

# Fulneck Moravian Church Magazine

March 2023



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## Minister's Letter

This month we start our participation in the Holy Habits programme that has been set for us by the PEC and the habit that we will be focusing on is Prayer. Sr Allison is our Holy Habits champion and has written about this later in the newsletter, but I thought I'd start the ball rolling with a question. What is prayer? If we're going to spend two months looking at prayer and our prayer life as individuals and as a church then this seems like the perfect way to start.

It's one of those standard questions we get in any life of faith that has no firm answer. Prayer is something that means different things to different people and indeed it can be affected by the timing and the situation we're in. However, for me, prayer at its most pure, is a conversation. It's not a negotiation, it's not a set of demands, but it is time spent in the presence of God. And so what do we say when we pray?

*"Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart."*

— Mahatma Gandhi

People tend to get themselves into a bit of a pickle about what to say when they pray. They feel that they need to use flowery, poetic language like they hear in our liturgies or that they grew up with. Whilst there is a place for that kind of prayer, it can be just as simple as the conversation you have with a friend. In Matthew's Gospel, as part of the sermon on the mount, Jesus says this,

*'When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.'*

God already knows what we need, God knows what is in our hearts so there's no pressure then to bang on using big words for the sake of feeling clever. Keep it simple for we have a friend in God so speak like that. But if your someone who finds structure useful, Jesus goes on to say,

*'Pray then in this way:*

*Our Father in heaven,*

*hallowed be your name.*

*Your kingdom come.*

*Your will be done,*

*on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our debts,*

*as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*And do not bring us to the time of trial,*

*but rescue us from the evil one.*

This is the perfect prayer. It acknowledges the sacred nature of God, it expresses the desire for God's will to be done over anything we may wish, it asks that we be provided for, it asks that we are forgiven whilst reminding us of the importance of forgiving others, and finally it asks for salvation from evil.

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

Also, any good conversation involves equal parts listening as speaking. If we pray only because we want to be heard, we are missing out. Remember, God already hears us and knows us? So really, when we pray, we're hoping to hear as much as to be heard. We must listen to what God wants to say in order to truly benefit from prayer. Yes, it's good to talk and to offload your troubles, but it is in listening to the Word of God that we can find true comfort and direction.

*"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts."*

— Mother Teresa

Finally, never forget the importance of prayer. The simple act of taking time out for God is so important whenever we feel lost or broken or in order to prevent that from happening at all, a good prayer life is crucial. So then, in the coming months let us refocus our lives and instil in us the Holiest of Habits, Prayer. For once we get that right, the rest will come easier.

### THE ADI EBLAL CHARITY TABLE

Some of you may have noticed me, sitting at a table near the kitchen door at BB, on the last Sunday in the month when we have a coffee morning. My table is next to the biscuits and cakes.

For those who don't know me my name is Sister Brenda Pearson, I produce marmalade year round, jams according to fruit seasons and spiced Yorkshire chutney, plus sometimes puddings!

Br James has given me permission to sell these items at the coffee morning when the Fair Trade Stall is not operating or other events taking place. My efforts are to raise funds for a student from the village of Adi Eblal in Ethiopia, in his education through senior school and hopefully help him attain a University education. All education in Ethiopia has to be paid for by the family, including uniforms, books and any equipment needed.

Fulneck Church supported the Village of Adi Eblal through the funds raised from our Lent Lunches, which I instigated more than 10 years ago but seem to have become a victim of COVID 19, with little chance of being re-instated due to shortage of volunteers and my age related problems. I have promised to donate any money over £40 each month to the Church in the hope that some donation will be made, in the name of the Church, to the Village itself, which has suffered greatly during the on going war in Ethiopia. There is a great amount of rebuilding to be done which needs lots of money. The first £40 goes to ERMIAS for his education and needs.

If you would like more information on the situation in Tigray and Adi Eblal, please ask me or I can put you in touch with the people who adopted this village many years ago and are now asking for your help in getting things back to something near normal. Think Ukraine for what these people are going through.

In the past we have helped supply electricity, fresh clean water, school rebuild and refurbished, funds for the grinding mill to be brought back into use, library and books, and much more!

I hope to see you on the 26th, please remember your purse, wallet or cheque book!

Thank you for reading, I hope you will support,

Best wishes,

Sr Brenda (Pearson)



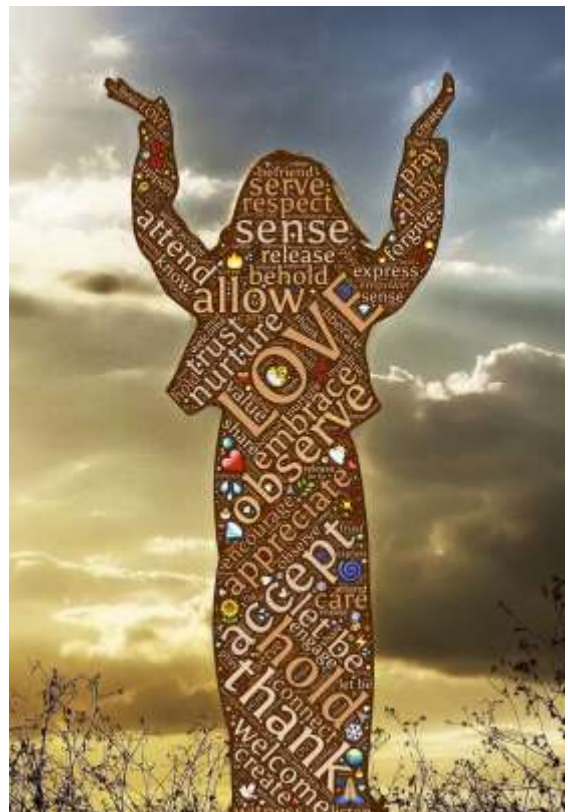
And let us remember, he not only made the spikes he is the one who creates the holes in the oranges. Thanks Michael.

**Tuesday 7 March: Boys Brigade (BB): 19.30**

You are welcome to join in the fun and share a laugh, while also flexing your green fingers.



Sr Vi Hayton



# HOLY HABITS

Missional discipleship as a way of life.

**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.** Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and **had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.** Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and **ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God** and having the goodwill of all the people. **And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.** Acts 2: 42-47

It's the beginning of an exciting time for us all as we start on our journey exploring our holy habits. How much of what we do in our church life and everything else we do has become a habit, something that makes it easy and comfortable? Every two months we will be looking at a different habit that Luke highlighted as being part of our discipleship and we're starting with prayer.

How often have we said, 'I'll pray for you?' In practice what does that mean. Would you find a pre-written prayer to say or privately take the person to God in prayer using your own words? We're all used to prayers being said in church each week and having the weekly prayer service, but have you got a favourite prayer or way of praying that you could share with us? We can have a prayer page in future newsletters or a prayer ideas board in church.

This prayer for the day was shared in the prayer guide for this habit. It's inspired by the poem 'Sheep Fair Day' by Kerrie Hardy and explores the upcoming day of the writer. Maybe you could use this model to walk through your day in Prayer, placing your day into God's hands.

*Come with me today, God:*

*Walk with me and the dog to collect the paper-listen to birds, notice the new colours in the flower beds, greet the people we meet regularly on this road. Listen to the radio with me over breakfast-feel the frustration with politicians who will not answer questions, laugh at the banter between presenters who have become old friends.*

*Sit in the car with me as I drive to a meeting-learn patience with other drivers in the rush hour, watch the speed as we go down the motorway, talk through the agenda in advance and think about the people we're going to meet.*

*Walk with me through the city-notice the ones who are striding and confident and the ones who shuffle, the ones who sell the Big Issue or are even now rolling up their sleeping bag they slept in on the pavement; agonise over how to help them.*

*Come home with me and collapse on the settee with the iPad, checking Facebook and emails, listen to my family's day and wondering what we're going to eat tonight. One of the children has had a difficult day-feel the knot of worry that will rest with me until I get to speak to them.*

*Join me in doing bits of housework and gardening if its fine. The sit down with me and the family as we enjoy the evening together.*

*So at the end of the day, when I replay it before you, I will know that you have been there, that you are with me, loving, caring, challenging reassuring and I can rest in your peacefulness until the new day dawns.*

Amen



## CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

At the meeting on Monday (20/02) we said a huge thank you to both Janet and Lynda as they have stepped down from the Church committee after many long years of dedicated service. They both received flowers and warm applause.

Welcome to two new committee members: Ruth Dacre and Allison Turner.

Also, Ruth was elected as Deputy for a special one day Zoom Synod in June; Chris Porter is the Alternate.

### Craft Group: Wednesday 8 March: 14.00

The craft group will meet at Vi's. All are welcome.

### Fulneck Angels are coming back!

Despite the weather being so unkind to us all the Fulneck Angels found homes. So many people helped make this possible with their knitting skills, labelling them up and taking them out. It's never too early to start knitting them and we've already got a new knitter as Gillian has learnt a new skill and knitted her first angel. Patterns will be available in the Bell Room if you don't already have one.

### DIARIES AT THE READY!

A few dates for your diary:

- Sunday 7 May. To celebrate the Coronation we will have Holy Communion in the Church at 13.00. This will then be followed by Lovefeast / Street Party.
- Saturday 16 September will be Heritage Day.
- Friday/ Saturday 1-2 December. Christmas Tree Festival.

### Welcome Gloria.

At the service on Sunday 5 March Gloria Hanley will be welcomed into membership of the Church.

### Memorial day brings a gift

1st March each year marks the first Moravian Memorial Day of the year. It marks the founding of the Brethren Church in **1457**.

In **1957** a Synod was held at Fulneck Church. This was attended by some Czech visitors who braved the existence at the time of the Iron Curtain. They brought with them a glass vase inscribed with two dates—**1457 and 1957**.

At this difficult time once more in Europe, it is a relevant reminder that we are part of one Church and have brothers and sisters across the European continent, and far beyond.

# Calendar

**27 February** Screening of 'The Greatest Showman'. In the BB Hall at 19.30.

## March

Wed 1 19.30 Lent Study Group. BB Hall

Thursday 2 09.45 Morning Prayers

Friday 3 14.00 World Day of Prayer service. Fulneck Church.

Sunday 5 14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Service led by Br James Woolford.

Tues 7 19.30 Soul Sisters' Festive Flowers. BB Hall

Wed 8 14.00 Craft Group. Vi's house

19.30 Lent Study Group. BB Hall

Thursday 9 09.45 Morning Prayers

Sunday 12 10.30 Morning worship led by Br James Woolford.

Tues 14 19.15 Church committee.

Wed 15 19.30 Lent Study Group. BB Hall

Thursday 16 09.45 Morning Prayers

Sunday 19 10.30 Mothering Sunday. Worship led by Br Trevor Kernohan.

Wed 22 19.30 Lent Study Group. BB Hall

Thursday 23 09.45 Morning Prayers

Sunday 26 10.30 Morning worship led by Sr Gloria Hanley

18.00 Service of reflection on the pandemic led by Br James Woolford

Wed 29 19.30 Lent Study Group. BB Hall

Thursday 30 09.45 Morning Prayers

## April

Sat 1 10.00 Burial Ground tidy up

Sunday 2 14.30 Palm Sunday. Lovefeast & Holy Communion led by Br James Woolford.

18.00 District service. Horton.

Mon 3 19.30 Holy Week Readings

Tues 4 19.30 Holy Week Readings

Wed 5 19.30 Holy Week Readings

Thurs 6 09.45 Morning Prayers

19.30 Maundy Thursday. Holy Communion. Joint service at Baildon Church.

Fri 7 11.45 Churches Together Walk of Witness

19.30 Good Friday Liturgy

Sunday 9 07.00 Easter Day early service. Br James Woolford.

08.00 Easter Day breakfast

10.30 Easter Day service led by Br James Woolford.

Due to me going on holiday, next month I will need to email out the newsletter by 24 March. So, please submit material for the next edition to me by **Monday 20 March** (mid-day). Thanks, Mary.