

Fulneck Moravian Church Magazine

May 2023



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Minister's Letter

"The month of May is the pleasant time; its face is beautiful; the blackbird sings his full song, the living wood is his holding, the cuckoos are singing and ever singing; there is a welcome before the brightness of the summer." —Lady Gregory

One of my favourite things about moving back to Yorkshire is the ability to be so close to nature and May is the month all of creation truly sings. Every morning we are awoken to the sounds of birds singing in the trees and views that no human architect or painter could create. Recently, when driving home with Sr Claire Maxwell from a PYCC meeting in Dukinfield we ended up taking a "scenic route". I'm notoriously bad with directions and finding my way around so I couldn't tell you which particular road this was and nor would I realistically be able to find it again. It was just a route that Google had picked out for us that avoided a lot of the M62. It was one of those roads where the view just unfolded before you, and frequently we would comment on how lucky we were to have discovered this road by chance as hills and valleys displayed their beauty.

Nature is something both my children have a great love of with Edward in particular liking the grand views where you can see for miles, and Charlotte loving all the animals and plants that she can see. There is something earthly peaceful about it all that means a good walk, or just time in the sun can recharge both your spiritual and physical batteries.

The past few months have not been easy for me. Balancing the demands of my church work, with family life and my own physical and mental wellbeing has always been a challenge. As I have

already spoken about, I live with chronic fatigue syndrome and have done for nearly 26 years. As things stand, there is no cure, and this will just be something I have to live with for the rest of my life. Just over a month ago as you're reading this, I had one of the worst flares I have suffered in a long time. I was left struggling to do even basic things like take my boots off and for several days after that I was far from 100%. Thankfully, with the love and support of those most dear to me, and with careful management and pacing, I am now back to something like my normal levels.

It is a very humbling experience to have to have your child take your boots off for you and recline on the sofa. I am telling you all this not as a plea for sympathy but for two main reasons. Firstly, whilst living with this condition is never something I hide, most people don't see me at my worst. If you're seeing me out and about doing things, then either I'm simply not having a bad day or if I am struggling that day then this it must be something that I had to do and I'm pushing myself to get done.

I've never been one to sit still easily and, when my body allows, I much prefer to get out and about and do things rather than take things easy, even if I may suffer latterly for it. The second reason I'm telling you this is because I believe we can all learn something from this experience. The importance of balance and pacing.

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

April has seen us through the highs and lows of Holy Week and now in the month of May we must take time to stop and smell the roses. Throughout the Bible there are many times where people take time out. Jesus repeatedly spends time away from the crowds and even his own disciples and in doing so re-connects with His Father in prayer. Elijah hides in a cave after fleeing Jezebel who has sworn to kill him. Moses goes up to the mountain to be with God and to take some time away from the always moaning Israelites. The list goes on. And yet for some reason, certain parts of our western society seems to think the ideal model of life is to work until we drop. Instead, as the writer of Ecclesiastes puts it:

*What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. **Ecclesiastes 3:9-14***

Life is a wonderful gift from God and it is one that we are meant to enjoy and the same is true of creation. So, in this month of May take some time out. If you can, go for a walk, if you can't just be outside in nature. Do whatever you need to do to recharge your batteries because God loves you and wants you to be well and to be connected to Him and to each other. Enjoy the many gifts that we have received from God and find your balance in this crazy world of ours.

Fulneck News and Notices

INVITATION TO SISTERS' BREAKFAST WHAT BINDS US TOGETHER?

All sisters who support our Moravian Church and settlement in any way are welcome to come. The choir system remains unique to the Moravian Church.

To me the abiding element of sisters joining together is the opportunity to share fellowship. Whatever our different personalities this fellowship is brought about by our conviction that Jesus wishes for us to help one another in his name.

By joining together at Sisters' breakfast, we are sharing our common heritage instituted by Zinzendorf. Yet it is not just a quaint idea from the past. It is truly a moment to cement our commitment to our faith and friendship.

Sr Myra Dickinson

BREAKFAST

**SUNDAY 14 MAY: 09.00
AT CAFÉ 54**

There will be a list in the bell room to choose which breakfast you prefer.
Cost £10.00

Following the breakfast the service will be taken by
Sister Janet Cooper

Following Br McOwat's letter last month about the service of Lovefeast and Communion, Br Woolford alongside church committee, have produced the following guide to Lovefeast and Communion. Copies of these are in the bell room and can be taken by whoever wishes to have one and will be offered to any new or infrequent visitors to our church prior to the start of the service. It is hoped that this can be a positive way to ensure all people feel welcome and included in the wonderful tradition of Lovefeast and Communion.



Welcome to Lovefeast and Communion



Hello and welcome to Fulneck. We're very happy to have you with us. The service today is what we call a Lovefeast Service and it's a uniquely Moravian service so we thought it would be a good idea to talk you through a few things you might expect to see so that you can feel as much a part of the service as possible.

Firstly, the tradition of a Lovefeast dates back to 13th August 1727. There was a very special service in a place called Berthelsdorf and afterward people didn't want to leave each other. Count Zinzendorf, on whose land we worshiped, decided to provide food and drink in order to keep the worship going and the members together. It is this occasion that we celebrate every month by sharing food and drink in our worship.

Our Lovefeast is also accompanied by Holy Communion where we remember the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples. In the Moravian Church we operate an **open table**, where any who wish to do so are welcome to receive the elements. The gift of God's love is for everyone.

Now you know why we do what we do, here's a few things on how it will all look.

- We stand when the minister comes into church and sit again after the first verse of the first hymn.
- We then stand again when our offering of money is being collected and sit after the prayer that follows.
- We next stand for the singing of the last hymn before communion while the minister leaves to prepare for communion.
- During communion we follow what it says in our liturgy with regards to standing and sitting and you're invited to respond to the parts that are in **bold**.
- In the Moravian Church, the bread will be served to you and we all eat together, and wine will be served to you and then we all drink together.
- Once your row has been served, wait until the end of the hymn verse and then sit down.
- Our final hymn is a covenant hymn. We stand for this hymn which is sung as a reminder of our togetherness as a church and as a reaffirmation of our faith and service to each other. We will sing the hymn once to concentrate on the words and then we will sing it again exchanging the right hand of fellowship with those nearest to us.

We hope that all this leads to you feeling warmly welcomed into this service and you're able to worship God in that same spirit of love and togetherness that was shared nearly 300 years ago.

May God bless you in this worship.

Rev James Woolford

On behalf of Fulneck Moravian Church

SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Les Coker, husband of Sr Liz Coker. Br Chris Jones, husband of Sr Sarah Groves, has also been called home to God's higher service.

I am sure that we will all keep family and friends in our prayers.

Brethren's Festival 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Br John Holmes has kindly invited me to lead our Brethren's Festival this year and I have accepted the invitation. I am not short of ideas for the occasion but what I would really like to do is to lead something that comes from all of us.

Each one of us can contribute something either by offering to do something on the day, or by suggesting to me something that I can think about including. If you can write your suggestion for me it would be a great help. My memory isn't the greatest but thankfully I can still read! However, the main thing I would like us to do is to celebrate our work, or in the case of us retirees to celebrate our former work.

To this end I would like to display the tools of our trade which can be interpreted as widely as we want it to be. Office workers can bring something from the office, tradesmen can bring in their tools, gardeners their garden tools, teachers a sample of their subject, bankers can bring in as many samples as they like.

We are going to celebrate whatever you do or did for a living. I am working on a suitable Liturgy for the occasion. Sisters, or indeed any brothers suitably qualified, could you help us to display things appropriately?

Thank you. Br Trevor Auty

ORGAN RECITAL—date for your diary: Leeds City of Culture 2023



It is good news that on **TUESDAY 18 JULY, 19.30**, there will be an organ recital by Dr Gordon Stewart.

There are many different events taking place throughout the city this year.

Thanks to funding from various trusts Pudsey will be showcasing local talent and resources from 17-22 July.

We've been successful in receiving funding to hold an

Organ Recital on Tuesday 18 July which will be free to attend. Please put the date in your diary.

Pastoral Care Review

At the February Congregation Council meeting there was an important discussion about the support offered to church members in terms of pastoral care. The Church Committee have had several meetings to take on board all the comments raised and, as promised, it is timely to respond in the May Church Magazine.

A new pastoral care team is being established and will comprise of the following members:
Church Committee:

Ruth Dacre	John Holmes
Trevor Kernohan	Chris Robbins
Jonathan Saynor	Allison Turner

Additional Pastoral Care team:

David Adsetts	Gillian Butterill
Myra Dickinson	Mary Holmes

Chris Porter.

Our aim is to ensure that every Church member knows their pastoral link. So, in the near future you will be contacted by your link to agree how you wish to engage with pastoral care.

The Pastoral team will liaise closely with Rev Woolford and inform him of any urgent matters that he needs to be aware of. Rev Woolford continues to hold the pastoral care of the congregation as a core part of his ministry but this will enable the care of the congregation to be shared out in the hope that nobody feels left out from the love and care of their brothers and sisters in Christ.

It is envisaged that the new and enhanced pastoral team will have meetings to exchange best practice and to ensure that a consistent and caring approach is offered to every church member. We are grateful for all the comments made at the Congregation Council meeting and are confident that the new pastoral team will satisfy everyone's needs and concerns in the future.

Pudsey Carnival: 20 May: Queens Park

Our stall is booked and we've a few things to sell. There will be information about the church and the groups linked to it.

All we now need is help on the day! The stall will be open from 12:00 until 16:45.
Can you spare an hour or two to help us put Fulneck on the map?



Hundreds of people visit the carnival each year and it's a fantastic opportunity to reach out to people who wouldn't usually get to know about us.

There's a list in the Bell Room to sign up, please don't leave it empty!



The Big Coronation Lunch: Sunday 7 May

On Sunday 7 May we will be taking our Lovefeast outside and it will be the start of our Coronation Lunch. This will start about 14.00; prior to this will be our Holy Communion service in the Church at 13.00. (**NOTE:** the earlier start time for the service).

If you haven't yet replied to let us know you are coming please email fulneckchurchevents@gmail.com. We want to make sure we have a seat at the table for you. Bring lunch to share and your favourite tippie. There will be musical entertainment and quiz and time to meet with others to mark this special occasion.

We will be closing the road outside Church so we can make the most of the sunshine that we're hoping to have. If it's raining we will hold it in the Boys Brigade Hall. Rain will not stop play! Help is needed to set up and clear away so please indicate how you can help us either by email or on the sheet in the Bell Room.

It would be great to be able to decorate the area with bunting and flags on Friday 5 May from 14.00. If you have anything we can use then either come along then or leave it in church before then. Let's make this a celebration to remember.

Sr Allison



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

As May arrives we start to look more closely at the very beginning of the passage "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching'. It doesn't mean we forget about praying though! So much of what we find in the bible is the basis of our prayers. I have to confess that when I first got the details about this habit it didn't feel as easy to me as the prayer habit. A sleepless night later and ideas were beginning to form in my head, and I want to share them with you today.

The first obvious thing to suggest would be to set up some Bible study groups but I'm aware how little time so many of us have to commit to this, so unless anyone really wants to start one, I'll shelve that for now.

Going back to basics about what the Bible is. It's a book of books full of stories. I love a good story and everything I'm interested in can be found there. In many of the Bible reading schemes and even in church we only read parts of each book and so rarely find out what happened before and after the passage. Have you ever gone home and read up round the passage you heard read in church? I can recommend it and – another confession – have done it in church during a sermon when I had a Bible in the pew!

When we were holding the Bible Book Club we all learnt so much about biblical times and new understanding of familiar stories. We also had read the book in different translations, and it was interesting to see how slightly different wording could change the meaning of a passage. Maybe try that yourself. A friend of mine is now reading the Bible aloud and she's surprised at how much more she understands by doing this.

I hope I've given you some food for thought and you'll try some of them out. We'd love to hear of any things you already do with your Bible reading and Bible study that others could use.

Biblical teaching is only part of this habit as, like the disciples did, it's important to explore it and live it.

Can we get to that if we aren't already? I know I've a long way to go.

To finish with a prayer from the Holy Habits book.

Dear Father God

We ask that you will help us learn more about you through the Bible.

May you guide us through life with the knowledge and understanding from your teachings as we learn about you from Jesus' parables.

Please help us to grow close to you by focusing on your ways as Jesus taught.

Amen

Calendar

APRIL

Sunday 30 10.30 Morning service led by Br Martin Smith.
Morning coffee in the BB Hall after the service.

MAY

Thurs 4 09.45 Morning Prayers

Sunday 7 13.00 Holy Communion led by Br James Woolford. Coronation Lunch will follow.

Wed 10 19.15 Church Committee

Thurs 11 09.45 Morning Prayers

Sunday 14 09.00 Sisters' Breakfast at Café 54.

10.30 Sisters' Festival service led by Sr Janet Cooper.

Thurs 18 09.45 Morning Prayers

19.30 Ascension Day Service led by Br James Woolford

Sat 20 Pudsey Carnival

Sunday 21 10.30 Church Anniversary service led by Sr Kathryn Woolford.

Thurs 25 09.45 Morning Prayers

Sunday 28 10.30 Pentecost Sunday morning worship. Br James Woolford.
Coffee in the BB Hall following the service.

June

Thurs 1 09.45 Morning Prayers

Sunday 4 14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Br James Woolford.

Please submit material for the June edition to myself by **Friday 19 May**. Thanks, Mary