

The Magazine for Fulneck Moravian Churches

March 2022



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Minister's Letter

In like a lion and out like a lamb March is here and the year marches onward. February has been a month of stormy weather, and a fair share of stormy news as well. March will also mark the beginning of the season of Lent. A time of reflection and preparation for Holy Week. For some it is a time of sacrifice as they give up various things that they enjoy because let's face it, it wouldn't be much of a sacrifice if, for example, I gave up coconut, as I can't stand the taste and never eat it anyway. As always though, there are many different ways of celebrating Lent and preparing for Easter and I'm not going to tell you one way is better than the other. I will, however, tell you that I personally have never found much benefit in giving things up for Lent. In fact, a number of years ago I decided to give up giving things up for Lent.

I had tried the traditional sacrificial approach a few times in the past with mixed results and found that it was rather distracting and frankly, in a time now where we have given so much up as a result of the pandemic and a desire to keep each other safe, the prospect of giving anything else up seems unnecessarily self-harming. Life should be about finding joy wherever possible and however hard that can be sometimes.

"I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God."

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

Therefore, instead of looking to give something up, perhaps a better and healthier approach to the light of spring and the resurrection of nature and of Christ, we could look to add something in Lent. Use this time to try something new, something different, something you've always wanted to try. Give time to those around you, volunteer at a charity, give the house a spring clean and donate anything you really don't need to a charity shop. Do something to freshen up in the same way that the trees are preparing to burst forth with blossom and leaves.

As we begin to prepare ourselves to celebrate the Good News of Holy Week, I pray that you are able to find ways to add to your joy and the joy of those around you. Spring forth, after all Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world, just imagine what God can do with you.

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

Fulneck News and Notices



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

All are welcome to the World Day of Prayer service at Pudsey URC:
Friday 4 March, 14.00

The URC is on School Street.



FLOWER GROUP COFFEE MORNING

SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2022

After many months when the Flower Group has been unable to cheer everyone up with displays of fresh flowers in Church, we are back!

To celebrate we are holding a Coffee Morning in the BB building after the morning service on Sunday 13 March.

We hope that many of you will come along to share fellowship and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake (or two!)

Any monies you kindly donate will all go towards the provision of church flowers and there will be the opportunity to sponsor any special occasion or date in 2022 which you want to celebrate or commemorate.

We look forward to seeing you all on 13 March.



Silent Space

I don't know whether I should confess that my mind strayed during one of James' sermons in February, but it did! Talking about taking time out on the Sabbath to recharge made me think about one of my favourite parts of Harlow Carr Garden. There's a small part of the garden that is designated as a silent space. It's at the most westerly point of the garden, away from the hustle and bustle of the main garden. Sometimes when I visit it feels like every other path in the garden but, more often than not, it's hard to explain the difference, but there is one. It's as though I've walked through some invisible force field and left the rest of the world behind. The feeling of peace is overwhelming.

After my last visit there I decided to look up about silent spaces as there are many all around the country supported by a charity called silent space. It was started in 2016 by garden writer Liz Ware, to provide spaces where people can be silent. So simple but so powerful. You can find out more at www.silentspace.org.uk.

There's a wonderful quote on the website, by Gordon Hempton, that really describes my experience of the silent space.

"Silence is not the absence of something, but the presence of everything."

We maybe don't need to go to an official silent space but create our own where we can allow ourselves the time to be still and listen.



Sr Allison Turner

Sisters' Festival

As we look ahead towards Spring, it is timely to remember our Sisters' Festival. In 2022 it will be **Sunday 15 May**, so please pop this in your diary.

Sr Myra Dickinson will provide full details in the next magazine.

Calendar

Feb

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.
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March

Wed 2	19.30	Ash Wednesday Service
Thurs 3	9.45	Morning Prayers
Fri 4	14.00	World Day of Prayer service at Pudsey URC
Sun 6	14.30	Lovefeast and Holy Communion led by Br James Woolford
Tues 8	19.15	Church committee in BB
Wed 9	19.30	Lent service
Thurs 10	9.45	Morning Prayers
Sun 13	10.30	Morning Worship led by Br James Woolford
Wed 16	19.30	Lent service
Thurs 17	9.45	Morning Prayers
Sun 20	10.30	Morning Worship led by Br Trevor Kernohan
Wed 23	19.30	Lent service
Thurs 24	9.45	Morning Prayers
Sun 27	10.30	Mothering Sunday service led by Br James Woolford
Tues 29	14.00	Bible Book Club in BB
Wed 30	19.30	Lent service
Thurs 31	9.45	Morning Prayers

April

Sun 3	14.30	Lovefeast and Holy Communion led by Br James Woolford
Wed 6	19.30	Lent service
Thurs 7	9.45	Morning Prayers

Please submit material for the April edition to myself by 12 March, if possible. Due to holiday it would be really helpful to have material by then, although I can accept items later. Thanks, Mary