

Moravian messenger



July 2012

Br. Lawrence Greer (Gracehill) writes about his

Impressions of Synod



The Gracehill delegation had an early start in order to arrive for the beginning of Synod. By early I mean leaving at 3:45a.m. A car, plane and taxi journey later we arrived in Swanwick in Derbyshire, where we checked into the Hayes Conference Centre.

I was introduced to many of the other attendees, and after lunch we attended the opening service. Official visitors were welcomed from Nepal, Jamaica and Germany as well as other districts and churches. A short time

later, the opening of Synod gave me an overview of the dual role of the Board (PEC) as trustees and managers of the Moravian Church. Their various committees reported on issues including Ministers, Congregations, Property, Archives and relations with other churches.

Financial reports showed that income was slightly down, but so too were costs, and the Church had a welcome surplus of income over expenditure.

Some of the time over the first two

days was expended on the problem of how to treat congregations who had failed to pay their assessments. It was decided that existing sanctions on defaulting congregations should be removed and that they would in future be represented at Synod. Help and inclusion for struggling congregations was felt to be a more compassionate and productive way to move forward.

The structure of the Church was discussed and as already mentioned the Board has both a management

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and governance role. A discussion paper was put forward to explore the possibility of streamlining the number of management committees from seven to three. The purpose of this would be to free more time for PEC to take a more strategic view as to how the church can move forward to a sustainable future. In particular, more resources could be devoted to outreach to the wider community, and to young people.

The late afternoon sessions were taken up with tidying up the Book of Order to make it compliant with new legislation and consistent with current practice.

I reported on the good news from Gracehill, the new Youth Fellowship group and about the restoration of the church and various fund raising efforts. We also heard about continuing progress at our two schools, Ockbrook and Fulneck. The retirement of the Headmaster of Fulneck, Br. Trevor Kernohan, was marked with speeches of thanks and a presentation from Synod.

Synod also heard about mission work carried out overseas. Speakers from Nepal, Europe and Jamaica reported on the work in their provinces. We then heard about the work of the MWA, Moravian Men's Fellowship and YPMA.

This session finished with expressions of thanks to retiring ministers for their service, including two who served in Gracehill - Br. Richard Ingham and Sr. Jan Mullin. On Sunday evening we had a moving communion service and over £500 was collected for work in Nepal.

On our final day further reports were received from the Renewal Committee, Social Responsibility Committee, and the Provincial Youth and Children's Committee. Tribute was paid by Synod to these committees for the work they have done. With the order of business completed more deputies brought good news about developments in their congregations in the last two years.

I really enjoyed attending my first Synod and other more seasoned attendees remarked that it had been good and positive. For me, the procedures and order of business were not the most important part of the weekend, rather it was meeting other people from the Province (and putting names to faces). I made countless new friends and saw how the Church worked as an organisation. I feel it is important for this experience to be shared around different members of the congregations as it will develop a sense of cohesion and involvement in the church family. I don't want to keep the experience all to myself!

A word from the Editor

"When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush."

Gerard Manley Hopkins finds revelation in nature and nearly all his poems can be taken as speaking to God, whom he glimpses in all the beautiful things he sees. In July, gardens are almost in full bloom with gems such as roses and lilies - big, blowsy firecrackers that delight the senses and light up any border. Ferns, however, are sadly undervalued in my estimation yet they are beautiful and interesting plants which date back millions of years. Ferns first appeared in fossil records 360 million years ago! Every year when I visit the RHS Show in Malvern I cannot resist buying two or three to add to my collection, which resides under the dappled shade of a copper beech tree. I cannot tell you their Latin names, I just love them with a passion that grows with the years.

Ferns sparked a collecting mania for gardeners in Victorian times (pteridomania) and whilst few people lost their fortunes - as in the 17th century with tulip mania - it did result in significant reductions in the wild populations of a number of the rarer species. A few collectors died trying to obtain fern tufts from remote and inhospitable areas, such as the lore of owning rare

plants. Pursuit of being the best is something that we'll all become familiar with this Olympic summer and no doubt we'll all be heartened by stories of courage and personal endeavour. All competitors want to succeed and hope to win gold medals but for some perhaps it will be enough to have taken part. For others winning means everything, whether by fair means or foul. Those sportsmen and women who enhance their performance illegally are not only damaging themselves, but they are also undermining the very sport they profess to love. Like the fern collectors who targeted rare specimens to the point of extinction because of their obsession, they have lost sight of their ideals and personal integrity.

Truth, honesty and the pursuit of justice are qualities we strive for as Christians. Whilst you cheer on those athletes whose ability and sheer hard work will genuinely earn them gold medals, spare a thought for those whose dream is merely to compete and represent their country. They may not be the 'firecrackers' of the sporting world, perhaps more akin to ferns, quietly getting on performing to their best in the shade. Ferns were around long before mankind and will probably be around long after we've disappeared, which is a sobering and perhaps reassuring thought!



Dukinfield Jubilee - outreach celebrations

The following day I helped at Messy Church. This is a regular event happening about 4 times a year and under the direction of Sister Glenys Marshall, but in 2012 this extra event was put on to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. After getting a diamond name badge and registering, the children and their families headed to the tables of games. There were plenty to choose from and this gave parents or grandparents the opportunity to play board type games with the children. After about half an hour craft activities were laid out. These were varied from making crowns and menu cards, icing biscuits, finding the countries of the Commonwealth on a world map, writing prayers and a skipping challenge. This was followed by time in the church for a chat about the Queen and how she follows rules and how that applies to us. There was an award ceremony for the skipping, a song and a short time of prayer. Then it was time for lunch. The kitchen helpers had laid out a party meal of sandwiches, sausage rolls and crisps, which was followed by jelly and ice cream and cakes. The red, white and blue tableware made the room seem very festive.

The children left with an activity booklet to do at home and everyone was given a piece of the celebration cake. I would recommend anyone thinking about doing a Messy Church to go and experience one first hand (Glenys is always looking for volunteers) and more information can be found on <http://www.messychurch.org.uk/>

Joy Raynor

I was invited to the Dukinfield youth club to join in their celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Friday 25th May. The club restarted in September and usually meets every two weeks for an hour and a half, attracting children 5-10 years old from the community.

A themed evening on the Queen's Jubilee started off with making bunting, colouring sheets on the theme and time to chat to the leaders. A couple of games followed including pin the crown on the corgi - some were rather a long way from the head! The children then had the opportunity to make crowns using lots of glue and jewels. There was enthusiasm to have a photograph taken with the crowns on. Supper followed, there were lots of sandwiches and cakes to be enjoyed. The party was soon over and the children went home smiling and clutching their crowns. The evening was full of laughter and the leaders encouraged the children to join in and have fun. I enjoyed being with the group of children and seeing a team in action who work so well together to make a memorable event for the children.

MORYAC 2015 - 17-19th May at Shallowford House

Full cost per place is £132. Time to start saving! Hopefully we may get some grant money to reduce that but in the current economic climate I'm not sure we will.

Easter Celebrations in Rajpur



Having just returned from Kathmandu the previous week it was with excitement that I went to the Rajpur Church on Palm Sunday. The young people had been out the day before collecting palm branches and the church was festooned with them in and out. One artistic youngster had, with very few palm fronds, made an outline of Jesus upon the donkey and this image hung on a cloth behind the communion table. The "Hosanna Anthem" was sung by the choir (much to my delight as I had taught them it) and a group of ex-pupils and older students praised God through dance. The Passiontide Readings, translated into Hindi by Br. Robert Simon, were read by pupils of the Institute.

During the week the Passiontide Readings continued with Communion after the Maunday Thursday readings and clips from "The Jesus Film" projected onto a screen during the Good Friday service.

For those of us who have no adjacent God's Acre to our church, the early morning Easter Service has not the impact of other places. Only once before have I been privy to await Christ's Resurrection in the Garden and that was after friend Vivien's wedding to Andrew in Gracehill. I will remember that service and the extra special understanding of what Christ's resurrection meant to his disciples for the rest of my life.

Being involved in the Easter Day celebrations here in Rajpur was an even more special occasion. Long before the sun came up we walked down the rocky path to God's Acre



here on the campus. A string of lights guided our way to the graveyard. The full moon shone through the trees like a witness to the proceedings. The children who board at the school were lined up across the graveyard smartly dressed in clean uniforms, the little ones being cared for by the older children. Individual graves were illuminated by candles and fresh flowers adorned each one. As the service began the choir sang joyful hymns to a guitar accompaniment and the Easter Sunday Morning readings were read, in Hindi, by scholars from the school. We were joined by a few congregation members who had made the

effort to join us at 4.30 am.

At the end of the service we walked back up the path to the gatehouse where a modified school bus awaited the choir and younger children. A huge amplifier was strapped to the bus and microphones dangled from the handrail inside. As the choir clambered on to the bus the rest of the school and congregation lined up behind. The bus set off with the choir singing hymns enthusiastically. Occasionally one brave soul would shout a Hindi version of "Christ is risen" to which there would be a loud response from all: "He is risen indeed". Even though it was only 5.30 am there were still many people about in the village so it was wonderful to be able to give witness to our faith in this way. It reminded me very much of the Whit Sunday Walk Horton Church would do every year when I was small.

As the sun rose over the foothills we moved slowly through Old Rajpur and down the hill towards the market area in New Rajpur. Close by the Tibetan enclave the bus had to stop as there was a large tent pitched in the middle of the road. The bus passengers descended and continued their loud and cheerful choruses as they walked past the tent. I was a little staggered to find the tent full of worshipping Hindus and was a little fearful in case some interfaith fracas might be initiated by our presence. Fortunately all passed peacefully and we continued on our way. At the other side of the tent we were joined by the staff and pupils of the Sharp Memorial School for the Blind. I was much moved and impressed by the way these children participated in the singing and how the partially-sighted aided their non-seeing friends. Slowly we made our way down hill into the market and then crossed the road into the Blind School campus.

Here we moved into the little chapel for a service. Our Principal, Rev. Kundan, translated the words of Br. Samuel, the Director of the Blind School, into Hindi. The children of their choir sang a lovely Hindi hymn. The blending of their unison voices was beautiful and revealed their intent listening to each other, so necessary when it is not possible to see the choir director. At the end of the service we were treated to tea and cherry buns (the Indian equivalent of hot cross buns).

The main Easter Sunday service took place at church and consisted of the rest of the Passiontide readings, lots of joyful hymns and Communion conducted by our own pastors, Rev. Kundan and Rev. Peter.

Maureen Colbert

GRANDSTAND VIEW

Wenlock and Mandeville...



Wenlock...

I wonder what Dr William Penny Brookes would make of all the razzmatazz that now accompanies the modern Olympic Games?

How many of you are now asking, "who is Dr William Penny Brookes"?

Let me quote from the Much Wenlock Tourism website (www.muchwenlocktourism.co.uk):

In 1850 local surgeon William Penny Brookes (1809 - 1895), who was one of the people credited with introducing physical education into British schools, inspired the forerunner of the modern Olympic Games for the "promotion of moral, physical and intellectual improvement", and although the Game's venue is now decided by international committee rather than by the parish council, we still hold our own Olympian games here every July - the other Olympian games are also doing quite well too! "The old women's" race for a pound of tea may yet be re-introduced!

William Penny Brookes' vision for the Wenlock Olympic Games is now widely acknowledged, and it is recognized that Baron de Coubertin was inspired to create his international event after a visit to the games in Much Wenlock.

The influential and wealthy Frenchman shared Brookes' dream, and went on to establish what we now know as "the modern Olympic Games"; and the first gathering was held in Athens in 1896.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, when president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), visited Much Wenlock in 1994 and laid a wreath at William Brookes' grave and commented: "I came to pay homage and tribute to Dr Brookes, who really was the founder of the modern Olympic Games."

In acknowledgement of William Penny Brookes, and of the role played by the Shropshire market town of Much Wenlock, one of the two Olympic mascots was named "Wenlock" - to my mind, a rather grotesque one-eyed gorgon, but I suppose we can learn to love him (or is it her?).

Mandeville...

Whilst William Brookes would perhaps not be overly impressed by the modern Olympic "hype", I feel sure that Sir Ludwig Guttmann would be overjoyed at what has developed from the germ of an idea that he had over 60 years ago.

Guttmann, a neurosurgeon, began work at Stoke Mandeville Hospital's Spinal Injuries Unit in 1944. He used organized sport to help motivate his patients to exercise and develop their physical strength and thereby rediscover their self-confidence.

On the same day as the Opening Ceremony of the 1948 London Olympic Games, Guttmann organized an archery competition for 16 of his patients at Stoke Mandeville. Four years later, as more sports were added, athletes from Holland joined in and the international Paralympic Movement was born and the "Stoke Mandeville Games" flourished.

Then in 1960, the ninth Stoke Mandeville Games took place in Rome, following the Olympic Games; an event considered to be the first Paralympic Games.

In recognition of the role played by Ludwig Guttmann and Stoke Mandeville Hospital, the second one-eyed Olympic mascot has been named Mandeville.

Visionaries...

Two visionaries, driven to pursue an ideal, were the inspiration for what are now massive global events, which will be followed by millions worldwide. (The predicted worldwide TV audience for the opening ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics is over one billion people.)

Perhaps we, as individuals and as a church, might be inspired to attempt small things for the Gospel that might develop and grow?

Grandstand View readers...

As I said in last month's article, 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. And there will be many Grandstand View readers present to witness events.

There may be many others, but I know of the following.

Stuart Brierley leads the way in obtaining tickets for Football (at Wembley), Volleyball, Wrestling (freestyle), Athletics, Badminton, Archery, Basketball, Modern Pentathlon, Beach Volleyball, Boxing, Diving, Fencing, Handball, Hockey, Judo, Weight-lifting, Water Polo and the Marathon.

Others have had more limited success in the ballots. Nicci O'Neill and her son Matthew will be taking in some Boxing; Anne Larkin and her family have tickets for Volleyball (most appropriate as Anne's daughter has represented both her university and GB in that sport) and Football (at Old Trafford); Phil Cooper and family are off to watch Athletics, Hockey and Women's Football; and Anne Wood and family have tickets for Paralympic Swimming and Paralympic Athletics. Anne quite rightly wants to remind readers that "when the able-bodied Olympics finish, there are plenty of equally worthy and entertaining paralympic athletes and swimmers to support."

As for the Newman family, Jonathan and I have tickets for an afternoon of Basketball, and Andrew and Kate have Paralympic tickets.

And we all have the bonus of being able to soak up the atmosphere of the Olympic Village before and after the events that we are watching. Please let me know how you got on and what your lasting impressions may be.

I hope that all readers enjoy the Olympics and Paralympics, either "on the box" or at your live events; and remember that it all started from small beginnings inspired by two visionary men, commemorated in those mascots, Wenlock and Mandeville.

David Newman
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Pilgrimage to the Roots of Our Church

The trip was organised by the Hornsey Congregation and Br. Joachim Kreusel facilitated the arrangements for which we thank him. On Friday 27th April, 24 London Moravians met up at Stansted airport to catch the 18:45 plane to Leipzig in Germany. When we arrived a coach awaited us to take us to the village of Falkenau near Flöha where we stayed two nights with families of the Lutheran congregation. We were given a very warm welcome by our hosts. They did not know us, yet they opened their hearts and homes to us with Christian love.

Saturday was a time for sightseeing around Falkenau and the Ore Mountains led by Br. Michael Rausch and Br. Elias Mauersberger. We visited Castle Augustsburg which included a visit to the falconry display. We had lunch at St. George's Lutheran Church in Flöha and met some members of the congregation. After lunch, church assistant Sr. Mandy Trompelt gave us an overview of the work of the Church in that area which was followed by a question and answer session. We then travelled to Steinbach for a trip on the narrow-gauge steam railway to Jöhstadt. We then continued to Marienberg for supper with the youth group who stayed at Hornsey in 2011. We ate, chatted and then sang for them returning later to our hosts in Falkenau.

On Sunday we attended the Protestant-Lutheran Church in Falkenau with our hosts for their 10:00 a.m. service. The service was presented in both German and English and everything was arranged to make us feel fully integrated. As a group we sang a number of songs as our gift to the congregation. After the service we had lunch in the church gardens followed by a discussion with a journalist from a local paper. We said our goodbyes and departed for Dresden where Sr. Silvia Tröster joined us to take us to Dresden Moravian Church where she is a member. We met the minister before settling into

our hotels for the night.

Monday commenced with a trip to the centre of Dresden for sightseeing and then a relaxing time to listen to organ music in the Frauenkirche (Church of our Lady).

Tuesday 1st May was a public holiday in Germany. We walked a short distance from the hotel to view a steam ship parade on the River Elbe. We then had some free time, all meeting up in the afternoon in the centre of Dresden to join the Dresden steam ship for our trip down the Elbe to Pilsnitz Castle.

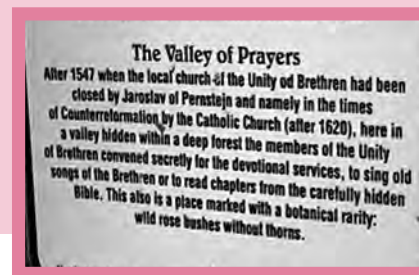
On Wednesday we departed by coach for Herrnhut. On our way we saw the beautiful city of Bautzen which has a very compact and well preserved medieval town centre. At 10:30 a.m. we arrived at the Zinzendorf Castle in Berthelsdorf. Work continues to restore the castle to the original period setting. We were reminded that Count Zinzendorf's family name did not continue as his only son to reach adulthood died in London. He is buried at Fetter Lane in Chelsea. Yet Count Zinzendorf's name lives on through the work of our Lord and the Church. We then travelled to the Moravian Church at Herrnhut and met Sr. Erdmuthe Frank who was our guide. We met in the church and were given an overview of the work at Herrnhut. This was followed by a visit to the Unity Exhibition and lunch at the "Herrnhuter Diakonie."

We visited God's Acre where a funeral procession was taking place. It was led by a brass band playing hymns, followed by the white coffin (white is traditional among Moravians in Germany) and mourners. We also visited the Star manufactory where we stocked up with stars of all different types and sizes for next Advent. At 4:00 p.m. we departed for Jablonec (in the Czech Republic, taking in a short detour into Poland on the way!). We booked into our hotel before

travelling the short distance to Jablonec Moravian Church (part of the Czech Undertaking). We met the minister Rev. Dagmar Oupická, who is an inspirational young woman working under great difficulties, as well as members of the church. The congregation invited us to supper, a great meal of soup and bread, then a main course followed by cake and treats. Out of the little they had, they gave beyond measure. We took a group photo and then went back into the church to share experiences and talk. We also sang for our brothers and sisters and then sang together in Czech and English 'Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of creation.' Again we were deeply touched by the love of our brothers and sisters.



On Thursday Sr. Dagmar Oupická was our guide as we departed by coach to visit a tiny Moravian church at Alšovice along with her grandfather Br. Ivan Šolc. We then journeyed to a Moravian church in Železný Brod to meet the congregation. We then travelled to the Kalich rocks (or the Chalice) where earlier Brethren met in secret during the time of the Counter Reformation. We were reminded that the Chalice was the secret sign of the underground Church at this time. The Chalice would also be engraved or painted on gates, meeting points and gables of houses. After saying goodbye to Sr. Oupická we travelled on to Ústí nad Orlicí and settled in the hotel for supper.



On Friday, we were met at the hotel by the minister of the Moravian Church in Potstejn. Rev. Nada Bětáková. We travelled by coach to the nearby village of Kunvald, the birthplace of the Moravian Church. On arrival we visited the Unity Museum, viewed the displays and watched a historical video. We then walked to the spot where the Church started which is known as the 'Valley of Prayers'. This was a very touching moment, we had silent reflections and prayed and then went humbly back to the coach. We travelled a short distance to see the three ancient lime trees that have merged into one. They were planted by the early Brethren before one of their periods of exile. When they returned, the three trees had fused into one. They took it as a sign of unity for the Church, as we also do today. After lunch we travelled to the Moravian Church in Potstejn and again were treated to refreshments by the congregation.

On Saturday 5th May after breakfast we boarded the coach for Prague. We had a short stop in the centre of Prague before departing for the airport. When we arrived at Stansted we gave Br. Joachim a heartfelt vote of thanks and presented him with a token of our appreciation for all his hard work and planning.

All in all it was a wonderful experience for us all. Everyone enjoyed the mix of city sightseeing, river boat trip, steam railway trip, countryside walks, personal meetings with our German and Czech brothers and sisters as well as moments of quiet reflection and acknowledgement of our Church's history. We hope it won't be too long before Br. Joachim can be persuaded to arrange another trip!

Edwin Quildan



MWA Executive Meeting

(Photo: Marjorie Marchant (Royton Circle))

MWA Rally 2012

The MWA rally was held at Lower Wyke on April 21st on a lovely sunny if somewhat windy and chilly day. Whatever the weather, it never dampens the wonderful atmosphere of friendship and fellowship. As always the event was superbly organised with a warm welcome at registration followed by 'singspiration' - a warm-up for the morning service and a time to prepare for the day's events. Roll call and collection of the project money followed with the amazing amount of £7345 raised. During this service Sr. Elizabeth Obbard gave an inspirational talk on our current theme 'A new look at the psalms'. Sr. Elizabeth lives as a hermit in Kent and is associated with a Carmelite order of nuns. She spoke on one of our best-known psalms - the song of Mary, the Magnificat, a song of great joy and submission to the will of God, and of Psalm 23, a song of faith in God and His promise to guide and protect us. She also talked about us singing psalms alone as praise or lamentation and singing in unison at services or in choirs, each bringing their own special voice to the song. She paralleled the beauty and diversity of the psalms and the music with that of each individual within our churches and communities - the talents they have and what they can contribute to the life and worship of them. Such resources often go untapped because we do not always recognise them and so do not invite them in. We were urged to seek and open the doors for all to come in.

There was a variety of activities, including Bible study, Yoga, singing, flower arranging, jewellery making and Line dancing all of which were thoroughly enjoyed. Transport was arranged for a group to visit Gomersal, while quite a large group toured Lower Wyke guided by Br. Peter Walker who is interested in local history and organises Heritage weekends.

The Communion service held in the afternoon was beautifully and joyfully led by Sr. Hilary Smith who also made reference to Psalm 23 and Jesus, our Good Sheperd, continuing the theme with the hymns.

Our meetings of the Central committee on the day before were fruitful and ably led by Sr. Janet Cooper, our president. Discussions took place to determine which good causes would benefit from donations made from the funds raised during the year (besides those already earmarked for donations from last year's meeting) and which would benefit from the coming year's project money.

The theme for the devotional papers for the coming year was also decided after long deliberation. A number of suggestions had been put forward; eventually 'Following in Christ's footprints' was the theme chosen. We should all aspire to follow in His footprints but suspect that many of us fail miserably most of the time.

As members will be aware Diane Thornton is stepping down as secretary having capably and enthusiastically served for nine years. Sr. Jean Parker from Dukinfield was elected in Diane's place and we wish her well when she takes up her post in September.

Sr. Lynn Ferminger was re-elected treasurer, not an easy job but Lynn is prepared to continue for which we are all grateful.

The invitation from the Birmingham sisters was accepted so we look forward to visiting Sparkhill for next year's rally to be held on April 13th. In the meantime a big 'thank-you' to the sisters of the Yorkshire district for a great day, you've got a hard act to follow Birmingham!

Lesley Benedek

Open Book

FIRST EPISTLE OF JOHN

1 John is the first of three short letters attributed to John the Apostle. This authorship is affirmed by Papias and Polycarp, who were almost contemporary with the Apostle. Other authors have been suggested in modern times, but not with certainty. The content, style and vocabulary are similar to the Fourth Gospel.

The approximate date of the letter is between 85 to 95 A.D. The church in the form of local assemblies of Christians had been in existence for about half a century. It came to life in Jerusalem on the Jewish festival of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit of God inspired a gathering of the first disciples and followers of Jesus. Beginning in Jerusalem, it spread in ever-widening circles into surrounding villages, towns and countries. Worship and meetings were held in houses or in the open air. (Acts 16 v 13)

With the passing of time and the initial experience and flush of Pentecost, other influence, besides persecution as at Thessalonica, made an impact on the life and activity of the churches. They were not immune from the ethos of the society in which they lived. One of these was Gnosticism (Greek: gnosis = knowledge), which was to develop into many systems of belief in the second century. Certain verses and passages in John's first epistle indicate the seeds of error and false doctrine were already being sown.

The motivation which produced Gnosticism appears to be complex: the desire and search for something new, before asking and convincing oneself and others if it is true, like the Athenians at the Areopagus in Acts 17 v 21. There was the belief that secret knowledge or "enlightenment" was the prerogative of certain privileged people. Another idea was that the material and physical world was basically evil. This led to extreme asceticism on the one hand, or a denial that sin was a reality, on the other, which led to wrong and doubtful action. Belief in the evil nature of the material world led to the rejection of the truth of the Incarnation, 'the Word made flesh.' This gave rise to the teaching that the "spirit" of Jesus descended upon Him at his baptism, but left Him before the crucifixion. It was to counteract such heresies John wrote this epistle. Later, councils of the Church formulated the creeds as articles of faith, and the canon of Scripture was established.

1 John is not addressed to one church or individual, and there are no personal references. It appears to be a circular letter relevant to all Christian communities, including our own. It is not impersonal. The letter conveys the Christian love and concern of the writer for his readers, whom he addresses as his "children", "brethren" and "beloved." John is advanced in age and writing from Ephesus.

A brief, selective summary of the epistle:

Chapter One John begins by presenting his credentials, in company with others, as a witness of the Person and Ministry of Jesus. The purpose of the letter is to provide a

basis for fellowship together, with God and the Lord Jesus Christ. "That our joy may be complete." v 4 (some ancient manuscripts have "your joy") v 5-10 "God is Light and we must walk (live) in His light. Compare the Gospel of John Chapters 3 v 19, 8 verse 12 and 12 verse 35.

Chapter Two Christian Assurance comes from walking with Christ, keeping His commandments.

"Love not the world." In this context, it does not mean the geographical or natural world, but the world where it has no room for God. (as in verse 16)

Chapter Three. Assurance comes through abiding in love.

"No one who abides in Him sins." verse 6
"No one born of God commits sin.. verse 9

John is referring to what should be, and these verses must be read together with the following:

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(chapter one v v 8 & 9 chapter two v v 1-3)

Together these verses avoid the distortion of "sinless perfection"!

Verse 14. Another proof or assurance we have spiritual life is our love for God's people. our brethren and sisters in Christ.

Chapter Four. Assurance through the inner witness of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter Five. Assurance through faith v v 10, 13 and 20.

Victory comes through faith and obedience.

John Wesley used to ask people, "You say you have salvation, but have you the assurance?"

The first Epistle of John provides the indication whereby we can say, "And we know we have eternal life, because..."

Answers: 1 John 3 v 14, 4 v 13, 5 v 13

The epistle ends with a final word of affection and guidance, from an elderly apostle and friend: "Dear children, keep yourself from idols."

Idolatry is when we give priority to anything before God, as the first object of our love, time and obedience.

Dennis Monger

*The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
help me to tear it from Thy throne,
And worship only Thee
So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame,
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.*

(William Cowper (1731 - 1800)

In Remembrance

Sr Doris Albinia Mortimore

1923 - 2012

Doris Albinia Vicary was born on 30th May 1923 to William John Vicary and Albinia Elizabeth (nee Southard) at 23 Duckworth Road, Exeter. Doris, known as Dee for most of her adult life was the 4th child of 5; Harold, Muriel, Leslie, Dee and Brenda. They were a poor but very happy, close family, enjoying family trips to friends in the country, seaside holidays at Blackpool Sands in Devon and were members of the Methodist Church in Exeter.

Illness was to haunt Dee however for much of her young life. She contracted rheumatic fever at 9, spending some months at Honeylands sanitarium in Exeter. At 13, Dee was diagnosed with TB and sent to another sanatorium in Bournemouth. When she returned to school she met Sybil Mortimore and they became and remained great friends but Dee also became friends with her brother Wilfred and we all know what happened next! Dee lived at home with her parents and brother Harold and worked, during the war for the Ministry of Food.

Dee, Wilfred, Sybil and her fiancée celebrated a double wedding at Dunsford Baptist Chapel on 23rd March 1944, officiated by Sybil and Wilfred's father, Alfred.

After war experience all over France, Holland and Belgium, Wilfred was posted to India but was given compassionate leave to stay in England as Adjutant of a Prisoner of War

Camp in Devon due to the continued ill health from TB of Dee.

In 1957 she and WJ moved to Lower Wyke in Bradford after he joined the Moravian ministry and in 1959, 15 years after they were married, doctors allowed them to try for children she now being clear of TB at long last and Ruth Fiona was born in April 1960.

Dee was a stalwart support to WJM during his ministry, never complaining about his late nights, endless phone calls and meetings; supplying him with hot meals at odd times, entertaining Moravians from all over the globe and the times she had to iron his surplice! The latter she did with grim determination, always trying to make sure he was well turned out!

In all the cards and emails that the family have received, people have talked of Dee as a 'kind and wonderful lady', as a faithful friend. I think that we are all sad that Dee and Wilfred were not able to spend a longer time together here at the flat in Baildon and we shall greatly miss her but we give huge thanks that she will now be back with Wilfred in God's gracious care.

This is an abridged version of Br. Derrick Purnell's funeral address.

Notice Board

Swindon Celebrates 2 Special Birthdays

Sr. Beth Plumb celebrating her 80th Birthday and Br. Dave Newman celebrating his 60th, both in May. After morning service the congregation wished them both a happy birthday with a cup of tea and a slice of cake.



Apology

I apologise to Charlie O'Neil's parents for incorrectly placing him in the Congregation Register in June - Ed.

Congregation News

Bath Weston

A sad beginning to start with yet again, with the passing of Sr. Sylvia Chapman (Sylvia was a Girls' Brigade Captain for many years), Sr. June Strange, Sr. Marian Graham (Marian was our chief fund raising organizer with her sister Enid Brain), Sr. Sylvia Gould, Br. Alan Cox and Br. Alan Hodgson. They will all be missed in their own ways.

Our Christingle service was very well attended, which included a Nativity Play, written by Sr. Gemma Tugwell and acted by the children from Junior Church. It was all very well presented! It is so nice to have the church full to capacity and to see the happiness on the children's faces as they carry their Christingles around the church.

Wednesday lunch club is also doing well, the numbers had dropped for various reasons, but they have had a few more people coming along to enjoy the delicious lunches served.

Cafe Church is having very good attendances, people coming along, who do not come to our usual Sunday services. Our last one which was on Palm Sunday, was very enjoyable, we had palm waving, coats laid on the ground, cheering, it was just as the Bible tells us. We must give thanks to Bishop Beth for all her hard work that goes into these services!

Since October 2011 with members of local church congregations, a Community Cafe has opened in our church hall, every Friday, its called 'Love Weston Cafe'. The aim is for a place where people can find friendship and also buy food and drinks at reasonable prices. It's run by Bishop Beth and Sr. Shirley Ward, plus the many helpers, who come from churches in the area and they all do a grand job!!

Our Easter service was slightly different this year, as instead of bringing eggs, we were asked to bring bars of chocolate, so that they could be passed onto the Bath Food Bank. The food bank is where bags full of essential supplies are given out to people in real difficulty, so the idea is that when you are in crisis it is also helpful to have a bit of a treat.

To finish off with, one of our members, Br. Michael Tugwell ran in the Bath Half Marathon and he finished! He did it in 1hr 51mins and came 3227 out of about 14000 runners. His charity he was running for was the Meningitis Research Foundation. Well done Michael. (Perhaps we may have some more runners next year taking part from church!)

Carole Young

Baildon

February was lightened by a very welcome and looked forward to event, organised by the Social Committee, another themed Quiz night. The Quiz nights, including lots of lovely things to eat, have become a regular and popular event. We have had a Spanish night and a French night and in February it was the UK. With lots of flair and imagination we were treated to a buffet of delicacies which included, amongst other things, roast beef and mini Yorkshires and Haggis!

March brought the Women's World Day of Prayer Service at the Methodist Centre and the evening was interesting and thought provoking.

April brought a sad farewell to another dear and well-loved member, Kath Truelove who has been an active and enthusiastic member of the church, participating in all aspects, especially the MWA, until illness prevented her.

The retiring collection at her funeral was by her request for the MWA and the project work. The members of the Baildon Circle of the MWA took the cheque to the Away Day at Wyke Moravian Church, to hand in with the other project money. At the Away Day it was lovely to see the Church full to brimming with happy, chattering ladies from lots of different congregations plus a few gentlemen and children, all pleased to see each other, catching up with news eager to enjoy the workshops and meet new friends.

The speaker Sr. Elizabeth Obbard was very inspiring and easy to listen to. The catering was very much enjoyed and the well-known hymns were all sung very enthusiastically. The atmosphere was warm and special, we were all lifted by the day.

Jennifer Baldwin

Hornsey

2012 started on a slightly sour note with the funeral of Br Ephraim Spence in the first week of January. Br Spence had been ill for a while but his death was quite sudden. Hornsey hosted a number of funeral services in the first three months of the year, particularly those of non-members including Sr Mary Ann Edwards late of the Harold Road congregation.

On 22nd January, there was a pulpit interchange between our church and the nearby Gospel Centre. We welcomed the minister, Br Brendan Munro, who delivered an interesting and thought-provoking sermon. He revealed that the 'Lord's Prayer' is actually found in John 17 and what we refer to as the Lord's Prayer is in fact the disciple's prayer.

Later that evening, the annual ecumenical service for the CTiH (Churches Together in Hornsey) took place in our church and was led by our minister, Br Kreusel.

On 5th February, we had what might be the lowest attendance in decades for a communion service at Hornsey due to the heavy snow that fell throughout the previous night. Fewer than 20 dedicated members fought their way through the deep snow to get to church that day - some of whom were relying on a largely depleted public transport network!

12th February saw the start of our Church Recognition

Programme which is intended to be in the spirit of the verse from 1 Peter 4:10 "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms". Those nominated received a certificate, words of encouragement and a blessing during a café style service held in the church hall. The programme is expected to be an ongoing feature; it is not meant to show favouritism but to encourage all of us as we strive to serve God and each other on a daily basis.

On 1st April, five candidates were confirmed during the Palm Sunday service. Each candidate gave a short testimony and was then presented with a certificate bearing an inspirational verse of scripture which they had chosen for themselves.

The weather on Easter Sunday morning was damp and miserable but that didn't deter the many members and visitors who turned out for the service. We watched members of the Sunday school perform a short play relating the resurrection story and listened as the choir rendered an uplifting item entitled " 'Tis Marvellous and Wonderful". This song was well chosen because it tells of the Saviour coming in his mighty power - an appropriate statement for Easter morning.

Claudette Anthony

Kingswood, Bristol

We recently held a combined Coffee Morning and Hunger Lunch in support of Christian Aid, with cakes and soup and homemade bread rolls. This proved to be very successful as we raised £196 and our homemade cakes and bread were very popular. We may be an ageing congregation but we can cook and this has proved to be very providential over the years for raising money!

Brenda Bressington

CONGREGATION REGISTERS

INFANT BAPTISM

29th Apr. ☐	Charlie Stephen O'Neil. ☐	<i>Royton</i>
13th May. ☐	Kristian Joseph Michael Fearn. ☐	<i>Ockbrook</i>
13th May. ☐	Matthew John Davidson. ☐	<i>Balinderry</i>
20th May. ☐	Theo Jack Inman. ☐	<i>Ockbrook</i>
27th May. ☐	Isaac Hamilton Constantine Boreland. ☐	<i>Gracehill</i>

MEMBERSHIP

20th May. ☐	Wesley Thompson. ☐	<i>Gracehill</i>
20th May. ☐	Jacqueline Thompson. ☐	<i>Gracehill</i>

DEATH

5th Aug. 2011 ☐	Sylvia Cassidy. ☐	<i>Salem</i>
12th May. ☐	Doris Albinia Mortimore (Aged 88) ☐	<i>Baildon</i>

ChoirHouse, Fulneck – Flat 4 No. 26

The flat has accommodation over two floors

Rent - £900.00 (Nine hundred pounds) per quarter

Service Charge - £100 per quarter

Application forms and viewing to be arranged with the administrators: Mr Ron & Mrs Ros Davey, 30 Fulneck, Pudsey, West Yorkshire LS28 9NT
Tel: 0113 257 0594

Applications forms to be returned to Mr & Mrs Davey by 5.00pm on 31st July 2012

Provincial Diary for July

6-9 July	URC General Assembly	Br. Cooper
18 July	Renewal Committee, Lower Wyke	Sr. Groves
24-25 July	PEC, BMB, Estates Meetings	The PEC
15-16 August	PEC, BMB, Estates Meetings	The PEC
18-25 August	Summer Camp, Fulneck	

PRAYER NOTES

3rd July - Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)

4th July - Lailat at Bara'ah (Islam)

6th July - Martyrdom of Jan Hus (Moravian)

9th June - Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)

13th - 16th - Obon (Buddhist/Shinto)

15th - St. Vladimir Day (Christian)

20th - Ramadam Begins (Islam)

23rd - Emperor Haile Selassi 1st Birthday (Rastafari)

25th - St. James the Great (Christian)

29th - Tisha B'Av (Judaism)

Prayer of St. Vladimir

"O Great God, Creator of heaven and earth!" cried out our godfather and enlightener, "Look down upon this new people, and grant them, Lord, to know Thee, the true God, as the Christian countries have known Thee; and confirm them in the true and uncorrupted faith; and aid me, Lord, against the hostile enemy, so that, trusting in Thee and in Thy power, I may defeat his intrigues."

Prayer to Saint James the Great

O Glorious Saint James, because of your fervour and generosity Jesus chose you to witness his glory on the Mount and his agony in the Garden. Obtain for us strength and consolation in the unending struggles of this life. Help us to follow Christ constantly and generously, to be victors over all our difficulties, and to receive the crown of glory in heaven. Amen.

Meditation

Lord,

Every day I wake up and think about what need to do, but I know that I forget you.
Every day I get ready for the things I have to do, but I know that I forget you.
Every day I charge out of the house and into my life, but I know that I forget you.
Every day I travel here and there, rushing from place to place, but I know that I forget you.
Every day I eat, drink and nourish myself, but I know that I forget you.
Every day I meet people and I discuss so many things with them, but I know that I forget you.
Every day I do most of the things that I said I should do, but I know that I forget you.
Every day I come back to my home and I try to relax, but I know that I forget you.
Every day I go to bed and drift off to sleep, but I know that I forget you.
Please don't forget me...thank you.

John Hus

*In the darkest heart, amid Europe's night
When the Church was lost and turned from right.
Only one man stood against all its might,
He saw the right way and shared his sight.
John Hus spoke out right without any fear,
In the Czech language, made it all clear.
He also condemned absolution dear,
So the Church proclaimed: you can't preach here!*

*John Hus, John Hus, you were our inspiration!
You were the first to say: all this is wrong!
You lead the way and that made us strong!
John Hus, John Hus: your life is where we began!*

*John Hus was accused of grave heresy,
For the church knew that he could not be free.
He came to Constance, the proud bishop's see,
To defend his own philosophy.
They tried poor John Hus and made up his sin,
They said 'repent': he would not give in.
Burnt at the stake but the Church did not win,
His death gave us the chance to begin!*

*John Hus, John Hus, you were our inspiration!
You were the first to say: all this is wrong!
You lead the way and that made us strong!
John Hus, John Hus: your life is where we began!*

Father in Heaven, Creator of all Prayer

*Father in Heaven, Creator of all and source of all
goodness and love, please look kindly upon us and
receive our heartfelt gratitude in
this time of giving thanks. Thank
you for all the graces and blessings.
You have bestowed upon us,
spiritual and temporal: our faith
and religious heritage. Our food
and shelter, our health, the loves
we have for one another, our
family and friends. Dear Father,
in Your infinite generosity, please
grant us continued graces and
blessing throughout the coming
year. This we ask in the Name of
Jesus, Your Son and our Brother.
Amen.*

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