoom.

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

Quiz Night

Thursday 19th November, 7.30pm on Zoom

Back in May we held an enjoyable quiz night on Zoom. Six months later, we are planning an even bigger and better quiz night. If your household would like to form a team, or if you would like to take part on your own, please email Br Newman (address on front page) and he will send a link and instructions. There will be a variety of questions on different topics, and a prize for the winning team or individual.

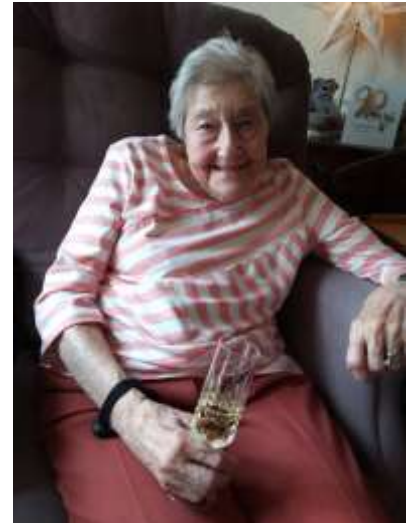


Keeping in touch

Mollie Hinchcliffe, sadly, moved out of the Settlement in September. Pauline, her sister in law, tells us Mollie is fine and settling in well.. She would be delighted to hear from her friends. Her new contact details are:-

Airedale Care Home, Church Lane, Pudsey LS28 7RF
0113 257 2138 (then choose ext. 2) Mobile 07542 998298

And here we have a picture of Mollie enjoying her 90th birthday—happy memories for Mollie and so many of her friends.



Gomersal News and Notices

Gift Day

Thank you to everyone who donated on our Gift Day on 11th October. We raised **£648** for church funds.

Wellbeing Wednesdays

Julian Meeting

Wednesday 11th November, 10.30am in Church (or possibly on Zoom)

We continue to meet every month for a time of quiet contemplation.

Virtual Coffee Morning

Wednesday 18th November, 10.30am on Zoom

As we are not able to meet in person for most of our regular Wellbeing activities, you are invited to a virtual coffee morning on the third Wednesday of the month. 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 Zoom meeting. If you need guidance on using Zoom, he can also send some instructions. We hope that you can join us.



Nativity Play and Christingle Help Wanted!

This year we are planning an online nativity play and Christingle service which will be made available on YouTube. Christingle kits will be available so that people can make a Christingle at home as they watch the service – all you will need to provide is an orange.

The Junior Church are producing a video nativity play using Lego to create the different scenes of the story. If you know any children who would like to take part please contact Br Newman, Br Dickinson, Sr Rivers or Sr Wright by Sunday 15th November. Thank you for your help.



YPMA

Money collected for the YPMA can be given to Br Les Machell. Thank you.

General Notices

Yorkshire District Conference, 14th October Report by Br Dick Porter

Moravian Churches in Yorkshire have been praised for adapting to new ways of working and worshipping during the coronavirus pandemic.

The autumn district conference of Moravians in the district was told by Provincial Board member Br Mark Kernohan there had been a fantastic response from ministers and congregations when restrictions were

imposed in March, with weekly services continuing instead online. He said there had been “some stress” when church services resumed in September, with some of the more vulnerable congregation members caught between choosing online services or whether to appear in person, so he said some services would continue on the web. Br John McOwat told the meeting, which was held via Zoom, that Yorkshire ministers Br Michael Newman, Sr Jane Dixon and Br David Howarth should be congratulated for the way they had coped, not only with

worship but keeping in touch with the members. He proposed a vote of thanks, which was unanimously approved.

Br Howarth, for the Baildon and Horton congregations, said there had been regular telephone conversations between members and another way of maintaining contact had been through the congregation's WhatsApp group. He said a wedding at Baildon, scheduled from nearly two years ago, had gone ahead as planned in August. Br Howarth said: "This was our first service since March. The bride and bridesmaids looked beautiful in their dresses and masks".

Br Kernohan went on to detail how Fulneck and Ockbrook schools had opened again after being closed for a time, but said they still faced significant challenges. While some furloughed parents had struggled with fees, both schools had been praised for the quality of their teaching and it had been a good year as far as exam results were concerned.

Looking ahead, Br Kernohan said the church was looking at its tri-centenary in 2022 and a decade of evangelism, growth and change was the objective. He said: "We need to make an impression in the next 10 years." He said the viability of Synod in March next year was constantly being monitored and the province would be kept updated. A lay preachers' training weekend planned for October was being pushed back to October next year and the ministers' retreat had been postponed because of Covid-19.

Br Kernohan said Sr Roberta Hoey and Br Livingstone Thompson had been lucky to get out of India as a clamp-down on internal flights had been introduced suddenly in March while they were out there. He said they had flown to South East Asia, where the Moravians have churches at Ladakh, Nepal and Assam. After visiting Rajpur they flew to Delhi when the hastily announced embargo on internal flights was announced. India is the third worst-hit country in the world for Covid-19, after America and Brazil. Br Kernohan added that students in Rajpur had found themselves locked down and they had had to organise deliveries to be sent in for them. In Ladakh, the conference was told, there had been rising tension between Indian and Chinese forces along the disputed Himalayan border after accusations that shots were fired into Ladakh from China for the first time in 45 years. In August, 23 Indian soldiers were killed by gunfire.

In Western Tanzania, he said, the church was committed to a further £5,000 in grants to support mission work in areas including Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda. Br Kernohan told parishioners: "Pray for peace". Closer

to home, he said a task force in Gloucestershire had been supporting the Brockweir congregation as they considered plans for Moravian buildings there hit by flooding. In January, floodwater had come up to the church steps and one graveyard, dating back to the 1800s, had been under two feet of water. It is hoped a report will go to Synod in 2021.

Fulneck's Br Ron and Sr Ros Davey were thanked for their 19 years of service as wardens of the settlement's Choir House, where they have overseen the management of the 11 apartments. He said the board had planned to recognise their work at Synod 2020 but this had now been postponed until 2021. Br Ian Haggas has taken over their role.

The conference was told vacancies will be opening up on several Provincial Committees and congregation members were asked to put themselves forward for the role. Among the committees will be Church Service, Finance, Mission and Society, World Mission, and Youth and Children. Br Kernohan said the roles involved around 10 or 12 days' work a year. Anyone looking to be nominated for election is asked to approach their own church committee in the first instance.

Ministers then gave individual reports of congregation membership and details of events, all of which had been cut short by the pandemic. Lockdown had been introduced only a short time after the spring district conference. Fulneck has 74 members and adherents, Gomersal 39. Lower Wyke has 33 members and one adherent, Wellhouse has 13, no change from last year. The conference fell too early for confirmed numbers to be given for Baildon and Horton.

For the Moravian Singers, it has also been a truncated year. The choir is now jointly led by Br Glyn Jones and Sr Diane Thornton. Br Jones took the choir through rehearsals from September to November, culminating in the Advent Sunday service at Lower Wyke. Rehearsals for the 23 singers resumed in January under Sr Thornton and the pieces at the district Lovefeast on February 23 were well received. Rehearsals continued until early March, when all gatherings were put on hold. Sr Thornton said both leaders were ready to resume their duties. In the meantime for them, and all of us, it is now a case of wait and see.

Calendar

All the following events are provisional (see front page)

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
Wednesday 4 th	7.15pm	Fulneck	Church Committee in the Boys' Brigade
Thursday 5 th	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers in Church
Sunday 8 th	10.30am	Fulneck	Remembrance Service led by Br I Haggas
	10.30am	Gomersal	Remembrance Service & Communion led by Br Newman
Wednesday 11 th	10.30am	Gomersal	Julian Meeting in Church
	2.00pm	Fulneck	MWA in the Boys' Brigade
Thursday 12 th	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers in Church
Sunday 15 th	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship led by Sr D Thornton
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Br M Newman
Tuesday 17 th	7.30pm	Gomersal	Church Committee in Church
Wednesday 18 th	10.30am	Gomersal	Wellbeing Coffee Morning on Zoom
Thursday 19 th	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers in Church
Sunday 22 nd	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship led by Br M Newman
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Sr K Woolford
Tuesday 24 th	2.00pm	Fulneck	Museum Committee Meeting in the Boys' Brigade
Wednesday 25 th	2.00pm	Fulneck	Bible Book Club on Zoom
Thursday 26 th	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers in Church
Sunday 29 th	10.30am	Fulneck	Advent Sunday Family Worship led by Br T Kernohan
	10.30am	Gomersal	Advent Sunday Family Worship led by Br M Newman

December

Thursday 3 rd	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers in Church
Sunday 6 th	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship and Communion led by Br M Newman
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Sr K Woolford

Materials for Worshipping at Home

Sunday 1st November

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2.9-13

Reflection

What or who encourages, urges or persuades you to be more Christ-like? How might you encourage others in their faith journey?

Hymn (MHB 170)

O Jesus Christ, grow thou in me,
and all things else recede;
my heart be daily nearer thee,
from sin be daily freed.

Each day let thy supporting might
my weakness still embrace;
my darkness vanish in thy light,
thy life my death efface.

Let faith in thee and in thy might
my every motive move,
be thou alone my soul's delight,
my passion and my love.

Prayer for Others

We pray for all who feel isolated. In their uniqueness, they may also feel alone. This is most of us, some of the time, but it is some of us most of the time. God of encounter, may we all turn with love and interest towards those who have been isolated. God of encounter, hear our prayer. Amen .

Personal Prayer

Jesus of strong words, you were not afraid: calling people you knew to deeper integrity, challenging our ways of seeing ourselves and others. Give me courage to live well in all the small choices of my day, to hear your voice calling me to the deepest integrity of myself, and the deepest practice of goodness with those I love. Amen.

Sunday 8th November

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Reflection:

What does the symbol of the poppy mean to you? What is your hope for the future? How might you help others in a time of grief?

Hymn (MHB 119)

Rejoice, the Lord is King.
Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

Jesus the Saviour, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:

CHORUS

Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus our Lord shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:

*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice.*

Prayer for Others

Today, God, we pray for those in grief. Someone was living who is now not living, and our hearts mourn in the wake of their lives and their presence in our lives. May we have hope. Not saccharine, not silly, not soppy. We pray for hope. Hope that we may live in the light of their great lives, and in the hope of seeing them again, in the kindness of heaven. Amen.

Personal Prayer

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. And I lift up my story, too. My story that has known comfort, my story that has also known separation, and sadness. I lift up my heart, that has sometimes loved well, and sometimes failed. In my own days, I have known the goodness of community and the questions that isolate. And in all these, I lift up my eyes to you, who always keeps me in your gaze. Let me find kindness and wisdom in all stages of life, both easy and trying. Amen.

Sunday 15th November

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Reflection

When have you been completely surprised by something or someone? How do you feel about the idea of something coming like a 'thief in the night'? How might we be better prepared to live as children of light?

Hymn (MHB 278)

Soldiers of Christ, arise,
And put your armour on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies
Through his eternal Son;
Strong in the Lord of hosts,
And in his mighty power,
7 Who in the strength of Jesus trusts
Is more than conqueror.

Stand then in his great might,
With all his strength endued;
And take, to arm you for the fight,
The panoply of God;
To keep your armour bright
Attend with constant care,
Still walking in your Captain's sight,
And watching unto prayer.

Prayer for Others

We pray to God, who is always ready – for those overtaken with demands: give rest, O Lord. For those overburdened with anxieties: give rest, O Lord. For those overcome with debt: give relief, O Lord. For those oppressed by powers that despise them: give salvation, O Lord. For those in situations they cannot see a way out of: give freedom, O Lord. For those in need of hope: give hope, O Lord. Amen.

Personal Prayer

Jesus, you were always ready to hear the needs of those around you. You turned to those who were used to being ignored. I am sometimes ready and sometimes not. And I am sometimes ignored and sometimes not. In all these times, nurture my heart so that I may seek you, and share you, all around. Because you are all around. Amen.

Sunday 22nd November

Reading: Matthew 25: 31-46

Reflection

During the worst of the pandemic, who did you want to show appreciation to? When have you instinctively responded to a human need? How might you/your church/ our society become more compassionate?

Hymn (Sing Out Today 20)

Turn us round and turn us round,
We would now the whole world see:
Christ within and Christ without,
We are all his family.

He brings hope to every one,
Living hope for you and me:
His the bounty and the caring,
Who would not his servant be?

Turn us round and turn us round,
Christ in all the world to see:
We will share and share again,
We are all his family.

AJ Lewis (1914-1990) © M Lewis/Moravian Church, CCL Licence No. 270121

Prayer for Others

For the times when we are sick: may we have healing.
For the times when we are isolated: may we have company. For the times when we are oppressed: may we have justice. For the times when we are exposed: may we have dignity. For the times when we are mistreated: may we have humanity. For the times when we are ignored: may we be heard. For the times when we ignore, or isolate, or oppress, or expose or mistreat: may we change. Amen.

Personal Prayer

Sometimes I am tired, or I'm preoccupied with other demands. Help me take time, help me make time, for kindness, so that rush can take its lower place, and kindness can rise up. Because you had much to do – but made time anyway. Amen.

Sunday 29th November (Advent Sunday)

Reading: Mark 13: 24-37

Reflection

What moments of 'light in the darkness' have you experienced? When times are dark, what keeps you watching and waiting?

Hymn (MHB 49)

Hark, the glad sound, the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

Prayer for Others

We pray for those who have waited for years for the dawn... those for whom hope seems dim... those whose morning brought the unexpected... those struggling to adjust to new realities... those whose fires have grown dim... those who are ignoring the signs of the times... those who are struggling to keep awake... Amen.

Personal Prayer

God of light and night, you are to be found, whether at dusk or dawn. Sometimes the light seems far, and the night seems long. May I find comfort, whether in the soft night, or the kind dawn, knowing that you created both, and you wait for me, as I wait for you. Amen.