

The Magazine for Fulneck and Gomersal Moravian Church-



May 2022

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Minister's Letter

Sing a song of May-time.
Sing a song of Spring.
Flowers are in their beauty.
Birds are on the wing.
May time, play time.
God has given us May time.
Thank Him for His gifts of love.
Sing a song of Spring.

This is the traditional song sung by doll carriers in Cambridge to mark their May Day Celebrations. Girls carried prettily dressed dolls on May Day, showing them to people in return for money or sweets. However dated that tradition may seem in today's world and through our modern lenses there is a beautiful simplicity to that nursery rhyme that appeals to me as I sit writing this letter.

As I write this I have just returned from a week's break in the Lake District and whilst our children ensured this wasn't exactly a peaceful break, it is always nice to be away and in amongst the beautiful countryside. As much as I enjoyed my time in London, I'm someone who likes being outdoors or at very least within nearby reach of nature. One of my goals this year is to get the garden at the manse sorted so I can actually enjoy it as that will enable me to sit and breathe in the air and stop and smell the roses.

I was talking to one of my ministerial colleagues, who shall remain nameless, about the pressures of Holy Week and Easter. In seemingly every denomination and every church, Eastertime is a

relentlessly busy time for ministers. We have lots of services to prepare for and preside at along with all the usual activities that take up time and energy. I said to them that the reality is, as ministers we simply don't get to enjoy Holy Week or Easter until after they're over. That is just an accepted part of ministry and I accept that it is a sacrifice we have to make. This is not me moaning but simply stating a felt reality. It is why a large percentage of ministers take the week after Easter off. We need to recharge both spiritually and physically but that is not something unique to us in our calling but it isn't something that comes naturally to me. We all need to take time to stop and now that spring is here and the blossom is on the trees, it is a perfect time to do so. Where do we find the disciples after the death of Jesus? Together, taking stock of all that had happened.

Therefore, as much as you're able, make sure you take time to stop and enjoy the beauty of spring that is all around us. If you ever need to shout MAYDAY, then remember May Day and the hope of life returning from death that comes from Spring and celebrate the Easter message which is the same message on Easter Sunday as it is every day of the year. There is always hope.

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

Fulneck News and Notices

Letter from the Bishops of the Moravian Church in Great Britain and Ireland

On Easter Day (17 April 2022) each Moravian Church was asked to read out the following letter, signed by the Bishops John McOwat, Joachim Kreusel and Sarah Groves.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On this Easter morning we greet you in the name of the Risen Lord.

We rejoice at this annual celebration of God raising our Lord Jesus from the chains of sin and death and it fills us with hope that the evil that took our Lord to the cross is ultimately defeated.

Yet as we celebrate, we are deeply aware of the suffering that so many people in our world endure. From the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian army, the ongoing proxy war in the Yemen, unseen devastation in Myanmar and many other places and the hastening effects of climate change.

The sight of bombed and burnt buildings, starving children, lives taken and millions of refugees seeking safety show us that evil is still active in our world. The texts for Maundy Thursday reminded us that in the end every knee shall bow in the presence of our Lord, even that of Russian presidents and unknown tyrants. No army and no leaders last forever, but God's kingdom never ends and all of us must one day face God and answer for our deeds and faith.

So now we ask you to pray for the people of Ukraine and all other places of suffering and desolation in our world. The New Testament text for today, Easter Sunday is Jesus' resurrection message to his disciples 'Peace be with you'. Pray for peace and justice in our world and that each of us may be agents of peace in our own lives. We further ask you to do whatever you practically can do, in deeds or in sacrificial giving to support the needs of refugees and to aid the rebuilding of Ukraine and all other places of desperate need.

We close with the reflection that we pray in the Lord's Prayer that God's kingdom will come and for God's will to be done here on earth as it is in heaven. Let our actions reflect our prayers.

Christian Aid week is 15 to 21 May this year.

There will be envelopes available in church— please collect one and return with your welcome contribution.



Quiz Night: Friday 6 May: starting at 19.00 in the BB

A quiz with refreshments during the evening. Entrance of £5.00



JUBILEE STREET PARTY

SATURDAY 4 June (13.00—17.00). Come and join the fun and celebrations. Games, competitions and much more.

Please note that the road will be closed through the settlement for this event.

TOY APPEAL

Any toys for children to the age of 5 will be very welcome.

They will be used, along with craft activities at the new group I am setting up for dads, granddads and male carers. Bacon butties for the dads. Please share this news and invite folk to join
Who Let the Dad's Out.

Please contact me for more information. James Woolford.

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 & MUSEUM

Each Wednesday there will be afternoon teas and the museum will be open (14.00-16.00).

You are also invited to sign up in the Bell Room to take your turn in helping with these popular events.

Calendar

MAY

Sun 1 May	14.30	Lovefeast and Holy Communion led by Br James Woolford
Thurs 5 May	09.45	Morning Prayers
Fri 6 May	19.00	Quiz night in BB
Sun 8 May	10.30	Morning Service led by Br James Woolford
Thurs 12 May	09.45	Morning Prayers
Sun 15 May	09.00	Sisters' breakfast in Café 51
	10.30	Sisters' Festival service led by Sr Ruth France
Thurs 19 May	09.45	Morning Prayers
Sun 22 May	10.30	Morning Service led by Br Ian Haggas
Thurs 26 May	09.45	Morning Prayers
Sun 29 May	10.30	Morning Service led by Br James Woolford

JUNE

Thurs 2 June	09.45	Morning Prayers
Sat 4 June	13.00	Street party
Sun 5 June	14.30	Lovefeast and Holy Communion led by Br James Woolford

Please submit material for the next edition to myself by **Monday 23 May**. As always, any photographs of welcome.

