

Fulneck Moravian Church Magazine

September 2023



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Minister's Letter

As you all probably know by now, it's likely that by the time you're reading this I will have started my Sabbatical. I begin my sabbatical on Monday 4 September and will finish on 27 November so that I can be back in time for the Advent season. In our church a minister is encouraged to take a sabbatical every 10 years of his ministry and, as I've been reflecting in the last two newsletters, I've reached my 10-year milestone. The word sabbatical has at its root a religious undertone coming from the word Sabbath, which we all know is the Holy Day given to rest and spiritual nourishment. We all know that rest is a profoundly important thing for us all to do, but many forget that it is also a spiritual requirement from God as well.

A few weeks ago, I was a leader at our provincial Summer Camp where 14 young people gathered together with the theme of the week being Recharge (you can read more about this in The Messenger). One of the first things we did, after getting everyone settled, unpacked and fed, was a bible study led by Sr Claire Maxwell. Sr Claire used the practice known as Godly Play, that encourages questions and wondering from the children while using physical items and storytelling, and she based the session on the story of creation from Genesis 1. It was powerful to note that the God who created everything we see around us, the heavens and the earth, also rested and that this rest forms a vital part of the story. We were asked to reflect on whether there is any part of the creation story we could do without or would change. There were lots of suggestions, including one that suggested adding

humans to the mix was a mistake because of the damage we have collectively caused creation. The day of rest was also up for frequent discussion though and whilst we generally accepted that visually the world wouldn't look any different had the story ended on the 6th day, the very fact that the Lord made rest sacred by including it to our week, surely meant a lot and was something we should all look towards when we need reminding to rest.

But a Sabbatical is not just about rest. It is about refreshment and having the space to do things that we wouldn't otherwise have the time to prioritize. To this end there are two main branches for my Sabbatical that sit alongside the need to rest. Firstly, on 12 September I will be traveling to our church in Winston Salem North Carolina. There I will be learning about the church in the USA and the challenges they face and learning about the way that they approach church and faith. It's long been an ambition of mine to travel to the USA, and this will be my first visit. I will be staying in Old Salem and taking a couple of services whilst there. My time there will finish with an invitation to join their ministers' retreat that is being held in their camp Laurel Ridge which is nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. The theme will focus on clergy self-care with a special emphasis on soul-care. This seems like a perfect way to finish a trip and is something I am greatly looking forward to and, as I said to Br Lane Sapp whom I've been liaising with, it's just what the doctor, or rather the Great Physician, ordered.

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

The final branch of my sabbatical will see me look to publish a book which will house a collection of biblically based monologues which can be used by preachers in services but also for personal reflection or meditations. I began writing biblical monologues many years ago and plan on writing some more during this time but I suspect the first book will encompass mainly a collection that I've already written. I believe that they provide a visual way of unlocking some of the stories that we're so familiar with and asking different questions like; what did it feel like to be in the crowd when Zaccheus was forgiven? How did a centurion reach the conclusion that Jesus was a Son of God? And what did it feel like to have your evening of shepherding interrupted by a choir of angels? I'm sure you'll hear more about this book when it is published so watch this space.

I'm sure that throughout my time you will all never be far from my mind, but I'm also sure that you can appreciate the need for Holy Rest and spiritual nourishment. It is something that we all need to take seriously. I hope that you will be able to find a place and a way to take some spiritual rest and time to recharge in the Spirit.

May all of God's blessing rest upon you now and always.

James

During my time away, if you wish to contact a minister then Sr Claire Maxwell and Br Phil Cooper can be reached. You can contact Sr Claire on 07307 639813 and Br Phil on 01484 400635. If you need to speak to someone about something Fulneck related then contact Br Trevor Kernohan, our church secretary, on 0113 257 2209.

Pastoral Visiting Team

Following the February Council meeting, it was decided by church committee to form a pastoral visiting team that will act as a further link between our congregation and the church. This hasn't been a straightforward process and I know that some of you have expressed frustration that it's taken this long to get off the ground. I can assure you that it's not for the lack of trying but simply that in order to ensure that we set this group up properly, safely and officially, we had to follow the guidelines of the church and take our time setting up the policies and procedures needed once we had the volunteers in place.

I am pleased to inform you that we are now in a position to launch the new team. The members of this team are Sr Ruth Dacre, Br John Holmes, Sr Mary Holmes, Br Trevor Kernohan, Sr Chris Robbins, Br Jonathan Saynor, Sr Allison Turner, Sr Annette Woolford, Sr Myra Dickinson and Sr Chris Porter. Each of these volunteers has been given a list of names of people in the congregation for which they have pastoral responsibilities. I'm sure you will hear from them soon, if you haven't done so already. There will then be quarterly meetings with the group to discuss any issues and continue training in this role.

Ultimately, the overall pastoral responsibility for the church remains with myself and they will be keeping me informed of how things are with you all. I am grateful for these volunteers who will help enrich the life of the church with their giftings and enable all members to feel connected to their brothers and sisters in this church and I pray for God's blessings upon them in this ministry and upon all whom they meet in the service of their church and their God.

Br James Woolford

Holy Habits

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**

September is the time we start to really focus on eating together. Sr Gloria already talked about this last month in the newsletter, and we know we already eat together many times throughout the year. It's great that we are still doing this with church family when so many families no longer eat together at home. It has become the 'norm' to eat at different times, sat in separate rooms watching TV or playing games online. The precious time sharing meals together has gone and with it the opportunity to share stories and worries.

We regularly eat together as a church community when we break bread not only at our communion service but during the Lovefeast. These are times when we nourish our spiritual side. It is great when we can follow the teachings of Jesus and eat together in other ways and settings. We have an opportunity to do this on 10 September with a 'bring and share lunch', as the congregation from Baildon will be joining us for morning worship.

We regularly enjoy eating together at the craft group when we stop for tea and biscuits. It's usually a welcome break from the activities we've been involved in during the afternoon. It is surprising how relaxed conversation can be when you've a mug of warm tea in your hands!

Let's give thanks for the opportunity to eat together.

Our Father in Heaven, we give thanks for the pleasure of gathering together for this occasion. We give thanks for this food prepared by loving hands. We give thanks for life, the freedom to enjoy it all, and all other blessings. As we partake of this food, we pray for health and strength to carry on and try to live as You would have us. This we ask in the name of Christ, Our Heavenly Father. —Harry Jewell, *We Give Thanks*

And, very simply.

May all be fed. May all be healed. May all be loved.

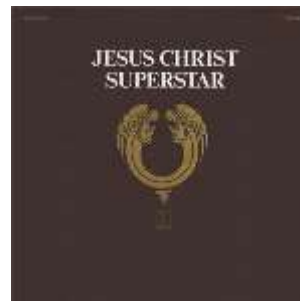
Fuse Festival Organ Recital

What a night! It was fantastic to be able to take part in the week in July where Pudsey came to life with so many different cultural events. Thanks to a grant we were given we were able to engage Dr Gordon Stewart who made our organ sing! I'm sure he had at least four hands and several feet during some of the pieces he played. We asked for donations for refreshments, and we made over £100 for church funds as well as having a recently tuned organ!

It was great to have people in the audience, not only from Pudsey, but from other parts of Leeds and Halifax. Many of them want us to stay in touch with news of future recitals. Fortunately, we have three more booked in for the autumn so check out dates and come along.

Jesus Christ Superstar

Jesus Christ Superstar is coming to the Alhambra Theatre Bradford, from Monday 27 November to Saturday 2 December.



I know we'll all be busy with the Christmas Tree Festival on 1 and 2 December, but would anyone like to go to the matinee on Wednesday 29 November at 2pm? Tickets are £30 for over 60's for the best available seats and we may get a further discount if 12 or more want to go.

Although it's a few months away tickets are selling quite fast so we'd need to make the booking in early October.

If you'd like to go then please sign up on the sheet in the Bellroom, and also indicate if you can give a lift and how many to, or if you'd like a lift there.

Sr Allison

Autumn Fair: Saturday 14 October

There will be an Autumn Fair in the Boys Brigade Hall on Saturday 14 October from 10.30am until 1pm.

Firstly a big thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to have a stall. It makes things so much easier! We're looking for more volunteers to help run some tombolas and games stalls and serve some simple refreshments.

By request, we're having a chocolate tombola so we're looking for chocolate items for this. We'll also be wanting some home-made cakes to sell both whole and cut on the day for refreshments.

Have you anything we could have for a raffle?

Last year there were no Autumn Fairs in Pudsey so let's make this one everyone will want to come to!

Sr Annette and Sr Allison



CRAFT GROUP

This will meet on Monday 4 and 18 September from 14.00 at Sr Vi's house.

HARVEST FESTIVAL: SUNDAY 24 September

Any donations of dried foods and tins will be very welcome. They will then be taken to St George's Crypt.



Events at Fulneck this year

We have several events already booked in for this year so get your diaries out and book them in!

September

Sunday 10. Bring and Share lunch. Baildon congregation will be joining us for the morning service, let us make them feel welcome.

Saturday 16. Heritage Open Day. 10.30am-4pm. This is a free event and for a small fee you can also visit the Classic Car Show that is being held in the smaller car park.

If you haven't already offered to volunteer to help please let Myra know if you can help on the day.

Thursday 21. The first of our autumn **organ recitals** starting at 11am. Peter Siney will be our organist. No need to book, just come along.

October

Thursday 5. The second of our autumn **organ recitals** starting at 11am. The organist will be Charles Edmondson. No need to book, just come along.

Saturday 14. Autumn Fair 10.30am-1pm. Lots of original stalls and games. We'd love you to help us make this a huge success with giving your time and talents. Please see the separate article for more information.

Thursday 26. The third autumn **organ recital** starting at 11am. This time Professor Graham Barber will be the organist. No need to book, just come along.

November

Tuesday 14—Saturday 18. At 7.30pm each evening Fulneck Drama Society will be presenting Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw.

December

Friday 1 at 7.30pm. We start our Christmas Tree Festival with a **Christmas themed Brass Band Concert** by the Clifton and Lightcliffe Brass Band. Tickets will be on sale soon either online or in church.

Brethren's Festival Breakfast: Sunday 8 October

We hope that all Brothers will join us for breakfast at Café 54 from 9.00 to share breakfast and the cup of covenant. There will be a list in the Bell Room in September for you to choose your breakfast; the cost remains at £10 as last year.

We then look forward to the service that will be led by Br Trevor Auty at 10.30.



Calendar

August

Thurs 31 Aug 09.45 Morning Prayers

September

Sunday 3 Sept 14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Br James Woolford

Mon 4 Sept 14.00 Craft Group at Sr Vi's house

Thurs 7 Sept 09.45 Morning Prayers

Sunday 10 Sept 10.30 Joint service with Baildon. Sr Kathryn Woolford
Followed by 'Bring and Share' lunch in BB Hall.

Thurs 14 Sept 09.45 Morning Prayers

Saturday 16 Sept 10.30-16.00 Heritage Day

Sunday 17 Sept 10.30 Heritage Day service. Br Michael Newman

Mon 18 Sept 14.00 Craft Group at Sr Vi's house

Thurs 21 Sept 09.45 Morning Prayers

11.00 Organ Recital

Sunday 24 Sept 10.30 Harvest Festival. Br Kenneth Evans
Refreshments in the BB Hall

Thurs 28 Sept 09.45 Morning Prayers

October

Sunday 1 Oct 14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Br Kenneth Evans

Thurs 5 Oct 09.45 Morning Prayers

Sunday 8 Oct 09.00 Brethren's Festival breakfast in Café 54

10.30 Brethren's Festival service. Br Trevor Auty

Please submit material for the next edition to myself by **21 September at the latest**—earlier will be much appreciated. Thanks, Mary

