

# Fulneck Moravian Church Magazine

February 2024



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## Minister's Letter

February is a month that is associated with two things, Love and Lent, and this year those two celebrations fall on the same day. The season of Lent this year begins on 14 February, which, of course, is Valentine's Day. Some of you may look at this and think nothing of it; however I often look at coincidences like this as a way of God prompting us. Rather than looking at this as simply a coincidence, perhaps we could see it as a Godincidence instead.

Lent is a time when Christians around the world decide to give up certain things until Easter Sunday. The most popular things to give up are alcohol, chocolates, sweets and social media. Giving up things for Lent is something that I've personally never found to be particularly helpful.

For some it helps to focus their minds on connecting with God through the sufferings of Jesus in Holy Week and throughout His forty days and forty nights in the wilderness post baptism. I remember one year giving up mints for Lent. They are a particular weakness of mine. If you asked my Mum, she would blame it on my grandma, who never went anywhere without a packet of Softmints in her handbag and I would often get a few from her whenever I saw her. Still to this day, they're one of my favourites, although I think mint imperials may now hold top spot, but I digress.

I found the process of giving up something I loved to be annoying and made me rather grumpy and instead of giving me a closer connection to God, it just meant that I would be thinking about mints instead.

For me, I like to see the season of Lent as a chance to **add** something, rather than take something **away**. Christian Aid has, over the last few years, run a "Count your blessings" campaign that runs through the season of Lent that encourages us to take stock of the many things that we have to be grateful for and to use that to calculate an amount to donate to their work. If they do the same this year I will make sure that the resources are available to you but at time of writing on their website it simply says "coming soon".

Perhaps then this is where we can use the wonderful symmetry of Valentine's and Lent to our, and God's advantage. Looking around us at the events unfolding globally and even locally there is no doubt that the world needs more love. Whilst it's true that Valentine's Day tends to focus purely on romantic love between people, love itself is much more far reaching and cannot be limited in anyway. As St Paul memorably wrote:

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. [1 corinthians 13:4-7]*

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

This Lent season I want to encourage you all to think about ways you can help to spread a little bit more love. Prayerfully ask the Lord of Love to show you ways to be more loving to those around you and to work to share the love of God with those in need, in whatever way you can.

There's a children's hymn that I remember from primary school assemblies called the Magic Penny and I'm going to finish with some words from it.

*Love is something if you give it away,  
Give it away, give it away.  
Love is something if you give it away,  
You end up having more.*

*It's just like a magic penny,  
Hold it tight and you won't have any.  
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many  
They'll roll all over the floor.*

May we all use this season to fill our lives and the lives of those around us with Love.

## Meet the Minister

From **Monday 5 February** the church will be open every Monday from **9am-11:30am** for you to have the opportunity to come and speak to Br James, who will be in the vestry or in church during those hours.

It is hoped that this will enable you all to have a time and place where you know you can have your thoughts, feelings and concerns heard in person with the minister present. In other words, it's an opportunity for a nice natter. It will take place every week at this time unless told otherwise.

*Please note it will not be open on Monday 26 February because of the Provincial ministers' retreat.*



## Called Home

Great sadness descended when we learned that on 22 November 2023 two valued members of Fulneck were called home.

Br Ron Davey served Fulneck and the wider Province in many roles during his long and dedicated service to the Church. Our warmest thoughts and prayers remain with Roz, Sam and Bex.



Sr Lynne Frisby, and her beloved husband Mervyn, were active members of the Church for many years. In addition, Lynne made a special contribution to the work of Fulneck Dramatic Society. Her family and friends remain in our prayers.



## **FRIDAY FUN: 9 February: 19.00 for 19.30**

How about a fun evening in the BB Hall? Come along for bingo and much more.

As well as bingo you will be treated to a cheese board supper. Prizes to tempt—exciting and special.

Tickets can be obtained from Sue Minshull. The tickets cost £12; this includes 3 strips of 6 tickets, the food and prizes. The aim is to raise money for the Church. If 30 tickets are sold then there will be about £200 raised for the Church. So plenty of good reasons to join the fun.



## **Memorial Day: 1 March**

The Founding of the Unity in 1457. On this Memorial Day we remember John Hus and those who founded our Church. Brother Gregory led a small group of believers in Kunvald. To this day there is an historic meeting house in Kunvald, now in the Czech Republic.

## **MWA**

Two dates for your diary:

- MWA Away Day Saturday 13 April, Hall Green.
- MWA Retreat Friday-Sunday 3-5 May, Northern Ireland.



## FULNECK SCHOOL MAGAZINE – THE COMENIUS

Thanks to Fulneck School, I currently have many school magazines covering the twentieth century. Obviously there are names I recognise, highlighting sporting achievements and poems written; your secrets are safe with me! However, anyone who wants to take a look please just let me know. Meanwhile, I thought a few extracts may amuse, so here goes.

In March 1946 they included an article titled 'A pot-purri of school memories, 1901-7.' Here is one short extract from that piece.

'Water-rats in the beck. Pheasants in Tong Wood, - and an irate gamekeeper at our heels one holiday afternoon. Going through the tunnel at Gib.. Barefoot collops below Dye House Lane squaring up and fighting each other just for the sport of the thing. A poacher and his lurcher in the Valley. Sunday afternoon with our books in the lush grass of Sisters' Wood. A hard winter and the sledging down Dye House Lane.'

What a different world, and yet recognisable in many ways. More may follow in future months. For now, can anyone explain 'barefoot collops' and the tunnel at Gib.? I look forward to hearing any explanations that you can offer.

Sr Mary Holmes

FULNECK SCHOOL MAGAZINE			
Vol. 54. No. 164.	MARCH, 1946	Annual Subscription 2s. 6d. Post Free.	
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<b>EDITORIAL</b>			
To many Old Boys returning to Fulneck after several years absence, the war years through which we have passed			

## Holy Habits: Fellowship

Here we are at the beginning of the passage. 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship.' What exactly is that all about? It's a word that we use all the time in church when we say the grace with the phrase 'and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.'

Here's a challenge for you. If someone came to church who'd never been before and asked you what that means, how would you explain it?

Looking at these Holy Habits has highlighted to me that we have a language we use in church that isn't always familiar to those who don't come, which can itself make people feel like outsiders. But how much of the language do we really understand or has saying it become a habit?

Another challenge for you! Now you've had time to think about what fellowship means, when have you experienced it either at church or in other settings?

The church building I grew up with, and had links to until a few years ago when my mum died, was built when I was seven. Before then we'd worshipped in a wooden hut which was multi-functional. You always sat next to someone as there was so little space and, because we didn't have a building to drain our time, we could focus on each other.

When the church was built there was a smaller room included that was called the fellowship room. This was used for midweek sessions and Sunday evening services. These services were very special for me, and looking back now, I realise that it was during these that I first experienced true fellowship with God and the others who worshipped there. They were far more intimate and relaxed than the more formal morning ones.

A final challenge for you. What extra things could we offer at Fulneck that would encourage people to experience fellowship? I accept that we may experience fellowship at different times and in different places but do we offer enough variety at the moment?

I haven't given a definition of fellowship but it's certainly deeper than chit-chat over a cuppa and biscuit! Why not look it up in a dictionary.

### A prayer of thanksgiving

Gracious God,

Thank you that you have called us to live in fellowship with you and others.

Thank you for the good things that we receive by being part of communities both within and outside the church.

Thank you for your infinite patience with us when we fall short in our response to the fellowship which you offer us.

Thank you.

Amen

**HOLY HABITS**  
**Missional discipleship as a way of life.**



# Calendar

## January

Thurs 25 Jan            09.45 Morning Prayers  
 Sunday 28 Jan        10.30 Morning Service led by Br James Woolford.  
                                  Holy Habits: Faith Lunch in the BB Hall will follow the service.

## February

Thurs 1                    09.45 Morning Prayers  
 Sunday 4                14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Br James Woolford.

Mon 5                    14.00 Craft Group at Sr Vi's home  
 Thurs 8                09.45 Morning Prayers  
 Fri 9                    19.00 Bingo fun. BB Hall.  
 Sunday 11              10.30 Morning Service. Br James Woolford.

Wed 14                  19.30 Ash Wednesday Service. Br James Woolford.  
 Thurs 15              09.45 Morning Prayers  
 Sat 17                    Yorkshire District Conference. Wellhouse  
 Sunday 18              10.30 Morning Service. Br Trevor Kernohan.

Mon 19                  14.00 Craft Group at Sr Vi's home  
                                  19.30 Congregation Council Meeting. BB Hall.  
 Tues 20                19.15 Church Committee  
 Wed 21                19.30 Lent Service. Br James Woolford  
 Thurs 22              09.45 Morning Prayers  
 Sunday 25              10.30 Morning Service. Br James Woolford.  
                                  Holy Habits Faith Lunch in BB Hall.  
 Sunday 25              15.00 District Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Wellhouse.

Wed 28                  19.30 Lent Service. Br Trevor Auty  
 Thurs 29              09.45 Morning Prayers

## March

Fri 1                      World Day of Prayer.  
 Sunday 3                14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Br James Woolford.

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

