

Fulneck Moravian Church Magazine

May 2024



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Minister's Letter

The month of May brings about a number of big celebrations that will take place across the country. But there is one that has particular significance within a church community. That's right, May 29th is World Biscuit Day. Where would the church be without the humble biscuit? Don't worry though, I'm not going to spend my time this month talking about biscuits, though I definitely could do, because May sees a celebration that is even more significant to the life of the church than that of a biscuit. Sunday 19th May is Pentecost which is often seen as the moment the church is born.

Pentecost is one of the precious few Christian celebrations that hasn't received adoption from the mainstream secular world. It is something that has remained exclusively Christian. There is no Pentecost Bunny bringing chocolate and no Pentecost decorations adorning houses throughout the world. There are no adverts on television reminding us to spend money nor are there films or television programmes reminding us to keep in the Pentecost Spirit. As such, this vital festival can often feel overlooked in the list of events and celebrations that we hold to and yet, it is a huge moment for the church and indeed the whole world.

Picture the scene. A busy multicultural city with people gathered from all around the world to trade from each other and especially at this time of year they gathered to celebrate. Pentecost was already a celebration long before the event depicted in the book of Acts. The Jewish Festival

of Pentecost (called Shavuot, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. The disciples too had once again gathered into one room and whilst it's not explicitly mentioned, it's a reasonable assumption to make that this was the same room where they had gathered before, behind a locked door, and seen the resurrected Jesus. This time something equally miraculous happens,

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:2-4

Such a dramatic moment filled with powerful visual imagery as the Holy Spirit, which was promised by Jesus, came to the Disciples. I know that for some it is hard to grasp this moment as it seems so far from our understanding and outside the secular world's grasp of what is possible and what is impossible. But we are a people of faith who believe in the incredible and nothing is more incredible than the knowledge that the God who made the heavens and the earth loves each one of us enough that He gave His Son Jesus Christ to die upon a cross for our sakes. If we believe that then surely believing in Pentecost is but a small leap.

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

What happens next shows what we can all achieve if we're willing to take a leap. People had begun to notice that something dramatic and incredible was happening as they could hear that these Galileans were speaking in their own language. To this crowd Peter steps forward. The same Peter who a few weeks before, denied even knowing Jesus, took the reins and stepped forward. Though he would have normally been filled with fear and trepidation, the knowledge of the presence of God through the Holy Spirit enabled him to step forward and speak such words, with such insight, that by the end of that day 3000 people were baptized and the church began to fulfil its mission.

It is a powerful dramatic story and one that comes with a challenge for us all today. Take the leap of faith. We're all people who can receive the Holy Spirit that gives us the courage to speak out and to act for the kingdom of God. I know it's scary sometimes, but if we go with God and for God, nothing can stop us. This is the Pentecost story, now get out and live it.

HOLY HABITS

Missional discipleship as a way of life.

Breaking Bread

On the second Sunday after Easter, we held our faith Lunch to continue our Holy Habit theme of Breaking Bread. Breaking of Bread, Holy Communion or the Last Supper is a tradition based on the Passover meal that Jesus ate with his disciples the night before his death. The Gospels tell us that Jesus blessed the bread and broke it telling his disciples "take and eat this is my body." He further told them to do this in remembrance of him. They must have been alarmed when Jesus said "this is my body" since such words were not traditionally spoken during a Passover meal, but none of them asked what it meant. This appeared to be an order and not a request to his disciples and us.

I believe this is why the Christian faith has observed it and we understand it as becoming one body in Christ. However it appears that breaking of bread stems from the Jewish Feast and it is an early ritual which the Jews observed. In the Messianic Feast the Jews saw breaking of the bread as a natural progression from natural to spiritual. They used unleavened bread (no yeast) and used their hands to break the bread. The use of knives was prohibited on the Sabbath. Apart from that the bread of ancient times was hard. It was then shared amongst family and friends.

Bread had a spiritual significance amongst the Children of Israel. When Moses fed the children of Israel in the Wilderness with bread that fell from heaven it was a gift from God which was to be shared. Breaking and sharing was a sign of Unity and Fellowship, and it was an integral part of any of their gatherings.

In New Testament times, we read in Acts 20: 7 The people met on the first day of the week to break bread and eat together.

Here at Fulneck, as a Moravian tradition the Lovefeast, which is held on the first Sunday of the month, is a form of breaking of bread when we all share a small loaf and we are invited to eat together. At the faith lunch we shared breaking of homemade unleavened bread and discussed family traditions that we have kept in the family.

A tray with 12 items was then placed on the table all connected with the last supper and the group was asked to identify an item which was special to them and why? A lively discussion ensued followed by a hearty lunch.

Meeting together for faith lunches gives us an opportunity to eat, pray and share fellowship one with another all connected to the Holy Habits.

Prayer

Lord God, we offer you our brothers and sisters who desire to Break Bread together and who are united in and by your love. We pray that you will always be present with us throughout our daily activities and that as we seek to be your witness we continue to show your love in all we do. Amen.

Church Anniversary Street Party: Sunday 19 May

Only a few weeks to go until this wonderful event. We'll be setting some things out in the Boys Brigade on Friday evening (18.00-19.00) and then immediately after the service on the Sunday. Anyone not attending church but coming to the Street Party is very welcome to start closing the street and setting up the tables and chairs.

If the weather is not kind to us, we'll be having an indoor party in the Boys Brigade. We'll celebrate regardless!

Please bring some food and your favourite drink and we'll have a table of delights again.

Please let Sr Allison know if you're coming and how you can help. You can do this in person or emailing fulneckchurchevents@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Sr Allison

A photograph from our Street Party last year. Let's hope the sun shines on us once more.



Pudsey Carnival: Saturday 18 May: 12.00-16.00

This is a fantastic opportunity for Fulneck to reach out to so many people in Pudsey who often know nothing about us. This year we're having another stall with our very popular chocolate tombola. With your help we can put Fulneck on the map and maybe more people will join us.

Please put a chocolate contribution in the box in the bell room by Sunday 12 May if possible. Any help you can give ticketing it all up and also helping on the day will be gratefully received. There's a sheet in the bell room for you to sign up to help for an hour on the Saturday. I'll be there from 09.00 setting everything up and holding the stall until the carnival officially opens at noon so it would be good to have some others to cover the afternoon.

Thanks
Sr Allison



MWA

Tuesday 14 May you are warmly invited to a meeting to discuss restarting the MWA Circle at Fulneck and to consider how you can support the many valuable projects supported each year by the MWA.

The meeting will be at **36 Fulneck, starting at 14.00.**

The invitation is extended from Sr Myra Dickinson and Sr Sue Minshull.



Craft group

The Craft Group will meet at the home of Sr Molly Johnson on Monday 13 and 27 May: 14.00—16.00.

If you need a lift there will be a car going from Fulneck.

Sr Allison.



Sisters' festival: Sunday 12 May

Dear sisters,

I invite you all to join together for sisters' breakfast on Sunday 12 May at 8.45am. This year we will be sharing breakfast in the BB hall as we have done many times in the past. The list of choice of breakfast will be in the Bell Room for you to sign up for your preference. There will be a charge of £6.00.

The sisters' breakfast is an occasion when all sisters, young and old, are able to affirm their Moravian fellowship. The tradition was first instigated by Count Zinzendorf, to bond together the sisters in Herrnhut and strengthen their resolve to serve God to the best of their ability.

We remember the original sisters' breakfast as we share the cup of covenant following breakfast. We then continue to celebrate this event at the morning church service which will be taken by sister Claire Maxwell.

Sister Myra Dickinson



OPENING OF THE FULNECK MUSEUM



The Fulneck Moravian Museum was honoured on Wednesday 3 April, to be reopened by The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr Al Garthwaite and the Mayor's consort Alderwoman Angela Gabriel. They enjoyed their tour of the Museum and exploring our fantastic Moravian heritage, alongside our Trustees who wore their traditional Moravian attire for the occasion.

Highlights of the items currently on display include the Fulneck Dramatic Society Centenary exhibition, Fulneck Street with the Fire Engine, and the Kitchen and Victorian Parlour.

The Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr Al Garthwaite commented on their visit:

"It's a privilege and an honour to be here, I'm really enjoying it. It's so interesting. I've been hearing all about the foundations of the Moravian settlement...and also about how Moravian churches were built up around the whole world. And that's really good...Seeing the loom was really interesting and of course, the Moravian people would have been busily occupied doing all their trades, including weaving. And then, of course, the room with all the information about the Fulneck Dramatic Society, which has been going for a hundred years, which I think is wonderful. I look forward to coming and seeing one of their productions before too long, and another time I'll come and see the church and go on the tour."

Alderswoman Angela Gabriel added: "We were here last year for the Vintage (Fulneck Classic) Car show, we had a cup of tea and a chat about the museum but didn't have time to see it...so we said we'd like to come again. We've really enjoyed it and found it interesting.

I'm very appreciative of the flowers because usually the Lady Mayoress doesn't receive any. The history and the effort all the volunteers have put in is fabulous. I volunteer locally, one of the things about doing this job, I've realised that Leeds would come to a grinding halt without the volunteer contributions, thank you."

With thanks to everyone who attended, volunteered on the day and also helped with the refreshments at the Boys' Brigade.

The Museum will be open twice weekly to visitors on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2pm until 4pm, until Heritage Day on 14 September, and entry is free though we do appreciate any donations to help with running costs.

Guided Fulneck settlement tours are now available from the Museum every Wednesday and Saturday at 2:30 pm exactly. We are offering a Spring discount until 4th May of just £2 a person (after May 4th, the price goes back to its suggested price of £5 per person). To book a tour please phone Maureen Ingham on 07380 718391 to arrange a tour on the open day of your choice, and we will be happy to guide you around the fantastic Moravian settlement of Fulneck and explore its amazing history.

Damon Sugden
Museum
Trustee



Church Flowers

In future, anyone who donates flowers for the Church will be invited to share the memory, if they wish.

Should you wish to donate flowers or money for Church flowers then please sign up in the Bell Room.

The flowers we will enjoy in May are gifted by:

12 May: Chris Robbins in memory of her granny;

19 May: Trevor Auty to remember Elaine's birthday.



GENERAL NOTICES

Baildon Beer Festival

Once more you are welcome to the Baildon Beer Festival at Baildon Moravian Church.

Friday 3 May 14.00-23.00: Saturday 4 May 12.00-22.00.

Entry £2.00

There will be 18 real ales and 2 ciders, plus wine, soft drinks and snacks.

Please note: payment is by cash only.



SCARECROW FESTIVAL: 15—16 June. Lower Wyke Church.

A date for your diary—more details will follow on Facebook.



Calendar

April

Sunday 28 10.30 Family Service. Br James Woolford.
 Refreshments after the service in BB.
 Mon 29 19.15 Church committee.

May

Thurs 2 09.45 Morning Prayers.

 Sunday 5 14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Br James Woolford.
 Mon 6 6-12 May: Christian Aid Week.
 Wed 8 19.15 Church Committee.
 Thurs 9 09.45 Morning Prayers.
 19.30 Ascension Day Service. Br James Woolford.

 Sunday 12 08.45 Sisters' Festival Breakfast. BB.
 10.30 Sisters' Festival Service. Sr Claire Maxwell.
 Mon 13 14.00 Craft Group at home of Sr Molly Johnson.
 Thurs 16 09.45 Morning Prayers.
 Sat 18 12.00 to 16.00 Pudsey Carnival.
 18.00-19.00 BB Hall—set up for Street Party.

 Sunday 19 10.30 Church Anniversary and Pentecost. Sr Diane Thornton.
 Street Party immediately after the service.
 Thurs 23 09.45 Morning Prayers.

 Sunday 26 10.30 Trinity Sunday family service. Br James Woolford.
 Refreshments in BB Hall.
 Mon 27 14.00 Craft Group at home of Sr Molly Johnson
 Thurs 30 09.45 Morning Prayers.

June

Sunday 2 14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Br James Woolford.

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