

Fulneck Moravian Church Magazine

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Minister's Letter

As I sit down to write this message and ponder what to write about (which often takes longer than actually writing the message) I am stuck by the recent juxtaposition where we have been celebrating the Olympic spirit laid down by their three values of excellence, respect and friendship, and at the same time people took to the streets of England and through violence and intimidation, shouted a message of hatred, racism and ignorance. While we were celebrating people coming together to share in the Olympic ideal, a small minority were trying to dominate the news by turning the tragic loss of innocent life in Southport, into a platform for their own brand of hatred. But alongside those riots and violence, (I refuse to call them protests) there were acts of defiance and people who gathered in far larger numbers to stand up against the hatred. One of my favourite signs that was held aloft during an anti-racism rally in Newcastle read, "Newcastle loves Black and White".

It's been a difficult week for many as people have spoken about the fear that these riots have caused. Former Scottish First Minister Humza Yousaf spoke on the News Agents Podcast, something I regularly listen to, about the fact that despite being "about as Scottish as they come...I don't know whether the future for me and my wife and my three children is going to be here in Scotland or the United Kingdom or indeed in Europe and the West." He talked about how the rise in Islamophobia, which has been on the rise for many years now, had made his family feel unsafe and question their future. These fears have been shared by many other people from different races, religions and background that have been targeted by these far-right thugs.

The question for us as Christians is, what are we willing to do about it? I feel it is a redundant point for me to talk about how our faith should make it clear to use that we are called to an unconditional love. Sometimes we forget, however, how unconditional that love is. When Jesus gives his commandment to "love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (John 13:34) it's a command to a complete love of all people with no ifs or buts. It's a call to a love that makes us risk our own sense of comfort to stand up for those in need. It's a call to love our neighbour as ourselves.

When Jesus is asked about who our neighbour is by an expert in the Law, He chooses as his model a Samaritan. Today the word Samaritan has become synonymous with good deeds but at the time of this questioning Jesus chose the person who was the hardest for the Lawyer to love. He knew all the teaching and the laws of the Jewish faith backwards and inside out and would therefore despise the Samaritans. You can tell how much hatred he had for the Samaritans by the fact that when Jesus challenges him after telling his parable, "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." (Luke 10:36-37a). He could not even say his name! Then, "Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'" (Luke 10:37b)

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

Love is not just silently offering up “thought and prayers” while offering nothing in practical help or support. Jesus didn’t just sit back and pray for us; He acted and sacrificed his life for us. Take courage then, Brothers and Sisters and do not be afraid to stand up for our neighbours.

Martin Luther King Jr was quoted as saying “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbour will risk his position, his prestige, and even his life for the welfare of others. In dangerous valley and hazardous pathways, he will lift some bruised and beaten brother to a higher and more noble life. “

A sign in Denver Colorado that was erected in 2018 went viral for its simple but powerful message. Inspired by the tension and harsh words being exchanged during the US Election that year Father Hartsoff said, "What we wanted to do is try to create some sort of statement that brought people together and that rose above politics," I'm going to leave you now with that message and pray that it finds its way into your hearts and gives you the courage to speak up for your neighbour and love like we have been loved.

The sign reads, “Love your neighbour who doesn’t look like you, think like you, love like you, speak like you, pray like you, vote like you. Love your neighbour, no exceptions.”



HERITAGE OPEN DAY: SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER: HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Our church has a rich history that hundreds of folk come along to find out about at our Heritage Day events.

The church is one of the earliest Protestant churches, with a history that stretches back to Jan Hus who was burned at the stake in 1415. Today it is a worldwide church that has been instrumental in the development of education, healthcare and the social life wherever faith communities have formed.

The work in many diverse areas of life still continues across the globe. It is the many connections that Fulneck has with the world that we will explore at this year’s event.

Please share widely with friends and neighbours - the more the merrier.

To offer your help with refreshments please contact Annette. Any other help you can offer, please contact Myra.

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP)

Currently 14.1 million people in the UK are living in poverty.

Christians Against Poverty brings together churches across the UK who are committed to tackling the causes of poverty in their local area by partnering with CAP and providing free debt help and relevant community groups.

On **Sunday 29 September** Helen Ganney will speak at the service about how we can help to tackle poverty in our local community. Please note, **this service will be in the BB Hall** where refreshments will be served after the service.

STARLIGHT

We are in the middle of planning a sparkling, community and family event - Starlight – created around the symbolism of the Moravian Star.

Starlight will begin on Saturday, 23 November with the Church Carol Service at 16.00 and close with the Salvation Army brass band at 20.30.

Visitors will be invited to view the Christmas Tree Festival in the Church, enjoy refreshments at several locations, including The Boys' Brigade offering their traditional mince pies and mulled wine. There will be stalls with charming items appropriate for families and Christmas. Fulneck Drama Society have been invited to stage an appropriate, short performance. Further details of Starlight will follow but save the date and invite your family and friends.

The aim is to bring together the community and families with an event combining some of the traditional Advent celebrations within the Moravian community.

We hope this starlit event will increase interest in the Moravian community and footfall to the Moravian Advent events, watched over by the guiding light of the Moravian Star.



Holy Habits – Worship

At the recent Holy Habits faith lunch we gave everyone this scenario and questions. It led to some interesting discussions about worship and what it should/could be. Imagine ...

You are part of a new community that has been established after a devastating war and now live on a previously uninhabited island. You've lived together for a little while now and have found out that many in the community are Christians. You decide it would be good to get together to spend some time worshipping God together. This brings up some interesting questions.

What would you include?

What should the room look like?

How should the time together be led – or should it be led?

What should be the most important thing about the Worship?

What would you bring to the Worship?

What sort of experience would you want people to have?

How would you answer these questions? Our plan is to put a service together, some time in the future, incorporating the ideas.

We looked at the various ways people learn and experience things and how we could include these. If you've any ideas on what you'd like to be included, then let us know. There's also opportunities for people to take part if they wish. If you'd like to take part or help with the planning then we'd love to hear from you.

Renovation Committee—update

In the last edition of the magazine we introduced this committee and our work.

We stated that our initial focus was on improving the sound system. A local company came in, rebalanced the current system and initially all was good. However, since then people have once more been saying that hearing is a significant problem.

Consequently, we now need to consider a completely new audio system, possibly with visuals too. This will take longer as we have to invite three companies to tender for this work, so that we can liaise closely with the Church committee to raise the funds. Also, there is the issue of the Church being a listed building and we are already ensuring that any proposed work will be acceptable.

Our intention is to update you at the Congregation Council meeting.

Mary

Craft and chatter group

The group are keeping busy with three meetings: 2, 16 and 30 September.

Each meeting will start at 14.00 and will be at Molly's house.

All are welcome, whether you want to be creative or just have a good natter.



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.

Here is a photograph of them all outside the Church.

BRETHREN'S FESTIVAL: SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER

A date for your diary—watch this space for more information.

The service will be lead by Br Kenneth Evans.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our **Harvest Festival service** will be led by Br Martin Smith on Sunday 22 September.

You are invited to make donations that will go to the Pudsey Community Hub. They are always grateful for tinned food, cereals, pasta, tea and coffee.

Please bring your donations to the service.

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CELEBRATION TIME

Over the summer many birthdays have been celebrated. Here are pictures of three events to celebrate significant milestones.

David hits 70

John is a young 90 and so is Brenda. What treats we have all shared as part of these celebrations. Thanks to all involved in the planning.



CONGRATULATIONS TO GLORIA

Back in February Gloria set out on her Level 1 Worship Leaders' Course.

She was successful and now has been given her certificate.

I am sure we all look forward to more of her services and are grateful to her for taking this big step.



CHURCH FLOWERS

In September the Church flowers will be gifted by:

- Sr Gloria Hanley on 1 September;
- Sr Ann Kernohan on 8 September;
- Sr Ros Davey on 29 September.



Thank you to each of them for helping to keep our Church bright and welcoming.



Synod

Two bishops spotted finding time to relax during a busy Synod.

Calendar

September

Sunday 1	14.30	Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Br James Woolford.
Mon 2	14.00	Craft and Chatter. Molly's home.
Wed 4	19.15	Church Committee.
Thurs 5	09.45	Morning Prayers.
Sunday 8	10.30	Morning Service and baptism. Br James Woolford.
Mon 7		Meet the Minister resumes each Monday morning. Vestry.
Thurs 12	09.45	Morning Prayers.
Sat 14	10.30 - 16.00	Heritage Day
Sunday 15	10.30	Heritage Thanksgiving Service. Br Philip Cooper.
	18.00	Summer Reflection Service. Br James Woolford.
Mon 16	14.00	Craft and Chatter. Molly's home.
Thurs 19	09.45	Morning Prayers.
Sunday 22	10.30	Harvest Festival Service. Br Martin Smith.
Wed 25	19.15	Church Committee.
Thurs 26	09.45	Morning Prayers.
Sunday 29	10.30	Morning Service. Br James Woolford. BB Hall. Guest speaker, Helen Ganney, from Christians Against Poverty. Refreshments in BB Hall.
Mon 30	14.00	Craft and Chatter. Molly's home.

October

Thurs 3	09.45	Morning Prayers.
Sat 5	10.00	Yorkshire District Conference. Wellhouse.
Sunday 6	14.30	Lovefeast and Holy Communion. Br James Woolford.

MEET THE MINISTER: from Monday 9 September

Br James Woolford will be in the Vestry each Monday morning, from 9 September. He will be pleased to chat with you about any issues you wish to raise. Please pop along, even if it is just to say 'hello'.

Material for the Church magazine

Please submit material for the next edition to myself **no later than 16 September**; I am having to produce the October magazine early.

Future dates will be: 22 October; 25 November, for the Dec/ January edition.

Thanks, Mary

