

Moravian messenger



June 2012

*Br. Philip Ashton
(Brockweir) writes about
the Fellowship Weekend*

Running the Race

In this year of the London Olympics, the race was used as a metaphor for our Christian life. In the opening evening prayers, this race was framed as follows: we start the race with God and, as we face the obstacles along the way, we stay with God, purposefully and deliberately. At the race's end, hopefully, we receive His commendation as good and faithful servants.

The following verse from John Monsell's hymn "Fight the good fight" captures the theme of the weekend:

Run the straight race through God's good grace,

Lift up thine eyes, and seek his face;

Life with its path before thee lies;

Christ is the way, and Christ the prize.

A series of lively discussion groups helped us address key themes such as "what are we trying to achieve", "how do we deal with obstacles or setbacks", and "reaching our goal". The very many approaches to questions posed were striking and helped towards a thought-provoking but stimulating weekend. The life of the Olympic athlete Eric Liddell also provided inspiration. I was possibly the only person present not to know his story; his is certainly one of leading by example from which we can all take something. www.ericliddell.org provides more information.



It is worth noting that this is a race we'll all finish. Whilst this may be something we often seek to avoid, time taken to reflect is never wasted. Galatians 5, vv 16 - 25 'the harvest of the Spirit' provided a helpful reference for attributes we should aim for. This isn't a race in which we are competing against each other, but rather one in

This was a weekend in fellowship with Moravian brothers and sisters and it is that shared fellowship along the way - be it singing graces together, sharing a meal, evening prayers, discussions, or the closing communion - that made the time special. In a race perhaps, but time out of the 'rat race'.

The facilities at Shallowford House continue to be upgraded and the caring approach and open welcome from Simon, Alison and the team provided for a contented time. Thanks are also due to the Renewal Committee and leaders of the weekend as well as fellow brothers and sisters who took part.

The weekend commenced with a prayer that on leaving, each would rejoice, glad to have shared fellowship with one another. That particular goal was easily met.



which we all take part together. More like a marathon than a sprint. No matter the result, even though we are realistic enough to recognise we aren't all going to achieve a "gold medal", it is the trying that counts and we should all seek to try our best along the way.

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

YouthZone
Youth Weekend
Derbyshire
Andrea Beattie
Youth Service
Harlesden

Synod
Jackie
Morten

The Church
Service Advisory
Board
Beth Torkington

Grandstand view from
David Newman
Follow that torch. . .

Around the District
Conferences
Provincial Board
Midlands District Conference

An update
on Elim
Home
Jennifer
Marstrand

Open Book
2 KINGS

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES

• Your Letters • News from Congregations • Church House News Update •



Award For Distinguished Moravian

On March 22nd His Excellency Dr. Carl Roberts together with his wife Pauline and children Jermaine, Kevin and Chalene attended Buckingham Palace where he was presented with the award of CMG (Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George). The award was granted to Dr. Carl Roberts, the Antigua and Barbuda High Commissioner by Her Majesty the Queen in her New Year's Honours List for years of distinguished contribution to public service.

Letter to the Editor

*Dear Sr. Editor,
In reply to the letter from Sr. Doreen Davis of the Leominster congregation on 18th June 2006 the Yorkshire District Moravian Singers recorded a CD with twenty-three tracks made up of Moravian Hymns and Canticles at the request of the Board. The CD is entitled Our Lamb Has Conquered and was recorded at Horton Moravian Church under the direction of Sr. Maureen Colbert. We hope this may be of some help to Sr. Doreen.*

Ron & Rosalind Davey, Fulneck

A word from the Editor

In this interesting year of events, June, is the month of celebration for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Synod of the British Province takes place at the Hayes Centre in Swanwick. Whilst these two events may not appear to have much in common there is at least a tenuous link ...

The first and only time that I have seen Queen Elizabeth in person was many years ago when she paid a visit to Manchester. I was 6 or 7 years of age and my class had been chosen to represent the school as the Queen's car drove past St. John's. It was a cold grey day and the wind was blowing bitterly across the Pennines but I clutched my Union Jack flag in my hand, as if my life depended upon it. After what seemed like many hours to 40 excited school children, the Queen's entourage came into view and we cheered loudly. With a brief smile and a wave she disappeared, as exotic and fleeting as a kingfisher darting across a leaden sky. It is a memory that has stayed with me for over 45 years and I was reminded of it when the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall visited the Settlement at Gracehill, in Northern Ireland last year. An occasion the school children will also remember for many years to come.

The Queen at 85 is our oldest as well as our second

longest-serving monarch. She has been a constant in most of our lives and has seen 12 prime ministers come and go. It has been a life of service and dedication despite appearing to be in the public gaze the whole time. The Queen has served the nation dutifully for 60 years and though this may be an unfashionable concept there are times when we all need to be mindful of doing our duty.

Synod takes place from Friday 8th - Monday 11th June. If you have never attended Synod it is an incredibly busy period of long days, listening to reports, proposals and debate. Voting takes place for and against proposals that may impact upon the governance of the Church. Elections are also held for various Provincial Committees and other posts and there are services each day. Singing and fellowship also go hand in hand with the set business for we are Moravians after all! Occasionally the business may be a little tedious but it is important to recognise that it is a privilege to be elected as a Deputy. Responsibilities and duties go with this position and Synodal's should be open minded to debate. Let us therefore appreciate and encourage all those dedicated members who are acting on our behalf at Synod, as they seek solutions that are to the benefit of the whole of the Province.

Youth Weekend, Derbyshire

I was approached by some of the Seniors at Summer Camp and asked to organise a Youth Weekend before the next Camp. So, Br. Phill Battelle and I got our thinking hats on....

With Br. Mahmood Khan and Sr. Joy Raynor on board and with thanks to the Ockbrook congregation we had the beginnings of our weekend. 14 young people between the age of 15 and 18 from all across England attended.

The theme of the weekend was Diversity and throughout the weekend there was much discussion about what diversity meant to each of the youth and the leaders. It was very interesting to hear everyone's different thoughts and ideas. We then brought this into Ockbrook Church on Sunday morning and the youth delivered their own service which was a testament to the hard work they had put in.

Aside from the worship preparation there was a lot of fun had with, lots of games including Kingball and the famous Werewolf, a trip into Derby for the afternoon, a settlement tour, photo hunts, and generally seeing our friends and meeting some new friends.

A massive thank you to all of those who helped make the weekend so successful, I look forward to organising the next one.

Andrea Beattie



Gracehill YPMA - Presentation Day

The Gracehill YPMA total for 2011 was £2,626.40 - number of collectors 53. An amazing result!

Youth service Harlesden - Sunday 25th March 2012

The youth service commenced with singing a number of worship songs and then the service was lead by our great speaker Bonny Nelson (Linton) and his assistant.

An interview scene was set up between Bonny and his assistant which was interspersed with inter-active questions to the young people.

- Do you understand who Jesus is?
- Can you give a quick answer if someone asks?
- Do you think there is a deep hunger for Christ in your life?
- How is the void fulfilled?
- How do you try to get closer to the Lord?

Jesus came to give himself as a ransom. Jesus came to preachers, Jesus came.

Jesus is a friendly Messiah, the Christ.



Bonny encouraged the young people to look into the meaning of some of the words they hear, Look up some of the verses.

Can you answer why Jesus died?

Jesus died to bring us back to God. Jesus died to save the world, because he loves us. To save us from our sins. To pay the price for sin. Jesus died not want us to die eternally, he wanted to save us.

Conclusion

Youngsters do the best you can and have the right answers about your faith.



Synod

Since the days of the early church, government by Synod has been employed as an effective means of formulating true doctrine and practice. The word synod derives from the Greek, understood as 'common way'. It is the intention of all synods to come to a common mind on issues before it in the hope of avoiding making winners and losers in voting, especially on sensitive issues.

Early synods or church councils dealt with weighty issues and laid foundations for the development of the church as it spread and grew throughout the world. It's worth spending a little time reading about this aspect of the formative years of the church.

The Moravian Church is synodically governed which means that, as a Unity, and as a Province of that Unity, our governance is that of democratically elected delegates who are free to debate and to vote according to their personal conscience. This is important if debate at synod is to be meaningful - if a delegate's mind is already made up as to which way to vote, synod vote might as well be conducted by post.

In our own tradition, it was at the Synod of Lhota in 1467 that the formal decision was made to have orders of ministry separate from those of the Roman Catholic, thus underlining the independence of the Unitas Fratrum from papal authority. This decision was made by the use of the lot.

The London Synod of 1741 was also a pivotal moment in our church's history as it was then that Jesus Christ was elected Chief Elder in recognition of the fact that there can be no human head of the church; that place belongs to Christ alone.

The rules for the conduct of Synod are fairly formal and are to be found in our constitution, the Book of Order.

Following these ensures that the business flows properly and that the opinions of as many people as possible can be heard.

These days, Synods in our Province offer much more than the business on the agenda. By living and eating together, they provide opportunities for discussion and encouragement; for sharing ideas and good practice; for understanding that the 'Moravian way' encompasses many different ways of expressing our faith, all equally valid.

Synods have an extra dimension from other conferences such as annual meetings of political parties or unions. The meeting is set within a framework of worship and Bible study in order to focus everyone's thoughts on how best to accomplish Christ's will through the business on the table.

In recent years, the majority of proposals laid before synod have been of the 'bread and butter' variety - designed to ensure compliance with external legislation and these will undoubtedly continue while the current climate prevails. Finance proposals designed to save money can also be seen as negative and unimaginative.

There is a danger that Synod is seen as proscriptive and yet there really is no need for this. The only constraints derive from the fact that we are part of a world-wide Unity and are that proposals may not run counter to the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum (COUF) in order that they should not cause offence to other parts of the Unity. Apart from this, all things are possible.

Please pray for Synod that our Province might be built up and strengthened in order to serve the present age in ways that are appropriate and exciting.

Jackie Morten

Provincial Committees The Church Service Advisory Board

The Church Service Advisory Board meets twice a year at Church House and our particular responsibility is to advise P.E.C. on the suitability of candidates for church service and their training. It is a large responsibility and we try to approach it as prayerfully and as responsibly as we can.

The CSAB consists of four members elected by synod, all the members of P.E.C. and a bishop. In recent years a second bishop has also been a co-opted member in order to help with deliberations. We are an advisory board and we only meet twice a year, so the CSAB makes recommendations and then leaves them with the PEC for decision and further action.

We try to encourage all members of the province to consider how they can serve the church through the annual Church Service Sunday and in particular we try to encourage people to consider whether they have a vocation for ministry; to this end we also arrange occasional Enquirers' Days.

Recently we have also tried to support our lay preachers who give such sterling service to the Province by organising training weekends to help equip them for their task. There

is also a lay training course which we are in the process of updating and for which we arrange tutors in each district for those wanting to follow it.

In these changing times we also arrange four days of training for ministers every two years. These used to be more relaxed occasions with retired brethren and sisters but now they are necessarily very focussed on the latest legislative demands on us in areas such as health and safety and the protection of those who are vulnerable. Very importantly we also arrange speakers for these training days to help us to develop our understanding and methods of mission. But because our ministers have such a demanding brief and because their spiritual life and development is very important we also arrange a four day ministers' retreat every two years in order to give them space for prayer and reflection.

So all our work is about discernment, encouragement, and equipping for church service; it is both an awesome responsibility and a privilege.

Beth Torkington Ep. Fra.

GRANDSTAND VIEW

Follow that torch...



The countdown for this summer's Olympic Games has now begun in earnest. The "Torch Relay" set off from Land's End in Cornwall on Friday 19th May, and for 70 days the Olympic Flame will be carried throughout the United Kingdom, by vehicle convoy and a huge team of torchbearers - over 8,000 adults and young people who have inspirational stories to their lives, all nominated by members of the public.

The claim of the organisers is that the Flame will pass within 10 miles of 95% of people in the UK, Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey, visiting over 1,000 communities. Will you have had an opportunity to witness the progress? If you don't already know if and when the Torch will be coming near to where you live, you can find a map at www.london2012.com/torch-relay/route/

Origins deep in history

The Torch and Relay were important elements of the cultural festivals surrounding the Olympic Games of Ancient Greece. During those Games, a sacred flame burned continually on the altar of the goddess, Hera. In addition, heralds were summoned to travel throughout Greece to announce the Games, declaring a sacred truce for the duration.

With this historic background in mind, a very precise ritual for the lighting of the Flame is followed at every modern Olympic Games. It is lit from the sun's rays at the Temple of Hera in Olympia, in a traditional ceremony among the ruins of the home of the ancient Games.

You may have seen some of the TV coverage last month of the lighting of the flame - and the look of embarrassment on the face of the unfortunate young woman torchbearer when the flame went out during a latter part of the ceremony!

After a short relay around Greece, the Flame was handed over to the new host city, London, at another ceremony in Athens. It was then delivered to our home shores, and the journey around the UK began at Land's End.

The journey will end as the last Torchbearer lights the cauldron at the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony in the Olympic Stadium on Friday 27th July, marking the official start of the Games.

The Flame is then extinguished on the final day of the Games, at the Closing Ceremony.

Spreading the message...

The symbolism of the Flame in the Torch Relay is "the spreading the message of peace, unity and friendship." We have here themes that we in the church can pick up on, and use the symbolism of the Flame and the notion of "passing on the torch" and of spreading the word.

As the day of the Opening Ceremony gets ever closer, all sorts of opportunities for topical illustrations will arise.

As the Games and the Paralympics that follow unfold, there will be great feats of endurance, instances of triumph over adversity, acts of care and compassion. They will all emerge and be ripe material for us as we seek relevant ways to spread the Gospel message of peace, unity and love.

So get out and "follow the Flame" as it is relayed around the country, and be ready metaphorically to do the same with the Torch of Faith.

More Than Gold

Don't forget the mission resources on offer from "More Than Gold" - www.morethangoldresources.org.uk

Blue Moon Rising...

And I can't finish without reference to the amazing end to the Premier League season. To all those long-suffering Man City fans in my former congregation at Fairfield, AT LAST..... (and commiserations to the Editor, who is an avid Man U fan).

I was amazed though that some City fans had left the Etihad Stadium before the final whistle, missing the two crucial "turnaround" goals. How does anyone leave a match early, especially one so crucial? I think back to a Fulham match earlier in the season. In the first half, Fulham were awful, and Newcastle dominated the match, unlucky to be only 1-0 up at half-time. One man (I can't call him a fan) walked out, bemoaning what had gone on. What happened in the second half? A complete turnaround, with Fulham scoring five goals, running out winners at 5-2.

Never give up hope...

(Next month - more on the Olympics, and on who's going to see which events. I've heard from a few Moravians as to what they are going to see - but there must be more of you.)

David Newman

david.newman@moravian.org.uk

Around the District Conferences

From the News from the Provincial Board

PROVINCIAL:

Having accepted a full time academic post Br. Peter Gubi was granted permission to transfer from stipendary to non-stipendary ministry effective from December 31st 2011.

Rev Heather Carter was inducted as the Anglican Incumbent at the Church of the Holy Family, Blackbird Leys on January 30th 2012.

Br. Trevor Kernohan will retire after 8 years as Principal of Fulneck School at the end of August 2012 and we give thanks for Br. Trevor's 40 years of service to the school.

Mrs Deborah Newman, currently the Vice Principal, has been appointed as the new Principal of Fulneck School, subject to contract, effective from 1st September 2012 and we wish her well in her new role.

The Irish District MWA Retreat will take place from 11-13 May.

The Provincial Men's Fellowship will celebrate their 25th Anniversary at the Church of the Holy Family,

Blackbird Leys on June 23rd.

An Enquirer's Day is being planned for November 3rd at Ockbrook. A day for the Irish District has not yet been arranged but a date and venue will be announced in the near future.

For those congregations who have not yet done so, the Provincial Board would encourage you to elect a Congregation Secretary and to send the details to Church House.

Summer Camp will return to Fulneck Moravian School, after an absence of a number of years from 18- 25 August.

Synod will take place at the Hayes Conference Centre from Friday 8 - Monday 11 June 2012.

Ecumenical News

The Churches Together in England Forum will take place from the 23rd to 25th October at the Hayes Centre in Swanwick, and our two representatives will be elected at Synod.

Unity News

Sr Cecilia Engel retired from her post at the Elim Home after 12 years in charge and we give thanks for her dedication and service during those years.

Bishop Neville Brown, from the Eastern West Indies Province passed away on January 23rd 2012 in Antigua.

The European Continental Province will meet at Konigsfeld from 2 - 9 June 2012.

Br. Ebenezer Gangmei, currently studying theology at college in Dehra Dun has been accepted as a candidate for full time ministry in the Moravian Church to serve in the South Asia Mission Province.

The 10th European Women's Conference will be held in Albania from 30th May - 3rd June 2013. Ballots for places will take place later but this information is being put out now so people can begin planning if they would like to be considered for a place.

The All Tanzania Partners Conference will take place from 24 - 28 September, 2012 in Southern Tanzania.

the congregation is 48. Leominster has had a new carpet fitted in church and have recently held a Folk Music service as well as Cafe Church. They have received two new members into the congregation - one being a retired Presbyterian minister who has offered to conduct a service every month.

The Ockbrook congregation have recently held a Fellowship Tea and an MWA lunch in aid of Elim Home and other projects. At the moment the congregation is looking at the future of the pipe organ. Present membership is 64. At the beginning of the year a confirmation class commenced.

The Sparkhill congregation are working on the sharing agreement with the Methodist Church. The two congregations find it a time of getting to know each other. Sunday services have 150 worshippers. Membership is 68.

A further discussion was held about the function and purpose of District Conference in the British Province. The roll of District Conference was seen as sharing news of the congregations and general information of the Unity and the Province.

The next EDC will be held at Ockbrook on 20th October.

After the closing devotions we shared lunch together. We were shown around the church by Sr. Doreen Davis. This was an added pleasure for myself as it was 47 years ago that my wife and I visited the congregation from Birmingham with Br. Paul Gubi before we left for service in Labrador. On that occasion we visited Captain Jackson's grave and remembered that he was the last captain of the Harmony.

Victor Launder

An update on Elim Home, South Africa

In March of this year members of our family were in South Africa to attend a wedding. Realising that at one point we would not be far away from Elim I made contact with Sr Maureen Vincent about the possibility of making a visit to Elim to see the work that was being carried out there and to visit the girl whom I sponsor. Sr Vincent was certainly very encouraging concerning the possible visit but did warn me that the visit could be distressing as some of the children being cared for were very badly disabled. I hoped that we would be able to cope with this. Contact was made with Sr Cunningham and arrangements were made to call at Elim.

We approached the Elim Settlement by driving quite a distance along a dirt road, called in at the visitors centre and were taken up to the home where we were given a very warm welcome. Sr Cunningham showed us around. The rooms in which the children are cared for are light and airy as are the bedrooms. At the present time there are forty children being cared for and all are very seriously handicapped. Some were only able either to lie on beds or mattresses on the floor unable to move at all. Some were able to 'sit' in special chairs into which they were well strapped. In another room there were about six children who were able to walk about despite being malformed and severely handicapped.

One thing however stood out and that was despite their severe disabilities they looked to be healthy, happy and well cared for. The staff certainly works very hard indeed. Families are encouraged to have their children back at home for short periods of time. This means that contact with the family is maintained whilst at the same time it gives the Elim staff a break.

Children are referred to Elim by Social Services and there is no restriction regarding race or religious denomination. The South African Government provides very little funding and the home is very appreciative of the sponsorship money from the UK. I am aware of the fact that not much information regarding a sponsored child is passed back to the sponsor but do not let this put you off from considering sponsoring a child. Perhaps a few of you may get together to sponsor a child on an annual basis, your efforts will certainly be appreciated. Having been to visit Elim I feel very privileged to have seen the children and witnessed the hard work of caring staff.

The settlement at Elim is well worth a visit. The visitor's centre is a mine of information regarding the development, customs and present day events. There is a large church, in the process of being whitewashed by a group of young men in preparation for Easter. There is a school, a youth centre and traditional thatched houses along either side of an unmade street. The travelling library was there parked alongside the memorial to the emancipation of slaves in 1834. This is the only monument of its kind in South Africa and is probably at Elim due to the fact that many of the freed slaves found refuge at the Elim Mission Station.

There is a good café in Elim, the cakes are to be recommended. It was whilst standing outside there that my husband was talking to a resident. He told him that the first white Moravian from overseas that he ever met came from a place called Fairfield and did he know of it. It's a small world.

Jennifer Marsland (Salem)

Midlands District Conference

The Midlands District Conference was held on March 3rd at Leominster. The welcome and opening devotions were led by Br. Colin McIlwaine. There were a number of apologies for absence including a representative from the Board. The PEC Report was presented by the Chairman Br. David Haworth.

A financial report was given by Sr. Joan Mason who advised conference that £83 remained in the bank account. The Social Responsibility

Report was presented by Br. Fred Linyard who reiterated his report given at the last meeting in November.

The Moravian Church has received an invitation to a consultation being arranged by Churches together in Britain and Ireland for reflection and possible action following the civil disturbances in many areas in August. Two members of the Social Responsibility Committee will attend this consultation.

The Renewal Committee Report

mentioned that the Fellowship Weekend in April at Shallowford House has a booking of over 30. The Fellowship Day is to be held on September 22nd at Carrs Lane URC in Birmingham. The Conference was pleased to hear that Summer Camp will return to Fulneck Moravian School after an absence of a number of years. This will be from 18-25 August.

In recent months the Leicester congregation has seen an increase in numbers attending. Membership of

2 KINGS

The view from a helicopter can reveal the geographical setting of a village, town or district. An overview of the context of the second book of Kings in the Old Testament can help our understanding.

The Hebrews as a family of twelve tribes migrated to Egypt because of a famine. They emerged a generation later or so to become a theocratic nation known as Israel. No longer nomadic tribes, they settled in the land of Canaan. The first and second books of Samuel record the beginning and development of the monarchy. In the reign of Solomon, Israel becomes a great nation with wealth, building projects, including a magnificent temple and royal palace, trade with surrounding countries, especially Tyre and Sidon. A visit by the queen of Sheba to see and hear all that had been done is described in Hebrew, "it took her breath away." 1 Kings 10 v5

After the death of Solomon, things began to go downhill. Rehoboam Solomon's son was immature, taking advice from his youthful companions with whom he had grown up, instead of the experienced statesmen who had served his father. There was a rebellion led by Jeroboam. Ten tribes moved to the north to form a kingdom under Jeroboam known as Israel. The capital was first at Bethel and then at Samaria. Two tribes remained in the south under Rehoboam, retaining Jerusalem as the capital city, and known as the southern Kingdom of Judah. The story is told in 1 Kings chapter 12.

1 and 2 were originally one book. The division was probably for practical reasons. Two scrolls were easier to handle than one very large one. Together they cover the history of Israel from the last days of David's reign c970 BC to the defeat of the southern kingdoms of Judah, and the exile in Babylon in 586 BC. 2 Kings begins where 1 Kings ends, with the death of Ahab, king of Israel, and the

accession of his son Ahaziah. There is also in the last chapter of 1 Kings a reminder that Jehoshaphat was the king of the southern kingdom of Judah. The author continues to record the history of the two kingdoms side by side, or rather oscillating between north and south.

2 Kings is in the style of history as recorded in ancient times: using narrative, folklore, personalities and a point of view. Kings are judged, not on their military or economic success, but whether they did "that which is right (or wrong) in the sight of the Lord." Only two kings of Judah are commended: Hezekiah and Josiah. (2 Kings 18 v 5, and 22 v 2)

In these historical books with the kings, go the prophets: called by God to speak to kings and people on His behalf with the Divine message they

IT WOULD REQUIRE A BOOK NOT AN ARTICLE TO INCLUDE A COMMENTARY ON ALL THE PERSONS AND EVENTS RECORDED IN 2 KINGS.

had received. Their priority was not to foretell the future, but to forth-tell the word of God. Based on that word they could give warnings of the consequences. Elijah is the major prophet in 1 Kings and the first chapter of 2 Kings. Elisha, his successor, takes his place in 2 Kings.

It would require a book not an article to include a commentary on all the persons and events recorded in 2 Kings. We take the first chapter with its story involving a king and a prophet as a sample; followed by a few selected references to assist the reader.

Chapter One. Ahaziah, king of the northern kingdom of Israel is severely injured by a fall from an upper storey window. His life hangs in the balance.

He sends messengers to enquire of the god of Ekron, a Philistine city, if he, Ahaziah, will live or die. This foreign god had a reputation for miracles and healing. Elijah is guided to meet the messengers on the way. He tells them to ask Ahaziah, "Is it because there is no God in Israel, you are going to enquire of Be'el-zebub?" They return to the king, who asks why they have come back so soon. They repeat what the prophet told them, and from their description, the king identifies Elijah. He sends an army captain and fifty men to arrest Elijah. This was Ahaziah's second mistake. Having sent messengers to the wrong god, he now adopts the wrong method with tragic results. At the third attempt, the army captain approaches the prophet with a respectable request rather than a military command. God tells Elijah to go with the man and challenge the king, and inform him of his fate. It relates to the first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before Me."

Chapters 2-9 Elisha continues the work of Elijah as prophet.

Chapter 5 The story of Na'aman.

Chapters 10-14 Stories of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

Chapters 15-17 The defeat of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria 721 BC.

Chapters 18-24 v17 Stories of the Kings of Judah.

Chapter 24 v18-25 Defeat of the Southern Kingdom, Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. Jews transported into exile in Babylon 586 BC.

Ancient history and culture, but change the names of people and places and the message is for all time. There is no substitute for devotion to the Lord our God and the keeping of his commandments.

Dennis Monger

Ockbrook, Derbyshire

There were two Women's World Day of Prayer services held locally in March, so most of us had the opportunity to attend one of them. The problems faced by the women of Malaysia made us all think about the position of women in the world and the obstacles that they have to overcome. On Mothering Sunday all the ladies in church were given a bunch of daffodils by our young people.

We have discussed various ways of dealing with the problem of our ageing pipe organ and are considering replacing it with an electronic organ. We will have to raise the money for this.

The MWA held a spring lunch to raise money for their designated causes and this was well supported and much appreciated. We've also hosted a fund raising concert for Treetops Hospice featuring the Settlement Singers and the Bestwood Male Voice Choir. We've also been visited by the Alexeev school choir from Russia who performed for us and our own Ockbrook school choir took part in the concert.

We welcomed thirteen young people from around the Province for a Youth Weekend. They had a wonderful time with discussion groups and a visit to Derby for shopping. They slept in sleeping bags on the floor of the lecture hall! They made new friends and renewed old acquaintances and the weather was perfect. It was nice to see them taking part in the service on the Sunday morning and they provided us with beautiful sandwiches and cakes afterwards.

Some of us attended a joint service for Passion Sunday at All Saints parish church. On Palm Sunday we celebrated Holy Communion and Love Feast and enjoyed the Passion



Brs. Victor Launder, Nick Battelle and David Howarth

week and Eastertide readings each evening. On Maundy Thursday we also had Holy Communion. Our Good Friday service was a joint service with friends from local churches. We enjoyed fellowship after the service with tea and hot cross buns before walking to Borrowwash for an open air service there.

At 7:00 a.m. on Easter Day we went to God's Acre where the names of those who had died during the past year were read out. Some brave souls then went into the cupola to sing hymns. We then went to the lecture hall where a wonderful Easter breakfast was waiting prepared by Greg, Gale, Shaun and Jenny. A family service brought this week to a happy ending.

Br. Nicholas Battelle recently took his first service as a trainee lay preacher. He is being supervised by Br. Victor Launder and the congregation is delighted that he is taking this important step on his journey of faith.

Marie Rose

Horton, Bradford

Two of our members have recently passed away to be with their Lord and Saviour. They are Br. Norman Calloway and Sr. Annie Brown, both will be sadly missed and our love and prayers go to their families. They were greatly involved with many activities in the life of our church.

Our activities of late have included a recipe evening where people brought their favourite recipes and the finished dish for members to sample. The recipes were then available for a nominal fee! Other events included a Christmas coffee morning with stalls full of produce for members to buy in the run up to Christmas. Our Men's Fellowship has begun once again and we socialise, play games and have snooker tournaments.

Branches of the Vine joined together for Lenten meetings once more. They were hosted this year by the parish church of St. Stephen's and were very well attended. This led us into Good Friday where our church joined with all the other churches in the neighbourhood for a walk of witness ending with the Stations of the Cross service at the Catholic Church of St. Joseph's.

In the first weekend in March there was a Youth Weekend at Horton organised by Sr. Eleanor Hollindrake. This consisted of visits to other faith denominations and their places of worship. After tasting the famous 'Bradford Curries' on Saturday evening the young people joined us for Sunday worship to talk about their inter-faith visits. They then had lunch cooked by our own fair cooks before departing for home. It was lovely to be able to talk and share worship with so many young people from the British Province. We thank Eleanor and her mother Elizabeth for organising the weekend and making it such a success.

Other fund raising events have included coffee mornings for the MWA and the showing of the film 'Hairspray.' We've had a military whist drive and our annual Shipley library sale with cake sales and tombola all raising necessary sums for the church. Our numbers may be thin on the ground but a lot of work is put in by our members so well done everyone!

Jamie Spencer

Gomersal, Yorkshire

On Monday 19th March, year 4 pupils from Gomersal Primary and St. Mary's descended upon our church for an afternoon of Easter activities. Members of churches in the area led small groups through a workbook. They decorated pots and planted peas in them, there were also talks and videos to help explain the true meaning of Easter. A good time was had by one and all!

Gomersal has now started a series of Cafe Church services. These are being held bi-monthly with the aim of attracting new people to join us.

The early morning service, on Easter Sunday, was well attended with Bishop John McOwat leading the service. The singing in the burial ground was, for the first time accompanied by Christine Tierney on trumpet, a welcome addition to the singing. Following this over thirty people sat down to a delicious full English breakfast, cooked and served by Bryan Horsfall and his team of helpers.

As a result of a legacy from Sr. June Harrison, the garden in front of church has been transformed into a low maintenance paved and gravelled area, with perennials and



shrubs. This will help us remember June and her love of gardening.

Norma Machell

Harold Road

Passion Week readings were well attended at Sr. Lake's home, as well as the Easter service conducted by Br. Hopcroft. In the near future we plan to have a 'Laying on of Hands' incorporating an introduction to this form of worship. An 'All Age Service' focusing on the family and especially children is also being arranged for June.

We are pleased to have paid our outstanding assessment thus restoring our vote at Synod.

We are all hugely saddened by the death of Sr. Mary Ann Edwards, who after a short illness died on February 29th aged 90. A traditional Moravian in every sense, hugely respected, we were privileged to have her in our congregation. Her smile lit up any occasion and her impish sense of humour brightened our day. Her funeral service, attended by several hundred people, took place at Hornsey Moravian Church on Tuesday 13th March. Brs. Joachim Kreusel, Bob Hopcroft, Fred Linyard and Edwin Quildan officiated. Afterwards she was buried in the traditional Carribean way in the city of London Cemetery. The ashes of her daughter Roma, who died in November 2011 were interred with her.

Her own words, spoken as part of a living history project form a fitting epithet.

"My name is Mary Ann Edwards. I left home in Antigua in 1955 to Britain for work, to better my family and myself. As a child, a sibling of seven, our parents brought us up to

have respect, go to school and Sunday school, to trust and love other people. I was thirty four years old when I arrived not knowing the life and tradition of this country. We learnt it was the British Empire and that we belonged as British citizens. We did not even know our grandfathers for they had all gone back to their maker so we did not know much about our early generations. We knew there were roots to which we belong.

I personally could not say that I have met with barriers in my way because I live a sober life with each and everyone that I have worked with. I always tried to entertain a smile for harmony with people. I am not good with stories of the past but at my age I can write a short poem:

*The seas are quiet when the winds give o'er
So calm are we when passions are no more
For then we know how vain it was to boast
Of fleeting things, so certain to be lost
Clouds of affection from our younger eyes
Conceal that emptiness that age decries
Leaving the old, both worlds at once they view
That stands upon the threshold of the new."*

Michael O'Sullivan

Kilwarlin, Co. Down

It has been a long while since we submitted anything to the 'Messenger' and consequently there is a lot to report. We have come through changes to our hall and church as we created a storage room off the hall and have brought all of our buildings into line with current disability access legislation. The project was ably overseen for us by Br. Jim Law and the congregation has worked hard to pay off the costs incurred with various fund raising activities. There was a re-dedication service once the work was completed, as the members and friends of Kilwarlin gave thanks for what has been achieved and we committed ourselves to using these revamped facilities long into the future.

The fundraising activities involved the usual round of catering events, including the hosting of refreshments following a large funeral service at St. John's, Church of Ireland parish church. We've also had a Garden Party and we raised £2,802 - one of the highest totals ever. We also held a Dinner Dance, featuring the local Aces High band.

We've had a number of special services recently, including the wedding of Fiona Law and John Stevens and the baptisms of Freddie Russell, Fraser Law and Harry Park. The young people have also continued to meet as the Lock Up group on alternate Fridays. They also help to run the Christingle Service in church, as well as bringing their parents along.

Every fourth Sunday we hold 'All Age Worship' in the church followed by a fund raising soup lunch in the hall, which is proving popular. Kilwarlin has also hosted Summer Camp Taster days and a Summer Camp Reunion for the young people of the district. We were also able to send



three young people to Summer Camp last year and then eight people to the Irish District Youth Weekend at Cultra. It is hoped that we can encourage even more young people to Summer Camp this year as well. We were delighted to play host to the Moravian delegates for a barbecue and games at Kilwarlin and the young people seemed to enjoy their time with us.

The Bowls Club meets each week during the indoor season and this year as well as taking part in the District Match at Gracehill, they hosted a match against University Road. This encounter saw the home team win the inaugural match of the newly named Wilfred Mortimore Cup, named for the minister who had served both congregations. The cup was presented to the congregation by Br. Charles Costley at this year's Ulster Fry breakfast. This was held after the early service on Easter Day in God's Acre and the service was very well attended with 45 people.

Eunice Hoey

CONGREGATION REGISTERS

CONFIRMATIONS

1st Apr. □	Dirvin Lovell. □	<i>Hornsey</i>
1st Apr. □	Jerry Witter. □	<i>Hornsey</i>
1st Apr. □	Omah Broodie. □	<i>Hornsey</i>
1st Apr. □	Saneesha Edwards-McNairn. □	<i>Hornsey</i>
1st Apr. □	Parris Edwards-McNairn. □	<i>Hornsey</i>

WEDDINGS

11th Apr. □	Samantha Andrews □□□□ & Ashley McCormick. □	<i>Gracehill</i>
-------------	--	------------------

DEATH

29th Nov. □	Connie Mills Aged 91 □	<i>Wheeler St.</i>
9th. Dec. □	Ephraim Spence. □	<i>Hornsey</i>
17th Apr. □	Henry Burroughs □	<i>Sparkhill</i>
29th Apr. □	Charlie Stephen O'Neil □	<i>Royton</i>

Provincial Diary for June

June

2/9	European Continental Provincial Synod	
8/11	Provincial Synod, Swanwick	
18	Ockbrook School Governors	Br Hopcroft
19	PEC, BMB, Unitas Estates Meetings	The PEC
23	Provincial Men's Fellowship Day, Blackbird Leys	

PRAYER NOTES

3rd June - Trinity Sunday (Christian)
7th June - Corpus Christi (Catholic Christian)
8th June - Pentecost (Orthodox Christian)
9th June - Saint Columba of Iona (Christian)
10th June - All Saints (Orthodox Christian)
15th June - Sacred Heart of Jesus (Catholic Church)
16th June - Lailat al Miraj (Islam)
16th June - Guru Arjan Dev martyrdom (Sikh)
19th June - New Church Day (Swedenborgian Christian)
29th June - Saints Peter and Paul (Christian)

Prayer for Trinity Sunday Morning

Father, You sent your Word to bring us truth and your Spirit to make us holy. Through them we come to know the mystery of your life. Help us to worship you, one God in three persons, You reveal yourself in the depths of our being, by proclaiming and living our faith in you. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen
The Liturgy of the Hours

Collect for Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. Book of Divine Worship (and the Book of Common Prayer)

Prayers for Saints Peter and Paul

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Common Worship C of E)

God our Father, Today you give us the joy of celebrating the feast of the apostles Peter and Paul. Through them your Church first received the faith. Keep us true to their teaching.
(Roman Catholic New Missal)

Meditation on the Sacred Heart

O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore You, I love You, and with a lively sorrow for my sins, I offer You this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to Your will. Grant good Jesus, that I may live in You and for You. Protect me in the midst of danger; comfort me in my afflictions; give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, Your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us humbly prostrate before Your altar (or in Your presence). We are Yours, and Yours we wish to be; but, to be more surely united with You, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to Your Most Sacred Heart. Many indeed have never known You; many too, despising Your precepts, have rejected You. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to Your Sacred Heart. Be King, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken You, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned You; grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house lest they die of wretchedness and hunger. Grant, O Lord, to Your Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give peace and order to all nations, and make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the Divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to It be glory and honour forever. Amen.

THE MORAVIAN MESSENGER

Official Journal of the Moravian Church in the British Province. Published monthly by the authority of the Provincial Synod. Advertisements and all communications concerning distribution and supply should be sent to the Moravian Book Room, 5 Muswell Hill, London N10 3TJ, and NOT to the Editor.



Editor: Judith Ashton. Contributions for the Messenger should reach the Editor, Sunnybank, Raglan Road, Tintern, Monmouthshire NP16 6TH
E-mail: judith.ashton@moravian.org.uk by the 3rd day of the preceding month.