

# The Magazine for Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Churches



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## Minister's Letter

### Reflections—One Year On

Last Easter, when we were only a few weeks into the first lockdown, who would have thought that we would still be under significant restrictions a year later? But that is where we are at, and we must carry on doing our best to make sure that everyone is safe, and hope that we keep making progress in overcoming Covid-19. At Easter, as we think about how God's love, revealed in Jesus, can transform our lives and the world, perhaps now is a good time to start thinking about the future and what the new normal might look like.

As most of you know, last year I took a couple of months sabbatical in order to complete two modules of a masters degree. Over the winter I have been spending a couple of hours a week working on another module. In one of two short essays, I have been reflecting on Covid-19. It is still a work in progress, but I thought I would share the draft final paragraph with you.

*I do not for one minute want to suggest that the Covid-19 pandemic has been anything but a tragedy, causing countless deaths, and all kinds of suffering... [I believe] that the virus is the unfortunate but inevitable consequence of a world that is self-creating under the gentle influence of a God who shares all our experiences. But I also believe that this is a moment when we should pay extra attention to where God might be pointing us, so that the deaths and suffering do not count for nothing. If we are not afraid to engage with what science tells us about our world, and to embrace what we have learnt about our interdependence not only with the rest of humanity but the natural world too, then as Christians we can also offer the insights of our faith to the collaborative process of building*

*a "new normal" that is better than the old normal that we have left behind.*

Br Michael Newman

P.S. Several members and friends of both congregations have said to me how grateful they are for the people who have kept in touch with them, or offered practical help, during lockdown. I don't want to single anyone out, but if you have taken time to do this, and I know lots of you have, it has been very much appreciated. As we get back to worshipping in church, I also want to thank everyone who has helped with the online services.

### Update on Services and Events

Communal worship can now take place in church or on church grounds following the same Covid-Secure guidance that was in place in the autumn (i.e.: hands, face, space, good ventilation, and a couple of days between services). Other activities cannot happen yet. There is still no social contact allowed indoors, but people may gather outdoors in groups of 6 people or 2 households. Our Yorkshire District online services came to an end on Palm Sunday, but the Provincial online services will continue for the time being.

Step 3 of the roadmap will begin on 17<sup>th</sup> May at the earliest. In Step 3, other activities will be able to take place if they comply with Covid-Secure guidance, a related risk assessment is completed, and those attending do not mix indoors in groups of more than 6 people or 2 households. In Step 3, up to 30 people may gather outdoors. The postponed Congregation Council Meetings, when we will hold the annual elections, will hopefully take place on Wednesday 19th May at Fulneck and on Tuesday 25th May at Gomersal.

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting an official announcement about whether congregational singing will be allowed outdoors at Easter. Singing indoors may not be able to happen until Step 4, beginning on 21<sup>st</sup> June at the earliest.

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

## Fulneck News and Notices

### Adi Eblal

The online coffee mornings through Lent have been raising money for Adi Eblal in Ethiopia. Thank you to everyone who has already donated. If you would still like to make a donation it can be given to Br Newman. Also in aid of Adi Eblal, Sr Brenda Pearson is raffling a bottle of Glenfiddich whisky at £2 a ticket, and is selling home-made marmalade (£2 for a large jar and £1 for a small jar) which can be picked up from the book cupboard in the porch of number 30. For more information about either of these things, please leave a message for Brenda on 0113 256 2531 and she will be in touch.

### Thursday Morning Prayers: From Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 9.45am in Church

The weekly morning prayer services will recommence on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 9.45am. Facemasks must be worn.

### Bible Book Club: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 2pm on Zoom

This month's book is Proverbs. Please contact Br Newman for the notes from the Bible Society. The Zoom link will be sent out the day before.



### Coffee Mornings: Fridays 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am on Zoom

The Zoom links will be sent out the day before each coffee morning. We hope that you can join us.

### Litter Picking

Following a discussion at one of the Lent sessions, Br Newman has managed to get hold of some litter pickers, kindly provided by councillor Simon Seary. If you would like to borrow one, along with a litter bag, to pick up litter in the settlement and the surrounding area, they can be collected from the Bellroom. When you return the litter pickers, please make a note of which area you have covered. The full bags can be left by any council bin or put in your own bin. Thank you.

### Road Closure

The road at the west end of the settlement (outside the school staff car park) will be closed between 29th March and Thursday 2nd April and again on Tuesday 6th April for resurfacing. Access will be from Roker Lane only and a two-way system will be in operation.

### Christmas Tree Festival Meeting: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm on Zoom

We hope to be able to hold another Christmas Tree Festival this year. The first planning meeting is at the end of April. The Zoom link will be sent out the day before.



## Gomersal News and Notices

### Wellbeing Wednesdays

#### Julian Meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am on Zoom

We continue to meet every month for a time of quiet contemplation. The Zoom link will be sent out the day before.

#### Coffee Morning: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30am on Zoom

The Zoom link will be sent out by email the day before. We hope that you can join us.

### YPMA

The young people and Junior Church leaders have been busy making YPMA collection cans for you to take home and fill up. These are available at the back of the church.



## Quiz

Thanks to Br Cyril and Sr Mary Smith who have produced another paper quiz. The entry fee is £2 which will go to church funds. The quiz sheets can be picked up at church. Please pass on to family, friends and neighbours.



## Bingo Night

Thanks to everyone who joined in with the Bingo Night on 23rd March. It was a good time of online fellowship, with a different winner for each of the four rounds.

## Calendar

*In accordance with the Provincial policy and Government guidance, the following events are based on Church buildings being open for services but not for other activities.*

### April

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Fulneck	Maundy Thursday Communion led by Br M Newman
	7.30pm	Gomersal	Maundy Thursday Communion led by Sr K Woolford
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Ful & Gom	Good Friday Liturgy and Readings on Zoom
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00am	Fulneck	Easter Liturgy in Burial Ground (not in Church)
	7.00am	Gomersal	Easter Liturgy in Burial Ground (not in Church)
	10.30am	Fulneck	Easter Worship and Communion led by Br M Newman
	10.30am	Gomersal	Easter Worship led by Br R Hopcroft
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship led by Br I Haggas
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship and Communion led by Br M Newman
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Gomersal	Julian Meeting on Zoom
	7.15pm	Fulneck	Church Committee on Zoom
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers in Church
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Coffee Morning on Zoom
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship led by Br M Newman
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Sr K Woolford
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Gomersal	Church Committee on Zoom
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Gomersal	Coffee Morning on Zoom
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers in Church
	2.00pm	Fulneck	Bible Book Club on Zoom
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship led by Br T Kernohan
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Br M Newman
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Fulneck	Tree Festival Meeting on Zoom
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Fulneck	Morning Prayers in Church
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Coffee Morning on Zoom

### May

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Fulneck	Family Worship and Communion led by Br M Newman
	10.30am	Gomersal	Family Worship led by Br R Hopcroft

## Materials for Worshipping at Home

### Sunday 4th April—Easter

Reading: John 20: 1-18

#### Notes

Jesus, who promised so much, is gone. The dream is over. Jesus' closest friends are shattered. This wasn't the plan. Illegally tried, brutally hung up to die and then shoved in a borrowed grave before the start of the Sabbath. The friends wait. What is there left to do? And then Sunday, time to properly treat the body which was

so hastily buried two days before – and then what? Go back to what life was like before? Except that Mary doesn't find him in the tomb, as expected, instead she meets him – alive – in the garden.

#### Hymn (Mission Praise 357)

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!  
Our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!  
Who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!  
Suffer to redeem our loss, hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, allelujah!  
Who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!  
Sinners to redeem and save, hallelujah!

#### Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for promising to be with us always. Help us to remember that promise when we don't feel brave enough to be your disciples. Help us to remember that the first people to know that you rose from the tomb were ordinary people like us, women and men who didn't feel very brave. Give us courage to believe and to tell others – as Mary did – this Easter and always. Amen.

### **Sunday 11th April**

Reading: John 20: 19-31

#### Notes

Thomas needs to see the evidence for himself. What makes the story really interesting is that Jesus gives Thomas exactly what he needs. He allows him to touch the scars, to feel where the nails pierced his hands. Jesus knew what Thomas needed and he met him in that need. He showed him the truth. Do you empathise with Thomas? We can't see Jesus in the way Thomas did, but does he still meet us where we are? Have you experienced the presence of Jesus in a way which helped you believe?

#### Hymn (Mission Praise 380)

Jesus, stand among us  
In thy risen power;  
Let this time of worship  
Be a hallowed hour.

Breathe the Holy Spirit  
Into every heart;  
Bid the fears and sorrows  
From each soul depart.

#### Prayer

Lord Jesus, we often have questions. We don't always find an answer, but we know we can trust you with the worries inside us. Help us always to look to you when we are unsure. Amen.

### **Sunday 18th April**

Reading: Luke 24: 36b-48

#### Notes

Jesus presents himself to the disciples in a physical form. This is really important as it shows them the reality of his resurrection and it changes everything. At the start of the passage they are all terrified when Jesus appears, but once they have experienced him as a resurrected reality, their fear turns to joy and doubts to

understanding. Have there been times when you have felt afraid? Have you experienced the joy that faith in Christ brings? Perhaps you could tell someone your story this week to encourage them to be open to God's joy.

#### Hymn (Mission Praise 249)

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him  
Who brings good news, good news,  
Proclaiming peace, announcing news of happiness,  
*Our God reigns, our God reigns.*  
*Our God reigns, our God reigns,*  
*Our God reigns, our God reigns.*

Ends of the earth, see the salvation of your God,  
Jesus is Lord, is Lord.

Before the nations He has bared His holy arm:  
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

*Our God reigns...*

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#### Prayer

Jesus, when life or faith throws us into turmoil, meet us in the everyday things; meet us in the Scriptures; open our hearts to your love, and open our minds to your will. Amen.

### **Sunday 25th April**

Reading: John 10: 11-18

#### Notes

This is a striking image of God's powerful love for his children. The image of a shepherd reaches back into Old Testament metaphors for kingship, and by describing how the good shepherd would lay down his life for the sheep. The passage also describes the way the shepherd knows his sheep. How do you relate to this description?

#### Hymn (Mission Praise 251)

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,  
and drives away his fear.

Jesus! my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,  
my Prophet, Priest, and King,  
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
accept the praise I bring.

#### Prayer

Jesus says, 'I know my sheep. I know you. I know you on the outside, and I cherish what I see. I know you on the inside when you are fearful or anxious, and I long to give you peace, when you are vulnerable, and I long to protect you, when you are confused, and I long to lead you, when you are lost, and I long to find you, when you are happy, and I rejoice with you. I am the 'good shepherd' – come and find pasture. Amen.