

The Magazine for Fulneck Moravian Churches



April 2022

Minister: Rev. James Woolford The Parsonage, 38 Fulneck, Pudsey, LS28 8NT
tel: 0113 256 4828 email: james.woolford@moravian.org.uk
www.fulneck.org.uk www.churchestogether.org/gbeb/gomersal-moravian-church
The British Province of the Unitas Fratrum (Moravian Church), Registered Charity Number 251211
Editor: Sr Mary Holmes tel: 0113 2558547 email: mary@woodhall28.co.uk



Minister's Letter

What's so good about Good Friday?

To me, that question rings through every Holy Week and indeed every time I hear the words Good Friday. An innocent man was brutally, publicly, killed. Our messiah, the Christ, was killed and yet we call it Good!?

There's an expression that says that hindsight is always 20/20 and the key to understanding why Good Friday was Good is in the hindsight. Good Friday is only Good because of what comes next. If the story stopped there, if the grand finale of New Testament was, "and then he died.", there would be nothing Good about it. But that isn't how the story ended, and indeed the story is still continuing to this day. That's what's so Good about Good Friday. It is the precursor to the most incredible symbol of hope that there has ever been. The two days, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are co dependant. Without the horror of Good Friday, the Joy of Easter wouldn't be possible and without the resurrection of Easter, Good Friday wouldn't be so Good.

So often in our lives when we're faced with impossibly difficult situations, we can feel like nothing good is going on or that nothing good can ever happen. When we're in the midst of a storm, all we can see is rain, clouds, and darkness. It is only as we look back, sometimes days, sometimes weeks, sometimes months or even years later, that we can find any positives at all.

Occasionally I look back at my life and think, I wish this, or that hadn't happened. If I could go back in time and stand up for myself as the bullies squeezed the self confidence out of me. If I could somehow avoid contracting the Meningitis that led to a lifetime of chronic fatigue syndrome. But then I realise I am who I am because of the things that happened to me. The good but especially the bad and it has taken literally years for me to come to that conclusion and even then, some days I wonder if, given the chance, I wouldn't just take out all the bad stuff.

The world is in a mess right now. It seems as if we are awash with a torrent of bad times and negativity. We must cling to the hope that is the foundation block of our lives that says, even out of death can come life. One day this current storm will be over, and we will be able to look back and find the positives. They may still not outweigh the negatives, but they will be there somewhere.

May every Good Friday you receive be followed by an Easter and you be filled with the same level of rejoicing as when the disciples realised, "Friday was a good day after all."

Amen

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



Fulneck News and Notices



Czechoslovakian glass vase on display

In 1957, when the Iron Curtain still existed, some brave Moravians made the journey to Fulneck for Synod. This also marked 500 years since the founding of the Brethren's Church in 1457.

The Czech visitors came with the gift of the glass vase, inscribed with the two dates – 1457 and 1957. On Sunday 6 March, to mark the first Sunday since the Memorial Day (Tuesday 1 March) the vase came out of the safe and was put on the communion table. A particularly relevant reminder at this time that we are part of one Church and have brothers and sisters across the European continent, and far beyond.

EASTER

We have moved in to Lent, with the Ash Wednesday Service led by Sr Hilary Smith . Each Wednesday we will meet in the Church at 19.30 for a Lent Service.

Saturday 9 April: all willing workers are invited to God's Acre at 10.00 to help with the tidy up; lunch will be provided afterwards.

Holy Week: during Holy Week there will be the Readings each evening in the Church, commencing at 19.30.

Maundy Thursday: this will be a joint service at 19.30 with Horton and Baildon. Following the service, everyone will be warmly invited to the BB to share in Holy Communion and a faith supper. Please drop off your contribution to the supper at the BB before the service.

Good Friday: the service will be in the Church at 19.30.

Easter Sunday: the early morning service in God's Acre at 7.00; breakfast in the BB at 8.00; morning service in the Church at 10.30.

Sisters' Festival and Breakfast: 15 May: 9.00, Café 54, Fulneck

A welcome is extended to all Sisters to attend the Sisters' Breakfast.

Due to Covid we have missed two of our breakfast get togethers but hopefully this year things will be more normal. I encourage each of you to make this year special by re-connecting and sharing this warm feeling of fellowship. Sharing a meal strengthens the bonds of friendship and enables us to commit to supporting our church.

This year marks 300 years since the beginning of the settlement in Herrnhut and the formation of Zinzendorf's vision of community life. In that early settlement Sisters played an important role and fulfilled a vital part in the development of Herrnhut. In some ways the Fulneck Sisters can continue Zinzendorf's vision as we make our small impact on the world; we can each do something, however small it may seem, which makes the world a kinder more, loving place. If our light has dimmed a little through Covid restrictions we can restore it with the help and strength of Jesus and become the person who brings light to others.

During lockdown I read this in The Hobbit (J R Tolkien):
I hope it inspires you as it did me.

'It's everyday kindnesses and little things that help keep the darkness away.'

Please come along and join the Sisters' breakfast.
The list for choice of breakfast will be placed in the Bellroom for you to sign up and money will be collected before the event.

Warmest wishes to you all. Sister Myra Dickinson.



SAD NEWS

Sadly David Mitchell has died; our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. David was the son of Kathleen Mitchell who is remembered fondly for the work she undertook as one of the founders of the Fulneck Museum.

BIBLE BOOK CLUB: TUESDAY 29 MARCH. BB: 14.00.

This month the discussion will be about John. Please contact Br Woolford if you would like the notes to accompany this book.

Men's Fellowship: Tues 5 April, 14.00: BB

Don't miss this opportunity to catch up and play a few games. It will also offer the opportunity to agree dates and talk about activities for future meetings.

FULNECK HERITAGE WEEKEND: Saturday 17 September.

Imagination, innovation and invention

A date for your diary. Exhibition, drama, tours, museum visits and much more.
To sustain folks there will be the usual fine spread in the BB.

AFTERNOON TEAS



Starting on Wednesday 20 April (14.00-16.00) in the BB each Wednesday you are welcome to come along for afternoon tea.

You are also invited to sign up in the Bell Room to take your turn in running this popular event. It's your chance to show off your baking skills or (for those challenged in such matters) the cakes can show which supermarket you support.



Elizabeth has a statue

A statue of Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy now stands proud in the town centre of Congleton.

I am pleased to offer talks about this amazing woman.

Any donations will be shared between
Futures for Women
& the
MWA.

Sr Mary Holmes

Refreshments after Church

Please note that refreshments after Church have started again: they are on the final Sunday of each month.

There is a list in the Bellroom where you can sign up if able to arrange this one month (or more than one month!)



DISTRICT & GENERAL NOTICES

District Service : Gomersal: Palm Sunday, Sunday 10 April: 18.00

A service that brings us together from across the District.

Churches Together (Pudsey) Walk of Witness. Good Friday.

Friday 15 April. You are invited to meet at the Baptist Church (Pudsey Leisure Centre car park) at 11.40 for hot cross buns and coffee. The Walk of Witness will then set off at 12.00

Calendar

April

Sun 3	14.30	Lovefeast and Holy Communion led by Br James Woolford
Tues 5	14.00	Men's Fellowship in BB
	19.15	Church Committee
Wed 6	19.30	Lent service
Thurs 7	09.45	Morning Prayers
Sat 9	10.00	Burial Ground Tidy Up
Sun 10	10.30	Palm Sunday service led by Br James Woolford
	18.00	District Service at Gomersal
Mon 11	19.30	Holy Week Readings
Tues 12	19.30	Holy Week Readings
Wed 13	19.30	Holy Week Readings
Thurs 14	09.45	Morning Prayers
	19.30	Maundy Thursday Service. Holy Communion & faith supper in BB.
Fri 15	11.45	Churches Together (Pudsey) Walk of Witness
	19.30	Good Friday Service led by Br Trevor Auty
Sun 17	07.00	Easter Sunday, early service in Burial Ground.
	08.00	Easter breakfast in the BB
	10.30	Morning worship led by Br John McCowat
Thurs 21	09.45	Morning Prayers
Sun 24	10.30	Marriage Celebration Service led by Sr Katherine Woolford.
Thurs 28	09.45	Morning Prayers

May

Sun 1	14.30	Lovefeast and Holy Communion led by Br James Woolford
Wed 4	19.15	Church Committee
Thurs 5	09.45	Morning Prayers

Please submit material for the next edition to myself by **Thursday 21 April** .
Thanks, Mary