

The Magazine for Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Churches

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Minister's Letter

As I stood there, facing the congregation for my first service, just for a moment I felt the weight of centuries of history upon my shoulders. It occurred to me the level of privilege and responsibility that I now had being on the board of ministers that dated back 273 years. It was just a brief moment, but it wasn't something I'll easily forget.

This past month we've been thinking a great deal about our history and heritage. On 11 and 18 September, we invited people to come and look at the wonderful exhibition that talked about settlement life, and how food played an important role. Throughout that week we had several classes from Fulneck school come and listen to a talk given by myself and Myra Dickinson, dressed in traditional costume. We told them about how we are like a family and that we called each other brother and sister to remind ourselves of that. We explained how they looked after each other and worked to provide for the church and community and we showed them how a community of people could and should look like.

I've always had a great affection for working with the local community. I believe that when church is at its strongest, it is the heart and soul of the community it serves. St Paul describes the church as being a body and a body can only function properly when it is working together and when each part of it is being cared for equally.

Anyone who has ever stubbed their little toe or broken a finger will know how when these parts of our body (that we often take for granted and ignore) are injured we suddenly realise how much we need them. It is then that this notion of being one body hits home.

I realise that there have been parts of our body, this community, that have been hurt in the past and are still wearing the scars. I understand that it is not and never is easy to learn to move past those things that ring painfully in your heart. But I believe it is vital that we work together as a community, as a Church and as a settlement. We gain nothing by pulling in different directions. One of the reasons that I am able to be here as the minister 273 years after this church was founded is because of the spirit of brotherly and sisterly love that was so key to the lives of everyone here. Therefore, this is something I will be looking to foster going forward.

One of the ways I hope to be able to do so is by meeting more regularly outside of our Sunday morning services. So keep an eye open for upcoming events and activities as these chances to meet and have fun are going to be key to the smooth running of this body. Also, if anyone has any ideas of social events or activities that they would like to see happen, please just speak to me. I am always open to ideas and willing to try things.

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

I believe that if we can regain some of that crucial settlement vibe, if we can move together as one body, and if we have Christ as the head that drives us forward, we will be able to not just survive for another 273 years but thrive.

As Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Fulneck News and Notices

Organ recital: Thursday 21 October: 11.00

Fulneck Moravian Church is welcoming Dr Gordon Stewart, one of the UK's most accomplished musical directors and church organists for a special morning recital in Church at 11.00am on Thursday October 21st.

Born in Dundee, Dr Stewart studied in Manchester and Geneva. Internationally regarded, for many years he was one of the regular conductors on BBC TV's Songs of Praise. A cathedral organist in Manchester and Blackburn, he's a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, the Guild of Church Musicians and the Royal School of Church Music. In addition, Dr Stewart has an honorary doctorate from the University of Huddersfield. He is also a highly regarded organ tutor; one of the visiting organ tutors at Cambridge University where he teaches organ scholars at, among others, King's College, St John's College and Jesus College. He has led master-classes for colleges and universities throughout the UK and in the USA, South Africa and the Netherlands.

Dr Stewart is described as a marvellously engaging performer who energises and puts in the mainstream an instrument that can, for some, seem stuffy and dull.

Admission is free with a retiring collection for the Church Organ Fund.



Heritage Day: 2021

Thank you to everyone who helped and those who attended the Heritage Day event. The sun shone and so the tours and drama took place in a warm glow, while folks sat outside the BB enjoying a well earned tea & coffee. The exhibition in the Church received a steady flow of visitors and raised interest in many funky food facts. The museum was a popular destination where visitors were met by hosts in traditional costume.

Is it time to start planning 2022 yet?
Guessing Myra already on the job!!





FULNECK MUSEUM.

On Tuesday October 5th. we will hold our Annual General Meeting in the Boys' Brigade Building at 7o,clock. As well as electing officers and as many committee members as possible for the next twelve months we will look back to what has happened about the museum since January 2020 and the changes made in that time.

In looking forward to 2022 we hope to develop our relationship with the museum Friends and volunteers so more of that at the meeting. The evening will conclude with light refreshments and we can chat and hear your ideas.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. You don't need a degree in history to be part of the museum group so come along and hear what we have to tell.

Lovefeast Service : Sunday 3 October, 2.30 - *what no buns?!*

It is good news that once more we can share in the Lovefeast service and this will, as usual, be followed by Holy Communion. However, due to current restrictions the Lovefeast service will proceed without tea and buns.

Gomersal News and Notices

Well-being Wednesdays

Walks are on 6 October and 3 November at 10.30.

Julian Meeting is 13 October at 10.30.

A warm welcome is extended to you all for these events. The walks will get you moving and the Julian Meeting will provide half an hour of peace and tranquility for you to rest and reflect.



GENERAL NOTICES

Yorkshire District Conference

Please note that the District Conference is on Saturday 2 October, 9.00, at Baildon.

For the November edition, please submit material to myself by 22 October at the latest. Please send any photographs you have of events.

Thank you, Mary

Calendar

FULNECK

October

Saturday 2	9.00	Yorkshire District Conference. Baildon
Sunday 3	10.30	Family worship led by Br J. Woolford
	2.30	Lovefeast and Communion Service led by Br James Woolford
Thurs 7	9.45	Morning Prayers
Sunday 10	10.30	Brethren's Festival led by Br J. Woolford, following breakfast at 9.00
Wed 13	7.15	Church Committee BB
Thurs 14	9.45	Morning Prayers
Sunday 17	10.30	Family worship led by Br J. Woolford
Mon 18	7.30	Congregation Council Meeting in Church
Tues 19	2.00	Bible Book Club. BB
Thurs 21	9.45	Morning Prayers
	11.00	Organ recital
Sunday 24	10.30	Family worship led by Sr Diane Thornton
Thurs 28	9.45	Morning Prayers
Sunday 31	10.30	Bible Sunday Service led by Sr Hilary Smith

November

Thurs 4	9.45	Morning Prayers
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GOMERSAL

October

Saturday 2	9.00	Yorkshire District Conference at Baildon
Sunday 3	10.30	Family Worship led by Sr Kathryn Woolford
Wednesday 6	10.30	Well-being walking for health
Sunday 10	10.30	Morning Worship with Communion led by Br Robert Hopcroft
Wednesday 13	10.30	Julian Meeting in Church
Sunday 17	10.30	Family Worship led by Br Trevor Kernohan
Tuesday 19	7.30	Church Committee in Church
Wednesday 20	10.30	Bowls in Church.
	2.00	MWA
Sunday 24	10.30	Family Worship led by Br Robert Hopcroft
Sunday 31	10.30	Family Worship led by Br John McOwat