

The Magazine for Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Church-



February 2022

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Minister's Letter

Love is in the air, every time I look around.

February is a month usually dominated by one day in particular. Valentine's Day. A celebration of love and specifically the love between people in relationships. For those who find themselves single on this one particular day of the year, it can be somewhat tortuous as the reality of being alone is magnified.

I remember one year in particular when I was single. I tried everything to avoid all the sloppy Valentine's nonsense. I was channel hopping when I found Scooby Doo. Surely, I was safe there. But no. Even they were showing a Valentine's episode where the gang helped one of Shaggy's ex-girlfriends. I always hated being single, and this day was always the worst.

At some point in this pandemic, we have all felt lonely and isolated. For the lucky ones, this passed but it did give us a sense of perspective for those who are lonely on more than one day a year. In 2016 to 2017, there were 5% of adults in England who reported feeling lonely "often" or "always," and it's not just an old person problem as younger adults aged 16 to 24 years reported feeling lonely more often than those in older age groups. These statistics are taken from the Office of National Statistics who say the people who are most likely to experience loneliness are widowed older homeowners living alone with long-term health conditions, unmarried, middle-agers with long-term health conditions and younger renters with little trust and sense of belonging to their area.

As a church we are a community of people but so many people outside of church lack that same sense of community and are left feeling isolated and alone. I know that the easy thing to say here is that "God is always with you." Whilst that is true, it doesn't help when it is an isolated platitude. God is always with us all; however, we must make sure that our actions back up our words. Never underestimate the value of a phone call or just popping around to see someone. Of course, this needs to be done safely and following the guidelines but don't let that put you off.

Finally, if you are feeling lonely, at this time of year or at any time, please know you can always give me a call. There are also several wonderful charities that can help, and I'll put some of their numbers below.

Don't suffer in silence, God is here for you and so is your church family.

Rev James Woolford

Age UK Helpline: 0800 055 6112

The Silver Line: 0800 470 80 90

British Red Cross – Connecting Communities
0808 196 3651

Campaign to End Loneliness
www.campaigntoendloneliness.org.uk

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

Fulneck News and Notices

Sr Ruth Strong

I am sure you will be sad to hear that Sr Ruth Strong died on Monday 24 January in a Sheffield Hospital. She will be remembered for her dedication to the Church, her commitment to North Yorkshire and her love of local history.

At this sad time, let us all remember her friends and family in our prayers.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT: 22 February—7 March

Buy fairtrade
and support
their principles.



TEN TRIPS TO INDIA & NEPAL: 1995—2009

Based on diary notes, this book captures the essence of ten trips undertaken by John McOwat, plus sometimes with Beth and sometimes Bob Hopcroft.

It includes stories of a consecration, many prayers and lots of laughter. The warmth of the hospitality radiates from the pages. John details his work and Beth writes a paper for the MWA.

Treat yourself to this book and enjoy a good read.

The book is not for sale - but copies are available for those who will give a donation of £10 which will be used for the ongoing, growing work of our church in South Asia. If you would like a copy please contact John.

INDIA and NEPAL

John McOwat

BIBLE BOOK CLUB: Tuesday 15 February: 14.00, BB.



All are welcome to come along and share your views as we read the Apostles. February will see us taking a look at Luke.

For the Bible Society Notes to support this please contact Br James.

Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy: one feisty Fulneck feminist

It all started for me with a Fulneck Heritage Open Day, when I discovered that Elizabeth had attended Fulneck School (1848-1850).

- ??s: how did the Moravian principles influence her work nationally to change education for girls?
- how did she help to change British laws to benefit women?
- would she recognise Fulneck today?



These and many more questions are answered in my blog posts. The next ones look at the Bankhouse Mill and Plug Riots— the Moravian Minister at the time recalls ... Then I consider her time at Fulneck School.

Please email me (mary@woodhall28.co.uk) to get the posts or subscribe at <https://elizabethwe.co.uk/postings/>

A book and talks will follow to raise funds for charities, including the MWA.

Sr Mary Holmes

Calendar

February

Thurs 3	9.45	Morning Prayers
Sun 6	14.30	Lovefeast and Holy Communion led by Br Woolford
Wed 9	19.15	Church committee in BB
Thurs 10	9.45	Morning Prayers
Sun 13	10.30	Morning Worship led by Br Woolford
Tues 15	14.00	Bible Book Club in BB
Thurs 17	9.45	Morning Prayers
Sat 19	9.00	District Conference at Fulneck
Sun 20	10.30	Morning Worship led by Sr Diane Thornton
Mon 21	19.30	Congregation Council Meeting in Church
Thurs 24	9.45	Morning Prayers
Sun 27	10.30 15.00	Morning Worship led by Br James Woolford District Lovefeast & Holy Communion: Horton. Rev Ruth Watson, URC Bolton & Salford Missional Partnership.

March

Wed 2	19.30	Ash Wednesday Service
Thurs 3	9.45	Morning Prayers
Fri 4		World Day of Prayer

Please submit material for the next edition to me by **Monday 21 February**. Thanks, Mary