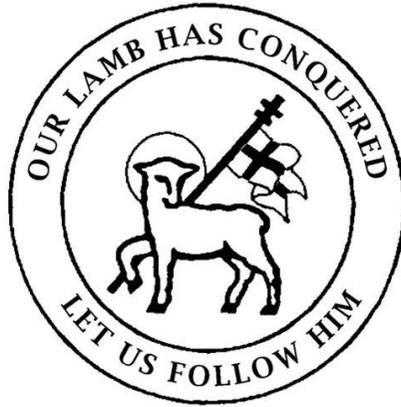


Fulneck Moravian Church



Meditation Walk

*We give thanks for the rich heritage
of the Fulneck Moravian Settlement,
and ask God's blessing on the people
who live, work and worship here today.*

We begin at the stone gateposts at the west end of Fulneck, which welcome people approaching from Bankhouse Lane. We walk along the road to where it widens to provide a passing place, and the gap between the houses reveals a view over the Fulneck valley. Across the valley lies the village of Tong, and the country house Tong Hall, the house of the Tempest family.

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.”

Psalm 24:1

For reflection:

The coming of the Moravians to Fulneck in 1743 was to begin a process of change. For at Fulneck was established a spiritual, egalitarian community, a Christian Settlement that was to have a profound effect on the stratified English society.



1. Paradise

We continue along the road behind the backs of houses that face south. This part of Fulneck is known as **Paradise (1)**. We then reach what was the settlement **Shop (2)**, now a café.

“Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways. You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.”

Psalm 128:1-2

For reflection:

The community in the early days was a place of small industries, much of it connected with textiles. J. Haley’s Shop, and the old warehouse alongside it, is a reminder of that commercial and industrial past. An industrial background that helped fund the life of the settlement. We are reminded here of the prayer: “Bless the sweat of the brow, and faithfulness in business; but let none entangle himself with the affairs of this life” (Moravian Liturgy 1960, First Order).



2. Café, formerly the Shop

We continue along the road to the **Fulneck Museum (3)**.

“I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” Psalm 121:1-2.

For reflection:

The Museum, which opened in 1969, houses artefacts from the history of the Fulneck Settlement and the Moravian Church worldwide. Many men and women have gone out from Fulneck to serve in the Lord’s work. This psalm of ascent reminds us of their journey of faith, their sacrifice, as some made their way to distant parts. It reminds us too of our own pilgrimage through life.

We continue along the road to the old Boys’ Brigade headquarters, now the Church Hall. Turning left, we ascend the path to the **Comenius Centre (4)**, overlooking the heart of the Settlement and the community.

*“To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!”
Psalm 123:1.*

For reflection:

This upland of our journey reminds us that the Moravian Church has often been forced to flee into the wilderness. As brethren and sisters trod the passes over the mountains of Europe the Lord was with them. Many pass through the wilderness in life. Hopefully, at such times, we feel God with us.

We return down the path, turning left along the road until we reach the entrance of the **School (5)**.

*“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.”
Proverbs 22:6*

For reflection:

Education, both academic and spiritual, has always been central to the life of the Moravian Church. Fulneck School began in 1753. We remember several students who have gone on to affect the life of the nation: Richard Oastler, “the factory king”; Herbert Asquith, the Liberal Prime Minister; Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy, the suffragette; and many others. Here we keep in mind the needs of today’s children – physical, intellectual and spiritual, and pray that society will keep in mind the whole child.



5. Senior School, formerly Boy’s School

We continue along the road to the gates on the right which lead into the burial ground, known as **God’s Acre (6)**.

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me.”

Psalm 23:4

For reflection:

God's Acre has always been a special place for Moravian brethren and sisters. The congregation gathers here early in the morning on Easter Sunday and, together with those who have gone before us, greet the risen Son of God. In this respect, God's Acre is not a place of death but of continuing life. As we walk down the centre of God's Acre let us remember that the risen Lord is always with us.

We retrace our steps back past the school entrance, then walk down the slope on the left onto the pavement. The doorway in the wall leads into the courtyard of the **Choir Houses (7)**.

"Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise."

Psalm 84:3-4

For reflection:

Fulneck is a living community. There are flats in the Choir Houses as well as over thirty houses along the road, meaning that Fulneck is called 'home' by many people. We remember the homes and families we know, and of which we are a part. They can be both a supporting and testing place for our faith.

We continue along the pavement. In the roof of the church are dormer windows where, in the early days, the children of the school slept, or listened to the singing in the chapel below. We end our walk at the Church **(8)** itself, the main door beneath the cupola and the clock.

"Whosoever thou art that enterest this Church, remember it is the house of God. Be reverent, be silent, be thoughtful, and leave it not without a prayer to God for thyself, for those who minister and those who worship here."

Quoted above is the request that greets all visitors as they enter by the doors on either the Brethren's side (right) or the Sister's side (left).

The Church lies at the heart of the Settlement. It has been a place of worship and devotion for over 270 years. Begun in 1746 and completed in 1748, Grace Hall, as it was first called, replaced the house immediately up the banking from the main doors, number 39 Fulneck. Reflecting the design and layout of Moravian Churches on continental Europe, the pews are arranged from side to side, with the pulpit on the long window wall and a balcony opposite containing the organ originally built by Johannes Snetzler. The interior is a superb example of Georgian design.

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name."

Psalm 100:4

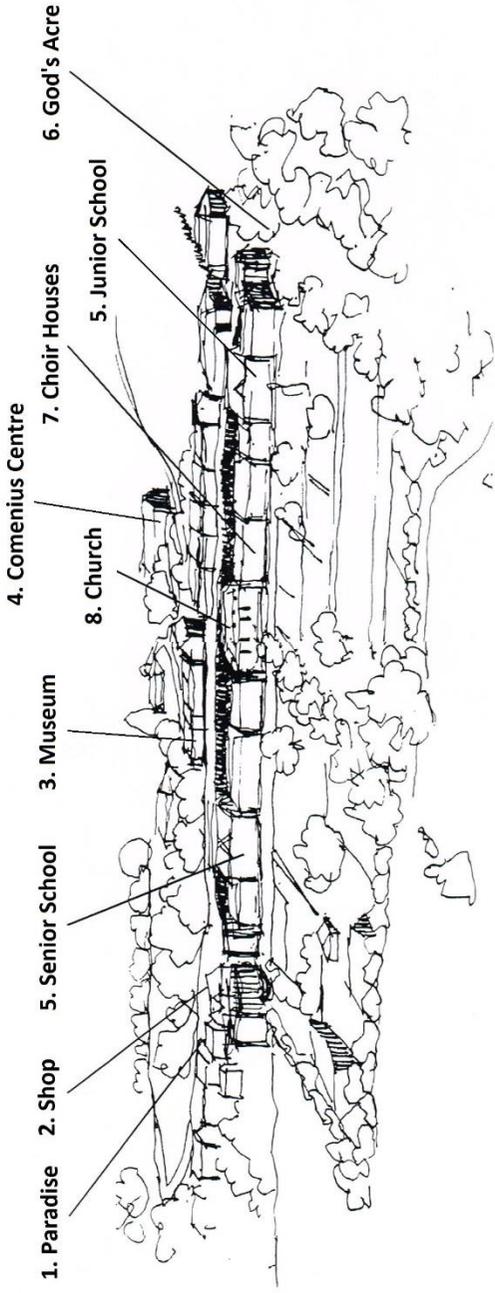
For reflection:

The Church is a special place: a place to feel close to God, a place of quiet reflection, and a place in which the congregation can feel the power and majesty of God, led in singing by the organ.

*Thus may our lips thy praises sound,
Our hearts in steadfast hope abound;
Till thou our steps shall thither bring
Where saints and angels hail thee King.*

Produced in 2021. Based on the Meditation Walk produced by Br David Dickinson in 1996 for the 250th anniversary of Fulneck Moravian Church.

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1. Paradise

2. Shop

5. Senior School

3. Museum

4. Comenius Centre

8. Church

5. Junior School

7. Choir Houses

6. God's Acre