

The Magazine for Fulneck Moravian Church



November 2021

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Minister's Letter

Autumn is the season of change. It is wonderful to be able to look out of our windows and see the valley change and become golden brown before finally each tree will drop its leaves and get ready for spring again. I've seen a quote around a lot this month that comes from an unknown author that says, "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go." However, November is also a time of remembrance, when we look back and give thanks for the sacrifice so many made for our freedoms.

To enable our Spring to come we perhaps need to learn from nature and our past to inform our future. I always enjoyed studying history in school. I believe it is vital that we learn from the past to ensure that we don't keep making the same mistakes, time after time. It is why it saddens me so much to see the rise in confidence and vitriol of the far right in both the USA and in this country. It saddens me to see racism still being the scourge of our society. It saddens me to see power being used to benefit the powerful instead of building up and providing for the poor. In God's Kingdom, the Kingdom we are to work towards, there is no war, no hatred, no racism and no poverty.

I discovered an old nursery rhyme this week written in 1764 by an unknown author.

They hang the man and flog the woman
That steal the goose from off the common
But let the greater villain loose
That steals the common from the goose

The Law demands that we atone
When we take things we do not own
But leaves the lords and ladies fine
Who take things that are yours and mine.

It both amazed and saddened me to see how apt this rhyme is today. In this season of change let us pray that in another 250 years' time people are not still able to say the same about where we are. This is one of the reasons why I enjoy working with children and young people. Whilst it is trite and clichéd to say, "they are the future" because the reality is "they are the present," it is often a source of comfort hearing and seeing them talk about the environment, race and the need for equality. We have much we can learn from them. This is why Jesus valued children as much as he did.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." **Matthew 19:14**
NRSV

Children have a wonderful openness to new ideas, they have an acceptance of the impossible in a way that adults often lose and they have an acute sense of what is and what isn't fair. They are also not afraid to tell you when they see something that isn't right. This is the same spirit that we need to maintain, regardless of our age. Growing old is inevitable, growing up is optional. Now, in this season of change and remembrance, let us remember our history and work for change so that these children can grow up in a world akin to the Kingdom of God that is built on peace, justice and joy.

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

Fulneck News and Notices

DATA PROTECTION AND YOU

Please can all members ensure that their contact forms with GDPR permissions are returned to a member of church committee as soon as possible. These forms are vital to enable us to contact you.

If they are not returned by the end of this month then we will assume that you do **not** wish us to hold your details or contact you and ALL record of your contact details (phone number, email and postal address) will be deleted in accordance with the law.

BIBLE BOOK CLUB: TUESDAY 16 November: 1.30: Café 54

In November we will continue with Matthew, over a cup of tea in the café. All are very welcome. Please contact myself if you would like the Bible Society notes. Mary

Changes to services

At the Congregation Council meeting two important changes were agreed to services.

- ◆ In future, there will be NO service on the first Sunday of the month. In the afternoon of this day there will be the Lovefeast and Communion Service. This change starts on Sunday 7 November.
- ◆ There will be NO service on Sunday 26 December 2021.

Looking ahead

Get your 2022 diary at the ready ...

- ◆ Congregation Council Meetings will be in the evening of 21 February and 17 October.
- ◆ Heritage Open Day weekend: this will be held on 17-18 September.

Christmas Tree Festival

This year's Christmas Tree Festival, on 27 and 28 November, is going to be a family affair and we'd like to include some of your family Christmas trees. We would like some of you to bring your tree along to church on Friday 26 November and decorate it with your traditional decorations so we can share a small part of your family's traditions. Please let Sr Allison Turner know if you would like your tree included in this special event.

We will also need stewards on the day to help welcome all the visitors and help make their visit memorable. There is a list in the Bell Room for you to indicate when you'll be able to help us. Just two hours of your time would be fantastic, but you're welcome to give more!

There will also be a gift stall where we will be selling Christmas gifts. Please give any items for this stall to Sr Maureen Ingham.

This year we are planning to have some carol singing at various times throughout the day and finish the Saturday with a carol service at 5pm that will be lit by the lights from our Christmas trees. Everyone is welcome to join us for this.

With your help we can make this Christmas Tree Festival one to remember after being able to do so little over the past year. Thank you.



After church refreshments are back

On the last Sunday of each month we will once more be having refreshments in the BB, following the morning service.

Please sign up on the list in the Bell Room if you wish to volunteer your services.

Sunday 31 October there will be refreshments and Stuart Brierley will be joining us with the Fairtrade stall. The aim will be to tempt you to buy gifts and cards, ready for Christmas, plus other goodies for you to treat yourself to.



Gomersal

You will have noticed that this month there is no news or calendar for Gomersal, as they are now producing their own magazine. Personally I have enjoyed hearing of their many activities and being in touch with folks from Gomersal. I am sure that we will still all continue to share events and to keep in touch. Meanwhile, warmest wishes to all our friends at Gomersal.

District News

District Choral Festival: 28 November: Baildon: 6.00

All are welcome to attend the Choral Festival; a beautiful start to Advent, full of music and singing.

Fulneck Calendar

October

Sun 31 10.30 Bible Sunday Service led by Sr Hilary Smith
Refreshments and the Fairtrade stall in the BB, following the service.

November

Wed 3 7.15 Church Committee in BB

Sun 7 10.30 No service
2.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion led by Br Woolford

Thurs 11 9.45 Morning Prayers

Sun 14 10.30 Remembrance Sunday service led by Br Woolford

Tues 16 1.30 Bible Book Club

Thurs 18 9.45 Morning Prayers

Sun 21 10.30 Morning service led by Br Ian Haggas

Thurs 25 9.45 Morning Prayers

Sat 27 Christmas Tree Festival

Sun 28 10.30 Advent Sunday service led by Br Woolford
Refreshments in the BB, following the service.

December

Thurs 2 9.45 Morning Prayers

Sun 5 2.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion led by Br Woolford

The next Church magazine

As always, the magazine for December will be a double edition. So, if you have any news to include for December and January please ensure I have it by **Monday 22 November** at the latest; earlier is always good, if possible. Thank you, Mary.