

The Magazine for Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Churches



March 2021

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Minister's Letter

Lent Study

This year we are holding a weekly online Lent Study for both congregations. The material comes from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and is called 'The Poet's Gospel'. Each session is run twice – on Monday at 2.00pm and on Wednesday at 7.00pm. Zoom links will be sent out by email each week. For each session we listen to an audio clip of around 20 minutes in length, and this is followed by discussion, so each session lasts for around 45 minutes. You do not need to have attended the previous sessions. I hope you will be able to join us.

Passion Week and Easter Services

The government's roadmap gives hope for a return to some sort of normality by the summer, although each new step depends on the consequences of the last. In step 1, on 8th March schools will re-open to all pupils, and from 29th March outdoor gatherings of six people or two households will be allowed. Step 2, which will see the opening of shops, hairdressers (thank goodness!), and public buildings, will happen no earlier than 12th April.

The Provincial Covid-19 policy has been updated for Easter. As long as the roadmap goes to schedule, we will be able to hold services in our church buildings on Maundy Thursday (separately rather than a united service) and Easter Sunday with the same measures in place that we had before the lockdown (i.e., hands, face, space), as well as an outdoor early service on Easter Sunday.

Our Passion Week readings for Monday to Wednesday and the Good Friday service will be held on Zoom, and if you would like to do a reading please let me know before Palm Sunday (also let me

know if you need to borrow a copy of the readings). For those with internet access but not on Zoom, there will also be Provincial YouTube services throughout Passion Week.

Br Michael Newman

Poem – "Welcome 2021"

*Glad 2020's gone.
For many the hardest year yet,
Certainly, one we'll never forget.
So much suffering and stress,
Our gratitude to the NHS.
We've needed to cling to our belief,
God is amongst our grief.
He knows how we feel
And will help us heal.
We must be strong for youngsters too,
Reassure them we'll come through.
Caution and kindness must prevail
So our efforts don't fail.
We must still obey the rules.
Parties are for fools.
We've questioned things as never before.
Past memories we've had to store,
Holidays, visits, able to hug,
Now busy avoiding the bug.
So many things denied,
Attending a funeral when someone died.
The vaccine gives fresh hope
As we struggle to cope.
We who know God's love and care
Please him when this we share.
Every year we miss loved ones gone,
But especially now we must press on.*

This lovely poem was written by a lady in my sister-in-law's church. It certainly sums up what we've all been coping with. Sr Mary Smith

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

Fulneck News and Notices

Sr Elaine Auty.

We are sad to report that Sr Elaine died, with Br Trevor at her side, at Wheatfields Hospice on 17th February. The funeral will take place in church on Wednesday 3rd March. Sadly, invited guests only may attend the church service.

Please keep Trevor and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Lent Coffee Mornings. Fridays 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March at 10.30am on Zoom—link will be emailed out each week

We are not able to have our usual Lent Lunches at Fulneck, so instead we are holding a weekly Lent Coffee Morning on Zoom on Fridays at 10.30am. Donations are welcome to support the work being done in the village of Adi Eblal in Ethiopia: by JustGiving (<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/LentCoffeeAdiEblal>), or cash or cheques (payable to Fulneck Moravian Church) can be given to Br Newman.

Adi Eblal Update

After three long months we have at last been able to speak to friends in northern Ethiopia to find out first-hand about the situation in the village of Adi Eblal. The whole of Tigray region has been in a state of military emergency since 4th November when hostilities broke out between the Ethiopian national military forces and the regional military forces. There has been a great deal of looting especially vehicles, computers, phones, and technical equipment as well as foodstuffs, grain and animals.

The first and most important thing to report is that everyone in the village, save for one man who was shot dead, have survived. Although water, electricity and telecommunications went off immediately the fighting started, we are greatly relieved to report that the water and electricity to Adi Eblal were re-connected two weeks ago and the telephone lines 10 days ago. Perhaps this is an occasion when the poverty of the people saved them as the soldiers were after more sophisticated goods than can be found in the villagers' homes.

The flour mill represented the biggest investment of the entire project. The soldiers broke into it, caused some damage but did not take the machines. Since the resumption of the power supply the machines have been tested and two work, the third is capable of repair. This is a great relief to us and a big help to the people in the village and the surrounding area. Those households who still have some grain can, once again, go to the mill to have it turned into flour. We forget how important this process is amongst subsistence people.

There turns out to be another way in which the mill is helping. It is usually staffed by 4 ladies, but the villagers have decided to double that number. When grain is milled a payment in cash is required. In addition, it is the tradition that the milling staff are given a big double handful of the flour as a tithe. Therefore 8 households who do not have any farmlands of their own gain a very modest means of a food supply.

Aid organisations anticipate that widespread famine is about three weeks away. The military strategy seems to be to starve out the regional forces by starving the people who might be sheltering them. The

international agencies are struggling to be useful on the scale required but we think we can be effective, albeit on a much smaller scale, to help the people in the village. There are two things we can do.

First the mill. We can underwrite the costs of repair and maintenance of the machines and building and cover all running costs (mainly the cost of electricity) so that no-one is charged for the service. The tithe will still operate so that the ladies receive their flour. Whilst the repair costs to the building and maintenance of the machines might be around £500-£750, the running costs are in the region of £50 a month.

Second the people in the village. There are some families in the village who can be supported by their children who live in areas not affected by the war, or indeed who work overseas. Other families are destitute with no help at all. We are discussing what level and type of help we should offer individual households. We can start with those families who suffered the worst looting. Then we can look at single households, widows, and single parents, and so on. This will have to be worked out as matters unfold.

The other issue is the transmission of funds. There is always a way and our first payment has now reached the village. We are therefore encouraged that we should follow up on this at this time before people become absolutely desperate. We will be very careful about how this is done. In the unlikely event that aid arrives from another source, we can bow out.

We are very grateful for any donations and will keep you informed of developments.

Best wishes,

Jean and John Broadbent

Raising funds for Adi Eblal

Reading the above, it is clear what vital support is needed . Here is something we can all do.

Home-made marmalade (1 or 2 pound jars) and chutney are available from Sr Brenda Pearson to raise money for this important work. To order, please call Brenda on 07800 593 183 and leave your details. She will call you back, then leave your order in the cupboard in the Sisters' Porch where you can leave the money. Thanks in anticipation for supporting this vital work.

Fulneck Love Hearts



“In essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty; in all things love.”

From Valentine's Day (14 Feb) to Easter (4 April) we invite you to make a love heart & attach it to railings outside church, to remember loved ones. You can use paper (laminated to protect), wool, or fabric, and you might want to include a short message.

Gomersal News and Notices

Joan Horsfall

Joan Horsfall passed away on the 31st January. Bob and Joan have been part of the Gomersal church family for the last few years. The funeral took place in church on Thursday 18th February. Please keep Bob in your prayers.

Well-being Wednesdays

Julian Meeting Wednesday 10th March 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.



Virtual Coffee Morning: Wednesday 17th March at 10.30am on Zoom

We will be holding another virtual Coffee Morning in March. The Zoom link will be sent out by email the day before. We hope that you can join us.

Bingo Night. Tuesday 23rd March at 7pm on Zoom

You are invited to a Bingo Night on Zoom. The link will be sent out a few days before along with a template for the bingo card, and instructions will be given on the night.

The cost of taking part is £2 per person (£1 for children), with prizes for the winners. It should be a fun evening for all ages!

District and Provincial News and Notices

Yorkshire District Lovefeast and the birthday of a reforming Church

Sunday 28 February found about 36 people from the Yorkshire District and Sr Roberta Hoey 'zooming' together to celebrate the 1st March Memorial Day. This Memorial Day marks the start of the ancient church that is the root of the Moravian Church as we know it today; 1st March each year reminds us of the sacrifices that led to the establishment of the Brethren's Church in 1457.

Normally, this service would be in one of our churches where we would share refreshments and remember the start of the Unitas Fratrum. Today we did this from our own homes.

The service opened with a recording of the Yorkshire District Choir singing 'Come let us all with gladness raise.' The District News included what each church will be doing for the World Day of Prayer. There was also positive news that the District Choir hope to start practising once more in September.

Sr Roberta Hoey gave us news from across the four areas of the four areas of the Unity. This included some superb projects:

- the Malawi Government offering land for a Moravian Church to be built in the capital. Funds from the Unity Prayer Day Appeal will go to this project;
- the Moravian School in Sierra Leone gained a 100% pass rate in recent exams;
- in Peru, local communities along the Amazon are being supported in translating the Bible into their own languages;
- in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the Moravian Centre is now able to extend its projects by working closely with the local Islam Centre;
- Star Mountain rehabilitation centre, Palastine, is extending its work with disabled children.

Sr Diane Thornton gave the address. Her opening comments were regarding what she had chosen for her cup of tea. Her mug looking like a ball of wool looked good but her fine bone china cup and saucer with the lamb and flag were chosen by her as much more appropriate. She then invited us all to raise our mugs/ cups to wish our church 'a happy birthday.'

Her address was largely based upon the song 'Faith to carry on' which the Yorkshire District Choir sang at this service last year at Gomersal. We were reminded of Paul's letter from prison, those early brethren in Moravia and the work of the missionaries who went out from Herrnhut in 1732. Each of these would have needed strength, hope and faith. The closing phrase of the song 'Faith to carry on' is 'God will give you strength, hope and faith to carry on.' Relevant to those we are remembering and to ourselves as we come through this pandemic. In so many situations, these are words to inspire, they are meaningful and encouraging.

The service included prayers led by Br Ian Haggas. The prayers were taken from a current project titled 'Holy Habits', encouraging us to pray for all involved in providing food, including foodbank helpers.

The second hymn was 'Our lamb has conquered, let us follow' and the final hymn was 'Christian hearts in love united'. The closing prayer was from Rev Jane Dixon, followed by the Moravian singers 'God be in my head'.

During a telephone chat last week with they who ate hot cross buns during this service, I learned the following information. Why does Yorkshire District come together for a Lovefeast to mark this Memorial Day? For that we can thank the organist, Brian Marsden, from the now deceased Moravian Church at Heckmondwike. He felt it was important that even the smaller congregations should host events and so was born the idea, probably in the 1980's.

Sr Mary Holmes

Yorkshire District Conference Report

Moravian Churches have been praised for their innovation in finding ways to continue worship during the pandemic.

Sr Roberta Hoey, of the Provincial Board, hailed congregations for their online services and reaching out to the more vulnerable among us. She said that while a lot of people were able to access the online services, some could not - but churches had been going out of their way to still keep in touch. She told the spring conference of the Yorkshire District, which was held via Zoom on February 20, that YouTube and Facebook had all been used to good effect. She told delegates: "I have seen all of you on screen at some point over the last year." Some of the more innovative ideas had included a drive-in Christingle service - and a Christingle fashioned from a watermelon. Looking ahead, she said group meetings were being held to plan for Passion Week and Easter.

Sr Hoey also said it was important that Synod went ahead this June, albeit online. She said it would take a lot of planning and would be broken down into six one-hour sessions per day over the week. She added: "We hope the spirit of Synod will still be very much there." It comes as the church nears its 300th anniversary in 2022, for which a decade of evangelism has already been outlined.

Conference report cont..

She said four roles were vacant on the Provincial Board - one a full-time stipendiary for three years, one a full-time role for a year and two non-stipendiary members for three years. The full-time roles are based in London and accommodation is provided. Sister Hoey added: "There are plenty of people in Yorkshire who are well placed to serve."

On the Moravian Singers, co-director Sr Diane Thornton said it had not been possible to sing since February last year. Br Glyn Jones, who served alongside her as co-director, no longer wished to continue and Sr Thornton said she would "pick up the pieces when we can get together again - maybe in September." Br Jones was thanked for his contribution.

Elections were held for the Yorkshire delegates, who were all returned to their roles. Chairman is Br Michael Newman, Sr Jane Dixon vice chairman, Sr Thornton is secretary, Br Les Machell treasurer, Sr Dixon is youth co-ordinator, Br Ken Evans the representative for West Yorkshire Churches Together and Dick Porter the Moravian Messenger correspondent.

Br Dick Porter

Unity Prayer Day

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The Unity Prayer Day appeal will be on Sunday 7th March 2021 and will be in aid of the Moravian Church in Malawi to build a centre in the capital city, Lilongwe. The Worship on the Web service, which will be led by Sr Sarah Groves, will highlight this appeal and in the next month I hope to send out some more info and photographs to share with your congregation. For now, I am sharing some background on the church in Malawi as well as the need for the building work.

Building a Moravian Centre in Lilongwe, Malawi

The Moravian Church in Malawi became a full Unity Province in 2012 with around 5,000 communicant members. As well as congregations and projects in towns and villages the Church in Malawi works near refugee camps supporting people from Burundi, Somalia and Rwanda. However, there is no land or building where Moravians can meet and worship in the capital city of Malawi, Lilongwe, despite many Moravians coming into the area. Therefore, funds raised through Unity Prayer Day, on 1st March 2021, will go towards the construction of a centre that will serve a congregation, the community and the Provincial Board in Malawi. Such a construction will go towards strengthen collaboration with ecumenical and other aid partnerships and it will respond to local Government requests for building upon charitable work already committed including vital work in nearby refugee camps. Land will be allocated through consultation with the government and the Unity Appeal seeks to raise \$50,000 to support the building work.

If you would like to support the appeal you can do so in the following ways:

Cash: donations to your local congregation.

Cheques: should be made payable to "Moravian Union Inc."

Bank transfer: 40-52-40 Acc # 00023436. Please use reference "Unity Prayer Day Malawi"

Best wishes

Sr Roberta Hoey



Calendar

Calendar

**** The following events are based on buildings remaining closed until April, after which Covid-secure services will be able to take place if the government roadmap is going to schedule. ****

March

Friday 5 th	10.30am	Fulneck	Lent Coffee Morning on Zoom
Sunday 7 th		Ful & Gom	Family Worship on YouTube
Monday 8 th	2.00pm	Ful & Gom	Lent Bible Study Session 3 on Zoom
Tuesday 9 th	7.15pm	Fulneck	Church Committee on Zoom
Wednesday 10 th	10.30am	Gomersal	Julian Meeting on Zoom
	7.00pm	Ful & Gom	Lent Bible Study Session 3 on Zoom
Friday 12 th	10.30am	Fulneck	Lent Coffee Morning on Zoom
Sunday 14 th		Ful & Gom	Family Worship on YouTube
Monday 15 th	2.00pm	Ful & Gom	Lent Bible Study Session 4 on Zoom
Tuesday 16 th	7.30pm	Gomersal	Church Committee on Zoom
Wednesday 17 th	10.30am	Gomersal	Coffee Morning on Zoom
	7.00pm	Ful & Gom	Lent Bible Study Session 4 on Zoom
Friday 19 th	10.30am	Fulneck	Lent Coffee Morning on Zoom
Sunday 21 st		Ful & Gom	Family Worship on YouTube
Monday 22 nd	2.00pm	Ful & Gom	Lent Bible Study Session 5 on Zoom
Tuesday 23 rd	7.00pm	Gomersal	Bingo Night on Zoom
Wednesday 24 th	7.00pm	Ful & Gom	Lent Bible Study Session 5 on Zoom
Friday 26 th	10.30am	Fulneck	Lent Coffee Morning on Zoom
Sunday 28 th		Ful & Gom	Palm Sunday Family Worship on YouTube
Monday 29 th	7.30pm	Ful & Gom	Passion Week Readings on Zoom
Tuesday 30 th	7.30pm	Ful & Gom	Passion Week Readings on Zoom
Wednesday 31 st	7.30pm	Ful & Gom	Passion Week Readings on Zoom

April

Thursday 1 st	7.30pm	Fulneck	Maundy Thursday Communion in Church
	7.30pm	Gomersal	Maundy Thursday Communion in Church
Friday 2 nd	7.30pm	Ful & Gom	Good Friday Liturgy and Readings on Zoom
Sunday 4 th	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 in Church
	10.30am	Gomersal	Easter Worship in Church

Materials for Worshipping at Home

Sunday 7th March

Reading: John 2: 13-22

Notes

This passage offers three ways in which we can think about the Temple: the physical space to worship God, Jesus' body as God here on earth, our own bodies to honour God. Do you find a physical place is important in your relationship with God? What does Jesus' message about his own death and resurrection mean to you today? In what way do you see yourself as a temple, built to honour God?

Hymn (MHB 694)

We love the place, O God,
wherein thine honour dwells;
the joy of thine abode
all earthly joy excels.

It is the house of prayer,
wherein thy servants meet;
and thou, O Lord, art there
thy chosen flock to greet.

Lord Jesus, give us grace
on earth to love thee more,
in heaven to see thy face,
and with thy saints adore.

Prayer

Lord, we thank you that, time after time, you have driven our falseness and foolishness away with cords of truth and righteousness. Help us to be your Church without walls, open to all and ever expanding. Amen.

Sunday 14th March (Mothering Sunday)

Reading: John 3: 14-21

Notes

Respected and with a reputation to keep, Nicodemus fears to risk these things by fraternising with Jesus, a known radical. But his questions drive him to seek Jesus out, albeit under the cover of darkness. Jesus calls Nicodemus out of the darkness and into the light. Much later, strengthened by what he discovered through this encounter, Nicodemus is able to question the authorities about their treatment of Jesus. How will our deeds look when the light of God's love shines on them?

Hymn (MP 445)

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
from the shadows into Your radiance;
by the blood I may enter Your brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness -
shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth Your word,
Lord, and let there be light!

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Prayer

Lord of light, we thank you that you are always near to us. When we grumble and moan, help us to look up to you. May we be thankful for all the good things in our lives. Amen.

Sunday 21st March

Reading: John 12: 20-33

Notes

The message – that Jesus, the Son of God, is not just for Jews or any other particular nation or religious group: all are welcome! – is radical enough. What makes it more so is that to make this possible, Jesus must die and rise again. Only after he is 'lifted up' on the cross are all people drawn to him. What might we need to give up so that others may feel welcome?

Hymn (MP 516)

O my Saviour, lifted
From the earth for me,

Draw me, in Thy mercy,
Nearer unto Thee.

Lord, Thine arms are stretching
Ever far and wide,
To enfold Thy children
To Thy loving side.

Prayer

Welcoming God, thank you for the people who welcome us on our faith journey. Give us eyes to see those who come here for the first time, ears to hear voices that are seldom heard, minds to understand the needs of others, hearts to love all people. Help us to draw others towards Jesus and to welcome them in your name. Amen.

Sunday 28th March (Palm Sunday)

Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Notes

The Jewish people have been waiting for a Messiah – someone to save them – for centuries. They have definite ideas of what he'll be like, and Jesus doesn't quite fit them. He says and does some fascinating things, but this procession into Jerusalem is all wrong. A king comes on a horse – a show of power and strength – not on a donkey. Yet the crowd that is with him are convinced and are in a celebratory mood. What convinces you that Jesus is the Messiah? What would you give up in celebration?

Hymn (MHB 67)

All glory, laud and honour
To thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and Blessèd One.

To thee before thy Passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To thee now high exalted
Our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.

Prayer

Generous God, you show us what love is. You did not spare your only Son, but you gave him up for us all. Help us to seek and find you with effort and enthusiasm, to give extravagantly, and to be enriched by your presence. Amen.