

The Magazine for Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Churches



February 2021

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This year we will be holding a weekly online Lent Study for both congregations. The material comes from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI).

Bob Fyffe, General Secretary of CTBI, comments:

This year's Lent programme is somewhat different from previous years. It is the outcome of a partnership which is rooted in fulfilling an elderly gentleman's dream. John Alan Davis visited his wife every day as she lived with dementia. As Alan explains "during this period, and after Pat died in 2014, I turned to the only place of comfort I knew: my faith. The task brought the life of Jesus and the relevance of his message closer to me. It became, as much as anything else, a way of staunching the wound of a personal tragedy."

It is here that we can recognise the relevance of a Lent program. This gospel version, written in verse, is the outcome of a deep engagement with God in Christ. To listen to the sound files of this gospel being read out loud is to be taken onto a journey with someone who has clearly walked and experienced all of life's contours. When I first heard Alan reciting his Poets Gospel I was immediately moved and realised that this journey could bring some healing to so many other people.

CTBI has partnered with Alan and his family to produce The Poets Gospel. We have chosen sections of the Poet's Gospel and produced an introduction and some questions for reflection which will be of help for small group interaction. Some may find this approach somewhat unorthodox, but I believe in these unorthodox and strange times this gospel version, written as poetry, speaks to a situation, and is spoken in a style that many will feel able to engage with. We hope that this resource

will bring you some comfort and reassurance.

The first session will be run twice – Monday 22 February at 2.00pm and on Wednesday 24 February at 7.00pm. Depending on the attendance, we will either continue with a Monday afternoon and Wednesday evening each week, or just hold the one that is most popular. A Zoom link will be sent out by email each week. For each session we will listen to an audio clip of around 20 minutes in length, and this will be followed by discussion, so I imagine that each session will last for around 45 minutes. I hope that you will be able to join us.

Br Michael Newman



Yorkshire District of the Moravian Church

District Lovefeast

Celebrating the Memorial Day for the founding of
the Moravian Church on 1st March 1457

Sunday 28th February at 3pm on Zoom

Please contact your minister for the Zoom link



**Refreshments NOT provided
so please bring your own!**

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

General Notices

Assessment 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We want to wish you God's richest blessing on your work as we go forward in 2021.

Given the financial difficulties faced and expected, we have decided to keep the per capita assessment cost at the same level as last year, making it £410 per member for 2021. We do recognise that some members might be able to give more than £410 for the year and we thank them for doing so because some members might not be able to give that amount. Giving freely, and more than that per capita amount, means that your congregation will be in a better position to meet its financial obligations.

Yours in his service,

Br Livingstone Thompson, Provincial Treasurer for the Provincial Board

Fulneck—Envelopes can be put through the letterbox of Br Trevor Kernohan at 35 Fulneck, or to arrange collection ring 0113 257 2209.

Gomersal—Envelopes can be put through the letterbox of Br Les Machell at 12 Whinmoor Gardens, or to arrange collection ring 01274 873408.

Congregation Council Meeting. For both congregations, the Spring meeting is when we hold the elections. We hope to hold this meeting in church when we are able to meet physically, with the usual two weeks' notice given.

Fulneck News and Notices

Fulneck Love Hearts

**"In essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty;
in all things love."**

Between Valentine's Day (14 February) and Easter (4 April) we are inviting people to make a love heart and attach it to the railings outside church, to remember their loved ones. You could use paper (laminated to protect against the elements), wool, or fabric, and you might want to include a short message.



Ash Wednesday Service. Wednesday 17 February.

This service will be available on our YouTube channel.

Bible Book Club. Thursday 18 February, 2.00pm on Zoom. We are concluding our look at the minor prophets in the Old Testament. This month's book is Zechariah. If you would like a copy of the notes, please ask Br Newman.

Quiz Night. Tuesday 9th February at 7.30pm on Zoom. We are planning another online 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. We look forward to seeing you!

Virtual Coffee Mornings. Friday 12th and Friday 26th February at 10.30am on Zoom. You will be warmly welcome at the virtual Coffee Mornings in February. Please contact Br Newman (email address on front page) for the link.

Fulneck Museum. Annual Report: I will be emailing this out to Fulneck members. For those who do not receive emails from me, please contact Maureen Ingham (0113256 5180) and she will post you a copy.

Museum AGM: following a recent short committee meeting, it has been decided to postpone this until October.

Gomersal News and Notices

Wellbeing Wednesdays

Julian Meeting. Wednesday 10th February at 10.30am on Zoom

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

Virtual Coffee Morning. Wednesday 17th February at 10.30am on Zoom

We will be holding another virtual Coffee Morning in February. Please contact Br Newman (email address on front page) for the link. We hope that you can join us.



Christmas Quiz. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who bought a quiz sheet and gave a donation. We managed to raise £120 (including £52 pounds donations) for the building fund. Also, a thank you to Karen Eley for her kind donation of the first prize. There were three clear winners.

1st Prize. Went to Norma and Leslie Machell with 94 correct answers.

2nd Prize. Went to Liz and Mark Andrews with 93 correct answers.

3rd Prize. Went to Jennifer Balaam with 92 correct answers.

Again, thank you for your support and everyone stay safe. Cyril and Mary

Calendar

**** The following events are based on buildings remaining closed following current Provincial guidelines. ****

February

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday 7 th | | Ful & Gom | Family Worship on YouTube |
| Tuesday 9 th | 7.30pm | Fulneck | Quiz on Zoom |
| Wednesday 10 th | 10.30am | Gomersal | Julian Meeting on Zoom |
| | 7.15pm | Fulneck | Church Committee on Zoom |
| Friday 12 th | 10.30am | Fulneck | Virtual Coffee Morning on Zoom |
| Sunday 14 th | | Ful & Gom | Family Worship on YouTube |
| Tuesday 16 th | 7.30pm | Gomersal | Church Committee on Zoom |
| Wednesday 17 th | 10.30am | Gomersal | Wellbeing Coffee Morning on Zoom |
| | | Ful & Gom | Ash Wednesday Service on YouTube |
| Thursday 18 th | 2.00pm | Fulneck | Bible Book Club on Zoom |
| Saturday 20 th | 9.00am | District | Yorkshire District Conference on Zoom |
| Sunday 21 st | | Ful & Gom | Family Worship on YouTube |
| Monday 22 nd | 2.00pm | Ful & Gom | Lent Bible Study Session 1 on Zoom |
| Wednesday 24 th | 7.00pm | Ful & Gom | Lent Bible Study Session 1 on Zoom |
| Friday 26 th | 10.30am | Fulneck | Virtual Coffee Morning on Zoom |
| Sunday 28 th | | Ful & Gom | Family Worship on YouTube |
| | 3.00pm | District | Memorial Day Lovefeast on Zoom |

March

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|-----------|---|
| Monday 1 st | 2.00pm | Ful & Gom | Lent Bible Study Session 2 on Zoom (see front page) |
| Wednesday 3 rd | 7.00pm | Ful & Gom | Lent Bible Study Session 2 on Zoom (see front page) |
| Sunday 7 th | | Ful & Gom | Family Worship on YouTube |

Materials for Worshipping at Home

Sunday 7th February

Reading: Mark 1: 29-39

Notes

Jesus astonished people by the authority of his teaching. Mark does not tell us what Jesus taught, but it is clear that it had a great impact on those who heard him. As did his healing of a man with an 'unclean spirit'. This was something new and convincing. By his teaching and his actions, he revealed that he was – and is – the 'Holy One of God'.

Hymn (MHB 694)

Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old
was strong to heal and save;

it triumphed o'er disease and death,
o'er darkness and the grave:

and now, O Lord, be near to bless,
almighty as of yore,

In crowded street, by restless couch,
As by Gennesareth's shore.

Be thou our great deliverer still,
thou Lord of life and death;
restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
with thine almighty breath:

to hands that work, and eyes that see,
give wisdom's heavenly lore,

3 that whole and sick, and weak and strong,
may praise thee evermore.

Prayer

Jesus, help us to know you more deeply, to understand your love for us. We know that you knew and did what God wanted. Speak to us about what God wants from us, and lead us in your ways. Amen.

Sunday 14th February

Reading: Mark 9: 2-9

Notes

Mountains were seen as closer to God, so much so that even the Temple in Jerusalem was built on top of a hill. As Peter, James and John climbed the mountain with Jesus, then, they may have had some sense of anticipation, but nothing could prepare them for what they were about to experience. These disciples have a vivid experience of the glory of God, so dazzling that they struggle to put it into words. Peter wants the experience to last for ever, but this turns out to be a passing experience and they go back down the mountain having heard God's voice. Have you experienced the glory of God in such an intense or unexpected way?

Hymn (MHB 77)

Not always on the mount may we
Rapt in the heavenly vision be;
The shores of thought and feeling know
The spirit's tidal ebb and flow.

'Lord, it is good abiding here.'
We cry, the heavenly presence near:
The vision vanishes, our eyes
Are lifted into vacant skies.

The mount for vision: but below
The paths of daily duty go,
And nobler life therein shall own
The pattern on the mountain shown.

Prayer

We close our eyes and imagine. We open our eyes and see. We close our eyes and see visions. We open our eyes and find others. We close our eyes and dream dreams. We open our eyes and look for Jesus. Eyes closed. Eyes opened. Lord Jesus, may we always see you. Amen.

Sunday 21st February

Reading: Mark 1: 9-15

Notes

Mark intends us to read these two passages together so that Jesus' baptism is clearly seen as preparation for his time in the wilderness. Knowing he is, 'Beloved' in God's eyes, helps him to get through this time of testing. How aware are you of your identity in God? What has helped you get through tough times?

Hymn (MP 400)

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us—
for we have no help but thee,
yet possessing every blessing
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

Prayer

Holy God, open our hearts and minds to know who you made us to be. Help us to live every day knowing that we are your children. Open our eyes to see not only others, but also ourselves, through the eyes of your love. Amen.

Sunday 28th February

Reading: Mark 8: 31-38

Notes

No one likes conflict, but imagine getting into conflict with Jesus! Granted, Jesus seems to be saying some challenging things and perhaps Peter felt justified in trying to talk him down, but Jesus takes a pretty hard line with Peter. How might observers of this conversation have responded? Whose side would you have taken? Would you speak up and make your views known in a situation like this, or listen and silently disagree?

Hymn (MP 281)

'Take up your cross!' the Saviour said,
'if you would my disciple be;
deny yourself, the world forsake
and humbly follow after me.'

Take up your cross—let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm:
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
nor think 'til death to lay it down;
for only he who bears the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Prayer

Thank you that when we follow your leading, you give us the strength and confidence to share without fear. And when something gets the better of us, and we forget about you, thank you for never giving up on us. Amen.