

# The Magazine for Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Churches



December 2020

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## Church Service Sunday Letter

*As part of the service on Church Service Sunday, two weeks before Advent, a letter from either the PEC or the Bishops is read out. As we were unable to hold a service this year, here is the letter for you to read.*

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

For everyone 2020 has certainly been challenging to say the least. We have all found ourselves serving the Lord in ways that many of us could not have imagined before the arrival of Covid-19. Some of us have managed to master the wonders of Zoom for our worship and others have created their own YouTube channels. Many others have forged even closer relationships with neighbours, both actual and figurative ones, but only at a social distance and with our friendly smiles hidden behind masks, of course!

Our NHS and care home workers have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve us all and we are so grateful for all of their skill and care. Other key workers have stocked the supermarket shelves and emptied our bins and planned Government and Council services. Teachers have been back at school trying to give our children the education they deserve in difficult circumstances. Food banks and charities have kept looking after those who face difficult times. We have all been looking out for each other in the best way we can.

This has reminded us that all forms of service are valid and invaluable to those we meet, friend,

family and complete strangers alike. And we know from Jesus himself, in Matthew 25:40, that whatever we do for others, we do for Him. In serving others freely we serve our Lord.

We are also asked, on this Church Service Sunday, to serve our Church which is the body of Christ in this world. There are numerous ways to serve within the Church at a local and national level. The challenges of this year have highlighted the need within congregations for those with pastoral skills and technical know how along with the traditional work of the local Church. As you know Synod had to be postponed this year, but we are hopeful that it will be held next year. and there will be many opportunities there to offer for service at a national level. We need people to offer for service on all the Provincial Committees including the Provincial Elders Conference (Provincial Board). We also need people who are prepared to train as lay preachers and worship leaders and of course to offer for the ordained ministry of the Church. There will be a confidential Enquirers Morning, by zoom, on Saturday 16th January. Details for this will be in the Moravian Messenger.

It takes all sorts of people to keep the Church going and none of us know what gifts we have to offer until we give ourselves for service in our community, in our Church and for our Lord.

Yours in Christ's Service  
Br Paul Holdsworth (PEC)  
Sr Sarah Groves Ep Fr (Bishop)

## **Christmas Services**

Gomersal—Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm

Fulneck—Christmas Liturgy on Christmas Day at 10.30am

*For more on services in December see the next page*

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

## **Covid 19 Pandemic – Updates to Moravian Church Guidance**

We are aware that this is more stringent than Government Guidelines. We have made this decision on the basis of several factors. This includes the demographic and regional profiles of our congregations and the risks that are associated to congregations if they fail to maintain Covid-19 secure buildings as well as the pressure on committees and ministers to ensure that rules are enforced. These decisions are not made lightly, and we are very conscious that Christmas is a time of such celebration, light and hope for all of us. As such we have adapted the guidelines for the Christmas period.

Sr Roberta Hoey, on Behalf of the Provincial Board of the Moravian Church

### **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 caveats:**

- Committees must meet online to consider their current measures. If there is uncertainty around observance of the measures, the congregations must suspend physical worship except for the period 23rd – 27th December 2020 (see additional guidelines over Christmas).
- Any congregations that has more than 50% of their members coming from outside the immediate local community, should suspend physical worship. Members should be 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 masks must be worn on entering the building and not removed for the duration of the service.
- People cannot interact with anyone outside of their household or bubble and the congregation must immediately disperse after worship. Church Committee & Stewards are responsible in ensuring this happens.

Funerals can take place with a maximum of 30 guests. Weddings can take place with a maximum of 15 guests. Rentals can continue for businesses or essential services, but no social activities should take place.

### **Tier 3 (Very High)**

**Physical worship must be suspended except for the period 23rd – 27th December 2020 (see additional guidelines over Christmas) and will only resume when the risk level has returned to Tier 2 or below.**

Funerals can take place with a maximum of 30 guests. Weddings can take place with a maximum of 15 guests. Indoor activities and rentals should be suspended unless providing an essential service.

### **Christmas Services**

**Congregations across all Tiers can meet together once throughout the Christmas Period** (between Christmas Eve and Sunday 27th December) and congregation ministers should lead the service. Online services are strongly encouraged. All congregations in Tier 3 and those congregations in Tier 2 that have suspended worship must review their current risk assessment making necessary adjustment to ensure that all current government and Church guidelines are observed. Carol Singing & other activities are permitted outdoors following government guidelines.

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*In the last couple of weeks there have been cases of Covid-19 among residents of the Fulneck and Gomersal settlements, as well as at Fulneck School. This is a reminder that we must continue to be careful. The Province has decided not to risk the health of congregations in tier 3 (all those in the Yorkshire and Lancashire Districts and a number of others) even though the government has allowed places of worship to re-open. Many of us will face similarly difficult decisions over the Christmas period when families are permitted to meet together in a bubble of three households. We will still be holding the Midnight Communion at Gomersal and the Christmas Day service at Fulneck for those who wish to attend, with strict social distancing and no mingling after the service. When we move into tier 2 we will be able to hold Sunday services again as outlined above. In the meantime, stay safe.*

*Br Michael Newman*

## Fulneck News and Notices

### Vacancy—Flat 2, No, 26 Fulneck

The accommodation, suitable for 2 persons, is on the level Ground Floor, South facing and comprises of: small entrance lobby; bedroom; bathroom (toilet, wash basin and shower); large dinning\living room and kitchen. There is gas central heating throughout and an electric light effect fire. The flat has a shared communal garden.

Rent is £850.00 per quarter plus Service charge £100.00 per quarter and Water Charges. Tenants own arrangements with Gas & Electric providers. Council Tax is Band A (2019/2020—£1140.76) Single Person Discount is available at 25%.

Applications by: Thursday 31 Dec. 2020 (5.00pm). Application form & more info. contact: Ian Haggas. 07810 144 791. ian.haggas@aol.com

### Bible Book Club

#### Tuesday 15th December, 2pm on Zoom

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

## Advent Windows

Each day from 1<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December there will be a new window decorated somewhere in the Fulneck Settlement. Can you spot them all?

If you enjoy seeing the windows, please consider donating to **St George's Crypt**

Go to our Just Giving page  
[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/FulneckAdventWindows](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/FulneckAdventWindows)  
or scan the QR code below



St.  
George's  
Crypt



### Toy Appeal Collection—Sunday 13th December, 2.00pm to 3.30pm at the Boys' Brigade

We are still having a collection for the St George's Crypt Toy Appeal this year. New toys will go to the appeal, and nearly new toys to the St George's Crypt charity shop. If you would like to donate toys they can be brought to the Boys' Brigade on Sunday 13th December between 2.00 and 3.30pm. Thank you.

### Carol Singing

Door-to-door carol singing in groups of up to six people is allowed. We will not be organising any carol singing as a congregation, but if anyone wants to borrow some carol sheets, please contact Br Newman.

### Carol Service on Sunday 20th December

Outdoor carol services are also permitted subject to various conditions. The Church Committee are looking at holding a short carol service outside church on Sunday 20th December, subject to a risk assessment. We may have to limit numbers to ensure social distancing. More details will follow soon.

### 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 the Twelve Days of Christmas (25<sup>th</sup> December to 5<sup>th</sup> January). If you would like to take part, please take a photo of your nativity scene and send it to Br Newman by Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December (address on front page). 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.

## Nativity Play

The Fulneck Dramatic Society have prepared a play based on two of the Wakefield Cycle of Mystery plays. They cover the story of the Nativity with shepherds, wise men, wise women, angels and Herod. If we are still in Tier 3 on Sunday 20th December, when the nativity play would normally take place, it may be possible to record the play and make it available on YouTube.

## Christingle Service—Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December, from 4.00pm on YouTube

Because of coronavirus restrictions, this year our Christingle service will be 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.

Christingle candles and frills will be available so that people can make a Christingle at home as they watch the service – all you will need to provide is the cocktail sticks, sweets and an orange. **The candles and frills will be available to collect from Church at the following times:**

- **Thursday 17th December from 6.30pm to 8.00pm**
- **Saturday 19th December from 10am to 11.30am**

If you do not live within easy walking or driving distance of the Church, we may be able to have a kit delivered to you. Please contact Br Newman (details on front page) before Monday 14th December.

## Gomersal News and Notices

Jeff Hopper will be celebrating his 80th Birthday on December 12th. Unfortunately the current restrictions prevent a party from taking place this year. The congregation will be invited to a deferred gathering when this is possible.

## Wellbeing Wednesdays

[Julian Meeting. Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am on Zoom](#)

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

[Virtual Coffee Morning. Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 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.

## Christingle Service and Nativity Play Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, available from 4.00pm on YouTube

Because of coronavirus restrictions, this year our Nativity Play and Christingle service will be on YouTube. The Junior Church are producing a video nativity play using Lego to create the different scenes of the story. Thank you to everyone who is contributing.

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 kits will be available to collect from the Church Hall at the following times:**

- **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 10am to 11.30am**
- **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 6.30pm to 8.00pm**

If you do not live within easy walking or driving distance of the Church, we may be able to have a kit delivered to you. Please contact Br Newman (details on front page) before Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December.



## Christmas Quiz

Br Cyril and Sr Mary Smith have put together another quiz. There are three sections – Christmas carols and songs, childhood games, and sweets. There is a charge of £2 which will go to the building fund. First prize is a £15 M&S voucher, second prize is a £10 M&S Voucher, and third prize is a tin of Celebrations Chocolates. Quizzes and money must be returned to Br and Sr Smith by Twelfth Night, the 5<sup>th</sup> of January.

## A Winter Walk around Gomersal.

**Do you feel like a walk this Advent or over the Christmas Season?**

I have planned the walk to start at Gomersal Moravian Church, with a mixture of streets and paths around the village. I hope you enjoy it and I hope that you all keep well this Advent and Christmas. Take care, from Victoria.

Start the walk at Gomersal Moravian Church. Stand at the gate with your back facing the church and walk down Quarry Road. Take a right-hand turn and walk down Lower Lane. Pass the park on your right-hand side then go round the sharp bend to the right. Continue up the hill then take a sharp left at the junction onto Gomersal Lane. Enjoy the scenery as you wander down Gomersal Lane. Continue down the hill until you reach a T junction at the main road called Spen Lane. Turn Right and walk up Spen Lane until you reach some flats on the right-hand side. After the flats, take a right onto Nibshaw Lane. Continue back all along Nibshaw Lane which leads to Upper Lane. Continue on Upper Lane and the park will be on your right-hand side. At the end of Upper Lane take a final right back onto Quarry road and head back to Church. Well done!

## General Notices

## Moravian Lovefeast & Baking



Join us on

**Sunday 13th December at 2pm** for a chance to gather together, hear about our different Christmas traditions and hopes for 2021 plus **BAKE** some yummy gingerbread biscuits.

What do I need? You will need access to the internet to join us on Zoom. Meeting ID: 873 5877 9275 Passcode: 283317

You will also need the following ingredients:

225g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

½ tsp salt

2 tsp bicarbonate of soda

1 heaped tsp ground ginger

½ tsp cinnamon

50g unsalted butter

100g soft brown sugar

100g golden syrup



Plus icing sugar and icing decorations.



Yorkshire District of the Moravian Church

## Fellowship Morning

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 10am**  
on **Zoom** (contact your minister for the link)

## Caring for Those Who Care



with Br Jared Stephens, Minister of the Ballinderry and Cliftonville congregations

## Old Mobile Phone Appeal

You may have read about the World Mission Society's appeal in the November Moravian Messenger. When we can open for services again, both Fulneck and Gomersal will have boxes for you to put your old mobile phones in to be recycled and to support Moravian Missions. Please remove SIM cards first. Thank you for your help.



## Bogus Burglars Targeting Elderly Victims

The police have issued a warning about burglars who gain entry by claiming to be water maintenance workers needing to check water pressure. They then steal items. There have been offences across the Leeds area and beyond. Stay safe and be vigilant.

## Daily Watchwords

The 2021 Daily Watchwords are now available at £6 each. Please can you let Br Newman know how many copies you would like and we will arrange to get them to you before Christmas. Thanks.

## Calendar

**\*\*The following is based on Tier 3 restrictions. If we are moved down to Tier 2, physical services and meetings will be able to resume (see page 2)\*\***

### December

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>		Ful & Gom	Family Worship <a href="#">on YouTube</a>
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Gomersal	Julian Meeting <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
	7.15pm	Fulneck	Church Committee <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Coffee Morning <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Gomersal	Christingle Kit Collection from the Church Hall
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>		Ful & Gom	Family Worship <a href="#">on YouTube</a>
	2.00pm	Fulneck	Toy Appeal Drop Off at the Boys' Brigade
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Gomersal	Christingle Kit Collection from the Church Hall
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Fulneck	Bible Book Club <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
	7.30pm	Gomersal	Church Committee <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Gomersal	Wellbeing Coffee Morning <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>		Ful & Gom	Family Worship <a href="#">on YouTube</a>
	Time TBC	Fulneck	Carol Service outside Church
			(subject to a risk assessment being completed—see page 3)
	From 4pm	Gomersal	Nativity Play and Christingle Service <a href="#">on YouTube</a>
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	From 4pm	Fulneck	Christingle Service <a href="#">on YouTube</a>
	11.30pm	Gomersal	Midnight Communion in Church led by Br M Newman
			(with strict social distancing and no mingling after the service)
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Christmas Day Service in Church led by Br M Newman
			(with strict social distancing and no mingling after the service)
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>		Ful & Gom	Family Worship <a href="#">on YouTube</a>
<b>January</b>			
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Ful & Gom	Family Worship <a href="#">on YouTube</a>

# Materials for Worshipping at Home

## Sunday 6th December

Reading: Mark 1: 1-8

### Reflection

Why do you think Mark began with John the Baptist? If you told someone about Jesus, where would you begin?

### Hymn (MHB 51)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh!  
Awake and hearken; for he brings  
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every Christian breast,  
And furnished for so great a guest!  
Yea! Let us each our heart prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
Whose advent sets thy people free,  
Whom, with the Father, we adore,  
And Holy Ghost, for evermore.

### Prayer for Others

We pray that those lost in valleys may be lifted up, those stuck in the heights may be helped down, those in barren places may find shelter, those in rough places may hear eternal words, those seeking forgiveness may find it, those seeking apology may hear it, those waiting for a long time may find patience in your patience, and those waiting for renewal may find springs of growth. Amen.

### Personal Prayer

God of timelessness, you speak of eternity and the things that do not fade. In all the busyness of my week, the importance of small things, may I find time for the things that will last for ever, especially loving-kindness. Call me deeper into small moments where I can find the light of love in unexpected places. Because you are always to be found in unexpected places. Amen.

## Sunday 13th December

Reading: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

### Reflection:

Where would you look to find the Messiah? If the Messiah could be anyone among us, how should we respond?

### Hymn (MHB 44)

O how shall I receive thee,  
How greet thee, Lord, aright?  
All nations long to see thee,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord, most holy,

Thy lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please thee best.

Rejoice, then, ye sad-hearted,  
Who sit in deepest gloom,  
Who mourn o'er joys departed,  
And tremble at your doom;  
He who alone can cheer you  
Is standing at the door;  
He brings his pity near you,  
And bids you weep no more.

### Prayer for Others

Lord, we pray today for all who are downtrodden, all who are oppressed, all who know the heavy hand of marginalisation on them. God, we turn to you, remembering the words of Mary, praying that you will lift up the lowly, you will raise the voice of justice, and you will scatter oppression. May all who are oppressed be set free. We ask this in joy and gratitude. Amen.

### Personal Prayer

In my moments of weariness, or meekness, or pressure, I know God is here. In my moments of pride, I know God is here. In my moments of demand, I know God is here. God is here, always, already, at once. Holding, sustaining and creating a new creation, in me, in us, in all. Amen.

## Sunday 20th December

Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

### Reflection

A young couple, a pregnant teenager – how might you have reacted? If God was to turn your life upside down, how might that help you think and do things differently?

### Hymn (MHB 58)

Silent night! Holiest night!  
All asleep! Lonely light,  
Where adoring watch the pair,  
Watch, as in his Father's care,  
Sleeps the infant Christ,  
Sleeps the infant Christ.

Silent night! Holiest night!  
Shepherds saw angels bright,  
Heard from heaven the white-robed throng  
Bearing down to earth this song,  
'Christ the Saviour is come,  
Christ the Saviour is come!'

Silent night! Holiest night!  
7 Son of God! O how bright  
Beams the ray of heavenly grace

In the infant Saviour's face,  
Saviour born for us!  
Saviour born for us!

#### Prayer for Others

We pray that this Advent season might, in the midst of demand, provide soft nights and ease, so that people can return to themselves, knowing you, too, are always in the heart, and always wait for us with kindness. We remember today all who have not given their consent, but whose lives and bodies and integrity are taken for granted. For them, we pray for justice, reparation and truth. We remember, O God, that you surprised us by coming among us through the 'Yes' of Mary. Let us always be open to the surprise of finding God in unexpected places. We ask this, in the name of all that is good. Amen.

#### Personal Prayer

Sometimes I say yes, and sometimes I say maybe, and sometimes I say no, and sometimes I am too distracted to know what I'm being asked. Help me, O God of time, to find and make time for all the demands that come my way, so that I might say yes with joy, when I can. Amen.

### **Christmas Day**

Reading: Luke 2: 1-20

#### Reflection

How would you respond knowing that God's call will change your life for ever?

#### Hymn (MHB 59)

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby,  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that Mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

#### Prayer for Others

Today, in all the demands, we pray for those who are facing a Christmas without someone they love. Today, in all the delights, we pray for those who are facing a

Christmas alone. Today, in all the celebration, we pray for those who are facing conflicts. Today, in all the time at tables, we pray for those who are hungry. God of goodness hear us and be with us. Amen.

#### Personal Prayer

Bringing all that I bring to you today, my thoughts, my feelings, my hopes, the things that have worked out, and the things that haven't, the joys and sadnesses: I offer them to you, knowing that you will accept everything I bring, because I bring it and offer it to you. Amen.

### **Sunday 3rd January**

Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

#### Reflection

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

#### Hymn (MHB 61)

As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
to that lowly manger-bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
him whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

#### 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.