

Fulneck Moravian Church Magazine

July/ August 2024



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Minister's Letter

We're in the midst of a true summer of sport. I know that for some people the mere mention of the word sport will be enough to make eyes roll and for them a summer of sport simply means having something they've no interest in forced upon them for months on end. However, if you are one of those people, please bear with me because in the world of sport you can find the full range of the human experience. Joy, despair, hope, love, kindness and stories of inspiration and overcoming the odds.

As I write this the football European championships are still happening, and England haven't been eliminated yet. The cricket T20 world cup is reaching its final stages and tennis players are beginning their final preparations for Wimbledon.

I am someone who enjoys watching sport and so this is a good time for me. The event that I'm looking forward to the most is the Paris Olympic games that begin on the 26 July with an opening ceremony that is bound to be a spectacle of light, sound and music. The last Olympic games were held in Beijing just two years ago but it feels a lot longer than that. The time difference, and the covid restrictions that were still in place meant that it felt very distant.

This year we'll be able to watch whatever we want at a more reasonable hour and with the advances in modern technology you can watch pretty much any sport that you choose. I'm looking forward to introducing my children to some different things this summer. I enjoy watching the athletics and more well-known sports, but I also enjoy watching

things like the Diving, BMX, Cycling, Gymnastics, Rowing, Volleyball, Boxing, Taekwondo, Judo and even Handball. For the vast majority of these sports this is the only time they'll ever be featured on television and so once every four years is when they get to shine.

Every year there are several stories that come out of the event. One of my favourite stories was about Eric the Eel. Twelve months before Sydney's 2000 Olympic Games Eric Moussambani had never set foot outside of his home country, the tiny nation of Equatorial Guinea where most citizens get by on less than one dollar a day.

Having secured his entry into the Games with the help of a wild card, Moussambani set about teaching himself to swim. The only pool available belonged to a local hotel, and they allowed him to use it between 5 and 6am, just three times a week. Before Sydney he had never set eyes on an Olympic pool, let alone swum in one.

Moussambani had no coach, no lanes, and no way of tracking his efforts. His training was further hampered by a communication breakdown that led him to believe he had been entered into the 50m race, not the 100m endurance test he would actually be competing in. When the day came, events only got stranger. Of the three swimmers in the qualifying heat, Moussambani was the only competitor not to be disqualified for starting early. He now had to swim alone, against the clock, before 17,000 spectators to be in with a chance of qualifying for the final.

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

The underdog captured the hearts of the Australian audience, and although he flagged in the second half of the race, with commentator Adrian Moorhouse remarking that “this guy doesn’t look like he’s going to make it”, he completed the heat with a time of 1 minute and 53 seconds.

It was the slowest time in Olympic history, but a personal best.

International media dubbed him ‘Eric the eel’ and he was hailed as the embodiment of the Olympic ideal that it’s not the winning, but the taking part that counts.

When he was interviewed, still dripping from his exhausting feat, Moussambani remarked:

“The first 50 metres were OK, but in the second 50 metres I got a bit worried and thought I wasn’t going to make it. Then something happened. I think it was all the people getting behind me. I was really, really proud. It’s still a great feeling for me and I loved when everyone applauded me at the end. I felt like I had won a medal or something.”

We can all take courage from this story of determination and heart. He never gave up but it was the encouragement he received from the crowd that helped him to complete this most impossible of feats. Someone else who knew all about the importance of not giving up and working hard was St Paul. He walked hundreds of miles, overcame imprisonment and persecution, and reached and converted thousands of people to Jesus, and joined the same people who he had previously spent his life to persecuting and overseeing their executions. In his first letter to the Corinthians Paul writes:

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.” 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Over these summer months, I pray that you will find the strength and the hope to keep working for God and that whatever challenges you face you will use the spirit of an Olympian and the faith of St Paul to win your own personal race.

MEMORIAL DAYS

6 July: the martyrdom of Jan Hus at Constance in 1415.

13 August: the manifestation of the Spirit in 1727.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Warm wishes from the whole congregation to Br John McOwat who celebrates his 90th birthday on 6 July.

Thanks to Beth & John for the invitation to celebrate this significant milestone with them in the BB Hall after the service on Sunday 7 July.



Holy Habits: Worship

“They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **praising God** and enjoying the favour of all people.”

There is absolutely nothing in this quote that tells us how to praise God, how to worship, yet each church seems to have developed its own ‘traditions’ that play an important part in how worship takes place by each congregation when it comes together.

It is so easy for these to become more important than the act of worship itself. I have to confess that sometimes during a Lovefeast, I am so worried about when to stand or stay sat down that it overshadows the whole service. Why does this matter so much?

The Oxford dictionary defines worship as ‘The offering of devotion, praise and adoration to that which is deemed worthy of such offering, usually God.’ This takes it well outside of the Sunday morning service and into everyday life.

In Matthew 26: 6-13 we find the story of the woman who poured an expensive jar of perfume over Jesus’ head. This seemed very extravagant, but she did this to demonstrate how important he was to her. Jesus was more precious to her than the perfume. It was her way of worshipping him.

Psalm 117 is a very short, simple psalm, that says so much.

Praise the Lord, all you nations.

Praise him, all you people of the earth.

For he loves us with unfailing love;

The faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord!

So we have ‘permission’ to worship the Lord in any way that seems fitting. There is no right or wrong way to do it. Can we make sure that worship is not just an activity but a way of life? How can we glorify God in the many things we do each day? In the times you meet with others, in the time at home, during your time at work or leisure. Take time to stop and notice the glory of God around you in nature, in the greeting from a stranger you pass in the street, the healing skills of doctors and nurses: in fact look for it in everything.

At the beginning you might have got the impression that I’m against tradition that brings regular patterns of worship, but I’m not. It has a place, but it shouldn’t be the only way we worship. By moving outside the comfort of tradition we can help keep worshipping life fresh.

Dear God,

Thank you that there are so many different ways to worship you.

However we are feeling, whatever we are doing,

Help us never to forget to worship you and thank you for your love.

Amen

Sr Allison

Church flowers: July and August

7 July. John McOwat - a very happy 90th birthday.

14 July. Chris Robbins - in memory of her mum and Ann Palethorpe.

21 July. Ros Davey - in memory of their son Michael's birthday.

4 August. Myra Dickinson - to remember her marriage to David in 1967.

25 August. Chris Robbins - in memory of her dad.



The Communion Table at last year's Heritage Day exhibition

HERITAGE DAY: SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Another fascinating topic for the Heritage Day exhibition. As always, there will also be settlement tours and the vintage car rally returns once more. Refreshments will be available throughout the day in the BB Hall.

All are welcome.

LOWTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL SETTLEMENT VISIT

As part of local history week, Year 6 from Lowtown Primary School walked to Fulneck to learn about the settlement. Their comments included:

"It was an amazing tour and a reminder of how lucky we are to have somewhere so special on our doorstep. We would like to thank the volunteers at Fulneck for sharing their time and knowledge with us. It was a really enriching experience."

On the day some lovely photographs were taken and we plan to share these with you at a later date.



100 years of drama at Fulneck

When local resident Tom Booth combined his twin roles as a member of Fulneck Dramatic Society and a member of Fulneck Museum Committee he made a startling discovery.

Searching through the archives of the drama society he discovered the very first production of the newly formed church group Fulneck Operatic and Dramatic Society was *The King of Sherwood* in 1924 - making the group 100 years old this year.

To celebrate this Centenary Year he persuaded the Museum Committee to host an exhibition depicting the rich and varied history of the society, from its mainly operatic beginnings to the award-winning society it is today.

Members were asked to dig into attics and scour photo- albums for material and memories. The resulting exhibition, with invaluable graphics from society member Dominic Adams and support from Elaine Keighley, is a snapshot of the society spanning 100 years in its home at the original Fulneck Boys' Sunday School, celebrating its achievements and highlighting the characters whose contributions have helped shape its future.

The museum is continually refreshing and changing its exhibits, so if you have not visited this year, it is well worth a visit.

Craft and Chatter

Sr Molly Johnson is the host for the next four meetings of Craft and Chatter.

You will be very welcome, whether you wish to be crafty or just chat.

Monday July 8 and 22.

Monday August 5 and 19.

If you want any further details please ask Sr Allison.



SUMMER WELLNESS WALKS

Every Wednesday, meeting outside the BB Hall at 19.00 throughout July and August.

The first walk is on Wednesday 3 July (19.00).

The walks are around Fulneck and Pudsey and usually last about 1 hour 30.

Everyone welcome, including dogs.



FULNECK PRAYER WATCH: 5 JULY

Prayer Watch started in August 1727. Fulneck Church has been asked to cover a 17 hour period on Friday 5 July. On Sunday there were still a number of spaces blank, especially during the afternoon and evening. It would be good if these could be filled. Notes for the British Province are available in the Bell Room.

The form to sign up and the notes will be available in the Bell Room during the Organ Recital on Tuesday.

LOWER WYKE MORAVIAN CHURCH

STRAWBERRY FAIR: SATURDAY 6 JULY

From 14.00 onwards you are welcome to visit Lower Wyke.

There will be a cake stall, games and buffet teas.



Please email material for the next edition to myself by **22 August**; before whenever possible.

It is much appreciated if text is sent as a Word document or within an email; photographs should be attached to the email as a jpeg.

Thanks, Mary mary@woodhall28.co.uk

Calendar

July

- Tues 2 19.00 Organ recital by Lee Ward.
Thurs 4 09.45 Morning Prayers
Fri 5 Unity Prayer Watch—Fulneck
- Sunday 7 14.30 Lovefeast & Holy Communion. Br James Woolford.
 Birthday party for Br John McOwat. BB Hall.
Mon 8 Craft and chatter. Sr Molly Johnson's home.
Wed 10 19.15 Church Committee.
Thurs 11 09.45 Morning Prayers.
- Sunday 14 10.30 Morning Service: a special outdoor service. Br James Woolford.
 Holy Habits faith lunch after the service.
 18.00 Summer Reflections evening service. Br James Woolford.
Wed 17 10.30 Renovation Committee
Thurs 18 09.45 Morning Prayers.
Thurs 18—Monday 22 Synod at Swanwick.
- Sunday 21 10.30 Morning Service. Sr Gloria Hanley.
Mon 22 Craft and chatter. Sr Molly Johnson's home.
Thurs 25 09.45 Morning Prayers.
- Sunday 28 10.30 Morning Service. Br James Woolford.
 Refreshments in BB Hall.

August

- Thurs 1 09.45 Morning Prayers.
- Sunday 4 14.30 Lovefeast & Holy Communion. Br James Woolford.
Mon 5 Craft and chatter. Sr Molly Johnson's home.
Wed 7 19.15 Church Committee.
Thurs 8 09.45 Morning Prayers.
- Sunday 11 10.30 Morning Service. Br James Woolford.
 18.00 Summer Reflections evening service. Br James Woolford.
Thurs 15 09.45 Morning Prayers.
- Sunday 18 10.30 Morning Service. Sr Cathy Gledhill.
Mon 22 Craft and chatter. Sr Molly Johnson's home.
Tues 20 10.30 Renovation Committee.
Thurs 22 09.45 Morning Prayers.
- Sunday 25 10.30 Morning Service. Br James Woolford.
 Refreshments in BB Hall.
Thurs 29 09.45 Morning Prayers.

September

- Sunday 1 14.30 Lovefeast & Holy Communion. Br James Woolford.