

Fulneck Moravian Church Magazine

June 2024



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Normally in June I'd be writing about the sunshine and the birth of summer. But as I sit here now writing this, the rain is pouring and it's looking thoroughly miserable. It does make it a little more difficult when I'm going to try and write something very positive but as Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." Today, I aim to give you a sense of hope.

Hope is something that is sometimes hard to find when we look towards the future, especially when times are hard. I know that there are many Sundays when we look around our congregation and wonder what the future holds. As a church both locally and provincially, we've been doing a lot of thinking about the future. Initiatives like Holy Habits and Project 32 have all been designed to get us looking towards the future and asking some far reaching questions. I can assure you that those same questions have been asked and are being asked by your ministers and PEC at almost every opportunity.

To that end, ministers from across the province gathered on 16 May in Ockbrook to look at a vision for the church. At the end of that meeting, we were left feeling hopeful for the future and encouraged by the possibilities. It'll take more time and space than I have here to give a full report on everything that was said and done, but today I hope that by reflecting on some of the discussions I can leave you with a least a portion of the hope that we now share. I'll give an advanced warning though, this is still in the early stages of development and for those who concern themselves with the how's and when's, I'm not going to be able to give you much of that.

The session was led by a facilitator from a company called Caplor Horizons, who are a charity that works with other charities and responsible businesses to look at strategies for the future. In essence, they help to facilitate discussions and guide people to think about the future differently. The morning session was framed around a journey, and we started by looking at the treasures of our church. Those things that we do well and consider a vital part of our identity.

The things that made our list won't surprise you I'm sure. History, tradition, fellowship, music, a welcoming nature, resiliency and perhaps more interestingly, bravery and rebelliousness made the list. Those last two are, in my opinion, crucial to keep hold of and arguably regain.

Then, we looked at the crocodiles. The dangers the church faces on the journey. Things like the declining numbers of members, a lack of discipleship, hesitancy in sharing and talking about our faith and a general apathy in our members that we speculated could be caused in part by a sense of depression and hopelessness.

We then spent some time looking inwardly at ourselves and played some games based on affirming each other's abilities and then looking at our preferred ways of working by doing an exercise that helped us to work out whether we were people who preferred to be in the kitchen (doing to the work), in the library (working out the details of things), in the family room (people whose focus is on how others are feeling) or the observatory (for people who think of the big ideas and look to the stars).

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

One thing that was interesting was that we were spilt fairly evenly when it came to our preferences, and we then discussed how these styles can affect the church and how we work individually and as a team.

Following a break for lunch we then got to work on the main task of the day. The PEC have been working with Caplor Horizons on a strategy document and had already had two sessions before this one. We then broke into groups and looked through the document and made suggestions and edits to make it come together and reflect the hopes and goals of all of us. This document will then go to Synod where it will hopefully be adopted as the strategy and goals going forward. I'm not going to go into details about what the document entails, the time will come for that post synod, but it was a really positive step including all of us in the thinking and planning going forward. We all were able to dream big dreams and came out feeling a profound sense of hope that was perhaps lacking beforehand.

Looking back, it's hard to explain why there was such a profound feeling of hope following it. I realise that for some of you reading this, it will seem like yet another talking shop without any clear sight of action. But as much as it is vital that work begins in earnest to turn this ship around, it is more important that we're doing it in the right way and making the right moves and that takes careful and prayerful planning.

I think one of the most profoundly important things was how close we all felt to each other during the meeting and how determined we are to work together towards the future of this wonderful church, so rich in treasures and potential. I'm sure that the journey we're all on will have many more crocodiles on it, but hope is about acknowledging those challenges, and finding a way through anyway. As we move forward I'll leave you with this final quote from Nelson Mandela "May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears."

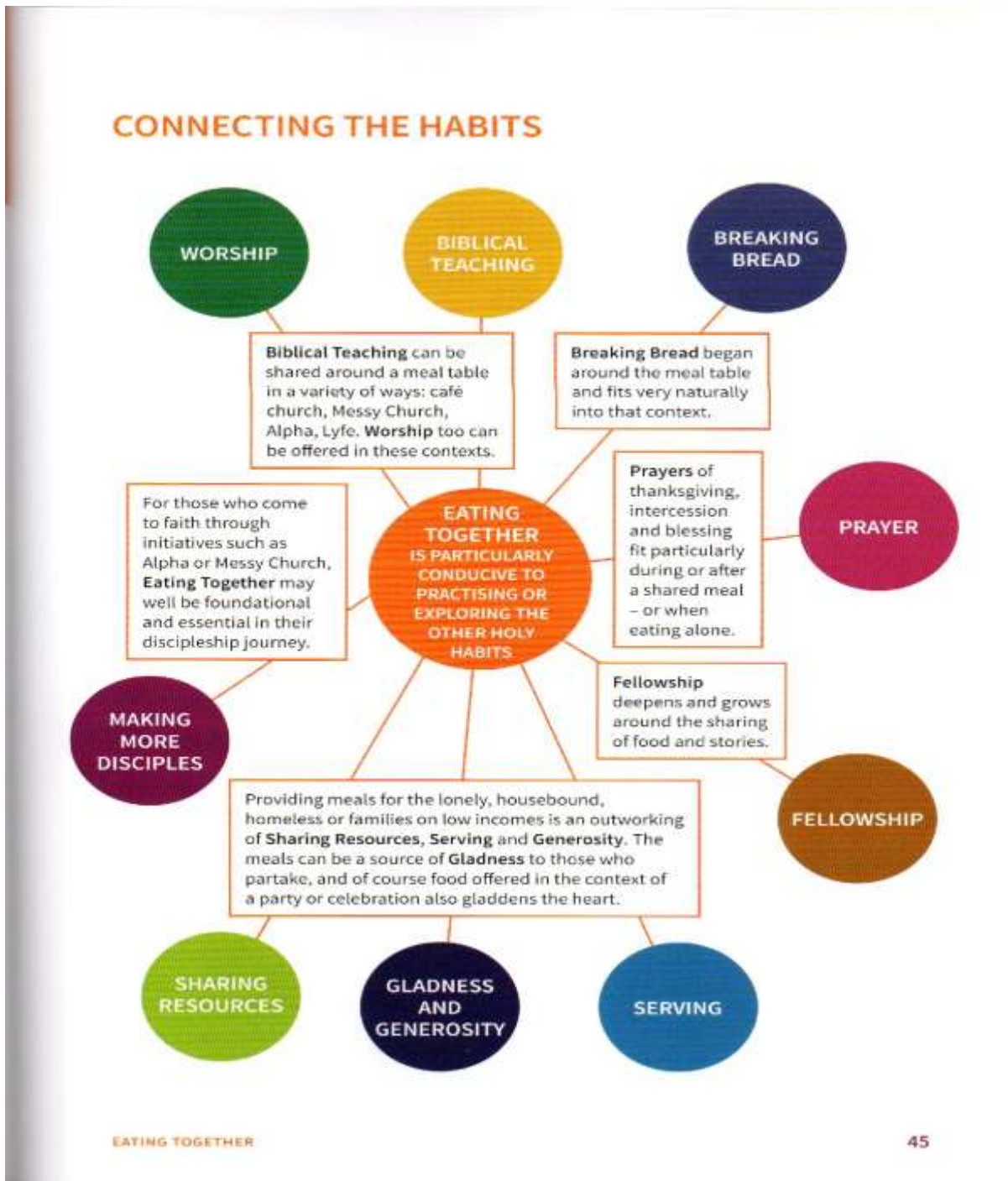
Holy Habits

I'm writing this at the end of a very busy, yet worthwhile weekend. Saturday was spent at Pudsey Carnival where a few of us were on the chocolate tombola stall. We gave out our church information leaflets and reached out to people we wouldn't usually come into contact with. Several said they walked through Fulneck but had no idea of what it was all about. It is great to take Fulneck out of the settlement like this and we raised over £116!

What's this got to do with Holy Habits? If you think back to the ones we've already looked at it will include Gladness and Generosity and Fellowship. Looking at what we've yet to look at we were definitely sharing resources. Each of us who were involved shared out talents and we were able to give a very positive view of Fulneck between us. Then we've Serving. What we did was to serve the church so yes that one was covered. Last, we may have been Making more disciples – only time will tell with that one. I personally prayed a lot that we'd be successful, have enough chocolate and people to help out. My prayers were answered!

On Sunday 19 we then celebrated not only Pentecost but our Church Anniversary. We did this in style with our Street Party. What a brilliant time we had. The sun shone, the food was magnificent, and the fellowship was amazing. It was so good to have the whole settlement invited to share this special occasion and have many of them join us.

This is only my interpretation of how the Holy Habits can link together but there are other ways. Below is one from the Holy Habits Eating Together book. I thought this one was very appropriate after we'd been eating together today.



Holy Habits continued

Prayer

Most loving God,

You are the source of all life,

The Sustainer and Renewer of each one of us.

We offer our thanks to you for the provision of food to nourish our bodies,

And for how the opportunity to eat together nourishes our souls.

Throughout the history of your people,

Table fellowship has challenged prejudices,

Broken down barriers,

And created communities.

At the heart of Jesus' ministry was the sharing of food

As a taste of your New World.

In the name of Jesus, let us eat together,

Share our common resources,

And struggle for a just distribution of all the good gifts around us.

Amen



Church Flowers

This month the flowers are donated by:

9 June – Maureen Ingham in memory of David

16 June – a gift from Sr Leonora

Sisters' Festival

Thanks to everyone who helped with the breakfast; I am sure it was appreciated by all. Once costs were covered, the remaining money was donated to the charity for deprived children that David Robbins cycled to raise money for, some went to the chocolate tombola and some to Soul Sisters.

Thanks to all who attended and to Sr Claire Maxwell for an inspiring service.

HERITAGE DAY—PHOTO CALL

This year the theme is 'Here, there and everywhere'. The date is **SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER**.

I am tracing the journey from Moravia to Herrnhut. I know a number of you have visited Fulnec and Suchdol in the Czech Republic and Herrnhut. If you could lend me some photographs I would be most grateful. These may either be copies or in a digital form (please email to me: mary@woodhall28.co.uk).

Thank you. Sr Mary Holmes.

BINGO NIGHT

Don't miss out—Friday 21 June. BB Hall

Following the previous bingo event that was so successful, Alan and myself are hosting another fundraising evening.

Please come along to support this evening of fun, fellowship & fundraising.

Sr Sue Minshull



DISTRICT MWA MEETING

On Wednesday 5 June, 14.00, at Gomersal Church there will be a District MWA meeting. This will include Wendy Hopcroft presenting her District report.

All will be welcome.



ORGAN RECITAL: Tuesday 2 July: 19.00

Another opportunity to hear Lee Ward play our beautiful Church organ. All are welcome.



PROVINCIAL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP RALLY: 22 June: Ockbrook

For details please contact Br Kenneth Evans.



Pudsey Carnival:

the sun shone and the chocolate tombola was popular. A huge thank you to all who donated and helped with this successful event.

WhatsApp groups

The following message has been received from Action Fraud about WhatsApp scams.

Dear Subscriber, *this applies to any groups you are a member of*

WhatsApp group chat members are being warned they could be targeted by criminals, as Action Fraud reveals it has received 636 reports from victims of the messaging app this year.

The fraud often begins when a member of the group receives a WhatsApp audio call from the fraudster, pretending or claiming to be another member of the group. This is done to gain the individual's trust, and often the scammer will use a false profile picture and/or display name, so at first glance it would appear to be a genuine member of the group.

The fraudster will tell the victim they are sending them a one-time passcode which will allow them to join an upcoming video call for group members. The criminal then asks the victim to share this passcode with them so they can be "registered" for the video call.

In reality, the criminal is asking for a registration code to register the victim's WhatsApp account to a new device so they can take over their account.

Once the fraudster has access to the victim's WhatsApp account, they will enable two-step verification which makes it impossible for the victim to regain access their account. Other members of the group, or friends and family in the victim's contacts, will then be messaged asking them to transfer money urgently as they are in desperate need of help.

How to secure your WhatsApp account:

Set up two-step verification (2SV) to give an extra layer of protection to your account. Tap Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable.**CALL.** If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person outside of WhatsApp to confirm their identity.**Report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp.** Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.

If you live in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, victims of fraud and cybercrime should report to Police Scotland on 101.

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>

Please act on this if you are on a Church WhatsApp group: I did and it is easy to do —just make sure you choose a pin number you will remember. Mary

CHURCH MAGAZINE ... coming late

Please note that the next magazine will come out later than normal. The July/August edition will be available from the first week in July.

Please ensure that you email to me any information for this edition by **Friday 28 June** at the latest; as always, earlier is good.

My email is mary@woodhall28.co.uk.

Calendar

June

Sunday 2 14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Br James Woolford.
Thurs 6 09.45 Morning Prayers.

Sunday 9 10.30 Morning Service. Br James Woolford.
Wed 12 19.15 Church Committee.
Thurs 13 09.45 Morning Prayers.

Sunday 16 10.30 Father's Day Morning Service. Br Trevor Kernohan.
Thurs 20 09.45 Morning Prayers.

Sunday 23 10.30 Morning Worship. Sr Ruth France.
18.00 Summer Reflections Service. Br James Woolford.
Thurs 27 09.45 Morning Prayers.

Sunday 30 10.30 All age worship. Br James Woolford.

July

Tues 2 19.00 Organ recital. Lee Ward.
Thurs 4 09.45 Morning Prayers.
Sunday 7 14.30 Lovefeast and Holy Communion.

Wed 10 19.15 Church Committee.
Thurs 11 09.45 Morning Prayers.