

# The Magazine for Fulneck Moravian Church



December 2021/ January 2022

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## Minister's Letter

It's the most wonderful time of the year according to Andy Williams and myself. I am a man who loves Christmas. You'll see me from December with a Christmas jumper on and Christmas music filling the house. In fact, even though as I write this it's the middle of November, I've got Christmas music on in the background just to get into the mood. It is a time of joy and excitement when we all remember the central theme of peace and goodwill to all people.

This time of year is also a time when an age-old debate comes around. I'm sure we're all familiar with it and have, more than likely, taken part in it as well. It's the "keeping Christ in Christmas" debate. There is no doubt that Christmas has become more and more commercial over the years. But I wonder whether that brings about as many opportunities as it does challenges?

We all know that this season is one of the busiest times of the year for churches throughout the world. Even though we are still having to be careful with the rising cases of Covid 19 we are still anticipating being busier than normal. You'll see in this newsletter that we have several special services and events coming up beginning with the Christmas Tree Festival and ending with the New Year's Watchnight service. This provides a wonderful and unique opportunity to tell people the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

A number of schools up and down the country (not all of them obviously) will be getting ready

for nativity plays, talking about the birth of Christ in assemblies and lessons. Parents and families who do not regularly attend church will make the trip once this month and whilst yes, it would be wonderful if they felt able to come more often, instead of bemoaning that fact, let us celebrate and be grateful that they're here.

This is the benefit of the commercialisation of Christmas. If it remained a specific Christian only festival, in the way that Pentecost has remained, far fewer people would be aware and willing to celebrate it. This is the one season in a year (I realise there's Easter, but Christmas is bigger than Easter in the secular world), where we can tell people of the message of hope and love that comes from the birth and life of Jesus. Alongside all the tinsel, Santa and presents come Carols, Nativities and the central theme of Peace and Love that is at the heart of Christmas and Christianity.

There is no need to choose. We do not need to reject and protest against the commercial Christmas but instead let us embrace it and wish all who we meet a Happy and Blessed Christmas and Peace and Goodwill to all in the name of Jesus Christ, who will always remain the reason behind the season. Let us say, whenever we gather, the words of Tiny Tim in Dickens' A Christmas Carol, "God Bless us, every one."

I pray that you all have a happy and blessed Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you at one of the many events and services we have over the next two months.

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

# Fulneck News and Notices

## Mollie Hinchcliffe

Sadly, Mollie died recently. Her funeral was at 13.00 on Wednesday 24 November.

Here is a photo of happy times that many of us shared with her.



## Christmas Tree Weekend: Saturday 27 Nov: 11—18.00 (6.00); Sunday 14.00-17.00 (2.00-5.00)

Come along and see a beautiful display of Christmas trees and enjoy the carol singing throughout the day. This will be followed by a carol service on Saturday at 17.00 (5.00).

Also a chance to indulge in chip butties and mince pies. Not to be missed.



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## Carol singing in Fulneck

**Monday 20 December: starting at 18.30 (6.30)**

The singers will set out from Oak Dene and will be accompanied by a brass band.

All will be welcome to share in singing carols and enjoy the festive spirit. Dress up warm and take a lantern if you have one.

Meet at 18.30 (6.30) on the green at Oak Dene and then moving to Fulneck settlement.

**Organ recital : Thursday 9 December. 11.00.**

Another opportunity to hear the wonderful Fulneck organ. The recital will be lead by Paul Tidd.

## Christingle service: 24 December : 18.00 (6pm)

Naturally, we will be following all the necessary Covid 19 protocols to keep everyone safe whilst keeping the central elements of a Christingle in place as much as possible. Wearing masks throughout the service will enable us to not have to keep to social distancing.

Christingles will be distributed unlit (the masks present a fire risk as they are flammable) and instead you will be able to take them home and light them there. A central Christingle will be lit on the communion table during the service. There will be electric tea lights in the pews which we will light up for the singing of Silent Night during the service.

Fulneck Church Committee

## TOY SERVICE: 18 December, 10.30.

Let us share the joy of Christmas by donating toys for children and young people who face a hard Christmas. Please bring to this service new toys and books, suitable for all ages from babies to teenagers.

All gifts will be passed to St George's Crypt before Christmas.



## A huge thank you

On Remembrance Sunday Isabelle Moody, Fulneck School, played the bugle for us. This provided a moving addition to our service; her contribution was greatly appreciated by all the congregation.

## Watchword: 2022

Copies of the 2022 Watchwords are now available and on sale in church for £6.50 each. See Br. Jonathan immediately after each service.

PLEASE try and have the right change if paying by cash .



## BIBLE BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 25 January 2022. We will meet at 13.30 (1.30) in Café 54 and continue discussing Matthew.

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Choral Festival

Sunday 28 November, 18.00 (6.00), Wellhouse. All will be welcome.

### District Fellowship Morning: Saturday 15 January: 10.00

The District Fellowship Morning will be held at and commences at 10.00. All are welcome.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18—25 January is the week of prayer for Christian Unity.

# Calendar

## November

Sat-Sun 27-28                      Christmas Tree Festival  
 Sun 28                      10.30                      Advent Sunday service led by Br Woolford  
    Refreshments in the BB, following the service.

## December

Thurs 2 Dec                      9.45                      Morning Prayers  
 Sun 5                      14.30                      Lovefeast and Holy Communion led by Br Woolford  
  
 Thurs 9                      9.45                      Morning Prayers. At 11.00 there is the Organ recital  
 Sun 12                      10.30                      Morning service led by Br Woolford  
 Thurs 16                      9.45                      Morning Prayers  
 Sun 19                      10.30                      Nativity and toy service led by Br Kernohan  
 Sun 19                      (19.00) 7.00                      Service of nine lessons and carols led by Br Woolford  
 Thurs 23                      9.45                      Morning Prayers  
 Fri 24                      (18.00) 6.00                      Christingle service  
 Sat 25                      10.30                      Christmas Day service led by Br Woolford  
 Sun 26    No service  
 Thurs 30                      9.45                      Morning Prayers  
 Fri 31 Dec                      23.30 (11.30)                      Watchnight service led by Br Woolford

## January

Sun 2                      14.30                      Lovefeast and Holy Communion led by Br Woolford  
 Thurs 6                      9.45                      Morning prayers  
 Sun 9                      10.30                      Morning service led by Br Woolford  
 Thurs 13                      9.45                      Morning Prayers  
 Sun 16                      10.30                      Morning service led by Br Kernohan  
 Thurs 20                      9.45                      Morning prayers  
 Sun 23                      10.30                      Morning Service led by Br Woolford  
 Thurs 27                      9.45                      Morning Prayers  
 Sun 30                      10.30                      Morning service led by Br Woolford. Refreshments in the BB.

## February

Sun 6                      14.30                      Lovefeast and Holy Communion led by Br Woolford

