

Moravian messenger



August
2012

Br. Philip Ashton writes about the:

Provincial Men's Fellowship - 25th Anniversary Service



June the 24th saw a joyful celebration of 25 years of the Provincial Men's Fellowship, held in Blackbird Leys, Oxford. The service, led by Br. Ken Evans, contained memories of the early days of the Men's Fellowship from Br. Robert Hopcroft, a thoughtful sermon by Br. Fred Linyard, prayers led by Br. David Howarth, Holy Communion and lively hymn singing. (Br. Bill Stennett had led a "singspiration" warm-up prior to the service!)

The occasion was also well attended by our Sisters and, despite the rather risqué suggestion that this mainly helped keep the coach costs down, it was all the better for their participation.

A purpose of the Provincial Men's Fellowship, from its Yorkshire beginnings, has been to attract more men into our congregations. But, as Br. Linyard pointed out when recapping the story of choosing Saul (1 Samuel, 10) - in particular the verse "There went with him a band of

men whose hearts God had touched" (KJV), the Fellowship is more than just a social organisation; rather it is a place where men (often in the minority within congregations) can support and encourage one another and be a place where we may grow in faith. So that we too can be a band of men whose hearts God has touched.



There were spare seats at Blackbird Leys with sparse representation from some areas of the Province, but the need for mutual support in our spiritual lives is a

constant and hence there is still work to do for the Provincial Men's Fellowship.

The service was followed by generous helpings of refreshments and hospitality provided by the Blackbird Leys congregation as well as a delicious birthday cake made by Sr. Carol Evans. A bookmark to note the occasion was distributed for all Brothers in the Province. To all who contributed to the event - a large **Thank You!**

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A word from the Editor

In 1972 a book was published entitled "The Limits to Growth" by the Club of Rome - an informal association of thinkers sharing a common concern for the future of humanity and the planet. In this book, according to a computer model, the world would run out of many essential resources and humanity would overstep planetary boundaries sometime between the years 2000 and 2100. Whilst its authors have often been scorned as a group of "Malthusian" thinkers, it seems pretty apparent that the earth is a closed biological system with a definite carrying capacity. Just like a dot of bacteria in a Petri dish, which expands until it hits the walls of the dish, where it's population crashes as all the resources supporting it are consumed, humanity could follow a similar pattern.

In May and in the run-up to the Rio+20 Summit held in June (the sadly squandered UN declared "once in a generation chance" to turn the global economy onto a sustainable track), one of the original authors published a follow-up report to the 1972 book entitled "2052: A Global forecast for the next 40 years". The revised forecast no longer predicts global apocalypse, but instead, a slow, sad decline. It also points to current crises in

the world, such as the global financial crisis, the global food crisis (1 in 7 go hungry) and the global ecological crisis, as evidence of mankind crossing and continuing to cross-planetary limits. It notes these crises are all driven by many of the same root causes including values not aligned to the problems we are facing, outdated institutions and outdated economies. It suggests we - humanity - need to evolve to new and higher social systems to effectively manage our higher levels of technological capability (and destructiveness), the globalisation of society and greater human mobility, etc and thus provide each of us with a world that is more secure, stable and habitable than it is today.

This might all seem pretty heady material. But in essence, isn't it just simply about being better stewards and caring for each other - a world where sustainability and equitability aren't mere ideals but fundamental principles for us all? The Christian message has so much to offer in this context. Just as the people of Israel were instructed to gather a day's portion of manna each day (Exodus 16, v 4) and each apportioned an equal amount, we need to recognise what prosperity looks like within finite limits. There is such a thing as having enough.

FELLOWSHIP DAY

22ND SEPT 2012

CARRS LANE CHURCH CENTRE
BIRMINGHAM B4 7SX
STARTING AT
10am

THEME: INSIDE-OUT

The inclusion and exclusion of people in biblical times and in our church today

Cost per person £5.00
Please pay on the day.

BOOK TODAY!

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code

Tel Number.....

Church.....

Number of people booking is for.....

Send this booking slip to:

Paul Greenhough

150, Hunsworth Lane, Cleckheaton
West Yorkshire. BD19 4DR

Or email:
Paul.Greenhough@moravian.org.uk
Tel: 01274 872633

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sr. Editor,

Br. Russell Winfield. - An open letter to PEC

I was dismayed and saddened to hear recently that Br. Russell had withdrawn from Church Service after almost 6 years of preparation for the ministry.

I find it difficult to comprehend that it has taken him until the end of his 3 year course of training to decide that he cannot enter our ministerial service. What has happened to bring him to this decision so late in his training?

Here was a young man who felt he had a calling to serve the Church and who gave up a lucrative job in the City of London to explore that calling by offering to work in various situations across the Unity, including Labrador, North India and South Africa for almost 3 years, largely at his own expense, before offering and being accepted for ministerial training.

Incidentally, I have had a first hand account of his work in district 6 in Cape Town from a colleague (with Moravian connections) with whom I work on occasions and who maintains a home in Cape Town who had learned of this young man from England who was doing such valuable work amongst the teenagers in that district.

I have no desire to embarrass or for confidences to be broken, but would seek an assurance that whatever has caused this change of heart by such an able young man will be carefully considered and taken on board by PEC so that similar situations can be avoided in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Cross.

Synod Youth Representative Reports

Sr. Hannah Cooper attending Synod for the first time writes:

When I was asked to attend Synod as a youth representative I didn't know fully what was involved. My nerves settled after reading my welcome pack and receiving a message from Roberta Hoey who told me that she was the other youth representative. When I arrived at Synod I saw a number of familiar faces and felt welcome.

When the sessions started certain proposals began to be debated. These discussions were interesting as people had a chance to state their opinions, ask questions and decide whether the proposals should or should not be passed. The sessions made me realise that keeping churches within the British Province going, takes a lot of hard work by a number of people. I also discovered what changes were proposed and was able to vote on whether I thought these changes should occur.

When the elections took place it was very difficult deciding who to vote for as many people had the qualifications and abilities to serve on the various committees.

The reports were very interesting particularly those showing how the YPMA money had helped individuals and charities. Sr. Vani and Br. Shanty Pradhan delivered a very interesting

talk about the mission work going on within Nepal. It felt so good to know that the British Province is helping those in need.

On the last day of Synod the Youth Report was read and questions were raised. Many people thanked the youth within the church and those that organised youth events as they felt it was a very important aspect within the church. In this session Roberta and I spoke about our own personal experiences and raised the importance of highlighting gifts within young people and taking an interest in them as individuals. We talked about giving the young a voice and listening to their opinions as it is important that we are heard. We finished by saying that messy church, cafe church, all age worship and interactive church services may help to bridge the gap between Sunday school and staying in church for the whole service.

I hope that anyone who is given the opportunity to attend Synod does because it really helps you to understand the Church and how it works. I found it uplifting and it gave me hope to know that the Moravian Church can change or adapt and the people within it are willing to help these changes happen.

Sr. Roberta Hoey attending Synod for the second time writes:

As this was my second time, having attended in the same capacity in 2010, I felt a little more prepared as to what to expect, especially in terms of procedures and formalities.

The opening of Synod was led by Sr. Vani Pradhan. She spoke of her work in Nepal and reminded us of the mission of the Moravian Church, as we settled into sessions and the business of Synod. It was great to get further insight into the 'mechanics' of the Church, making fundamental and vital decisions, which might not necessarily be evident in our day-to-day church life.

Hannah and I got lots of opportunities to talk with other brothers and sisters, from the Province, around the Unity and other

associated Churches, about youth and children's work. This was a great way to hear about the work around the districts and also share our ideas for the future and discussing what is relevant in the Church today. When Joy Raynor presented her Report on the PYCC, Hannah and I had an opportunity to give our views on youth work and we were able to talk about some of the feedback we had been receiving throughout the weekend.

Young people want to learn our traditions, but they can also bring fresh ideas, important if any growth is to continue. I came away from Synod, once more positive that our voice was heard and I hope people will be motivated to take action.

Summer Camp Invitation

Summer Camp invites everyone to an evening service at Fulneck on Sunday 26th August at 6:30pm. There will be refreshments served afterwards and an opportunity to meet the campers. We look forward to seeing you there.

News from Irish District Youth

We have taken part in three main events so far this year over here in the Irish District, namely the Summer Camp Taster Day, our participation in the Belfast Marathon and the joint Youth Service with the young people of Gracehill. The Summer Camp Taster Day was held at Kilwarlin so that we could make use of the hall and the facilities there. A good number of people attended and the young people were encouraged to attend Summer Camp this year. In May our very own Marathon Man, Br. David Costley, ran the whole of the Belfast Marathon for us and helped to raise £650, which we will use to help young people here in the Irish District and in England to get to Summer Camp. We also took part in a joint Youth Service at Gracehill, when the young people came together in order to create a service that reflected Father's Day and the 290th anniversary of the founding of Hernhutt. The young people did a great job, as usual, with only two and half hours preparation time and the people of Gracehill came out to support us as usual, both with their attendance and their generous giving towards the work of ID Youth. Afterwards we held a BBQ and played games in the square at Gracehill. We are now looking forward to Summer Camp at Fulneck and to the events that we have in mind for the rest of the year.

Roberta Hoey

Total collected
in 2011 was
£9011.51

GRACEHILL £2626.40

Flux 200 Award
Katie Bell

Dark Blue 150 Award
Robbie Bamber

Red 100 Awards
Aaron Carlisle, Jamie Armstrong,
Cameron Harper

Blue 50 Awards
Adam Johnston, Anna Wray, □
James Johnston, Craig Simpson,
Emma Erwin, Josh Erwin, □
Vicky Greer, Owen Johnston,

Purple 25 Awards
Amy Barr, Harry McClintock, □
Ruby McClintock, Jessica McCullagh,
Erin Barr, Katie McCullagh, □
Ellie Butler, Jake Butler, Alice Frazer,
Jane Montgomery, Lee O'Connell,
Mark Johnston

Gold Awards
Adam McCahon, Ella Henry, □
James Martin, Clara Dunlop, □
Scott Henry, Zach Barr, Ella Dunlop,
Ashley Johnston, Emma Greer,
Johnny Booth, Lucinda Douglas,
Philip Kitson, Tre Kenny, □
Mark Kitson, Joshua Barr, □
Courtney Montgomery, □
Harry Frazer, Clara Simpson, □
Mark Wilson.

Silver Awards
Mariah Martin, Nikita Thompson,
Danielle Douglas, Jessica McCahon,
Lisa Lambertson,

Certificates
Beth Andrews, Josh Caldwell,
Alexander Clarke, Rachel.

Bath Weston £517

Dark Blue 150 Awards
Ashley Tugwell, Michael Tugwell,
Gemma Tugwell

Purple 25 Award
Hannah Wicks

Wellhouse £104

Blue 50 Award
Samuel Bull

Fulneck £124.40

Royton £320.50

Green 75 Award
Leah Osborne

Gold Award
Cameron Farrar

Purple 25 Award
Joshua Cooper, Aeryn Corr

Blue 50 Awards
Amy Backhouse, Thomas
Backhouse, Ella Wilson

Lower Wyke £1555.75

Dark Blue 150 Award
Adam J Slater

Red 100 Awards
Grenville Greenwood, Leon Enright,
Louis Enright

Green 75 Awards
Julia Wood, Clair Drake

Blue 50 Awards
Claire Greenwood, John Greenwood,

Purple 25 Awards
Georgina F Cooper, Libby N Cooper,
Amelia Clough, Diane Thornton,
Lucy Horner, Amy Kara Little, □
Jade E Shackleton, Mathew Little,
Heather Little

Gold Awards
Rachel Monds, Julia Seymour,
Bethany Cooper, Molly Clough,

Silver Award
Kathrine Ward,

Belfast University Road £850

Flux 200 Award
Ryley Finlay

Red 100 Awards
Amy Johnston, Evie Mickle

Blue 50 Awards
Darcey James, Ruth Biggart, □
Naomi McVeigh,

Purple 25 Awards
Niamh Livesey, Lily Mewha, □
Katie Livesey, Charlotte James,
Molly Mewha, Lucy Mewha, □
Jack Goodall

Fairfield £179.15

Purple 25 Award
Emma Wray

Blue 50 Award
Jack Butler

Gomersal £545.15

*This is an all time record for
Gomersal. Congratulations!*

Red 100 Award
Angela Horsfall, Bethany Anthony

Green 75 Award
Lucy Anthony

Blue 50 Awards
Lauren Hare,

Purple 25 Awards
George Rivers, Georgina Wright,
Francesca Wright, Grace Shorten.

Gold Awards
Ben Shorten, Jodie Walker, □
Rebecca Barber.

Dukinfield £200

Red 100 Award
Kerry Clark

Blue 50 Awards
Lucy Ackland, Amy Ackland.

Cliftonville £843.09

Red 100 Awards
Leah Davis, Abbie Burnett, □
Aislin Trueick, Scott Gill

Green 75 Award
Demi Walker,

Blue 50 Awards
Nathan Brown, Jenson Brown, □
Dean Brown, Aaron Ferguson,
Holly Ferguson, Leah Lamont

Gold Awards
Cara Lamont, Abby Lamont.

Swindon £600

Red 100 Awards
Katie Williams, Emma Mundy,
Nicholas Webb, David Williams,
Alice Webb, Samuel Mundy.

Hornsey £270

Purple 25 Awards
Ebony Aymer-Jefftey, Naomi
Stennett

Gold Awards
Lanai Lenton, Kyra Swaby, □
Jordan Lambert, Ashanti Jeffrey-
Weekes, Kaitia Henry, David Bowers,
Luke Lambert, Quinton Roberts,
Timothy Roberts, Stephan Yeboah,
Gabriel Anthony, Mya Chrichlow,
Jaden Salami, Morgan Anthony

Queens Park £251

Baldon £25.07

Projects in 2012

Y.P.M.A. has contributed to the purchase of a new Minibus for the school at Kathmandu. The Men's Fellowship and MWA have also contributed.

Y.P.M.A. is also providing large toys for use outside at the school at Kathmandu.

Money for Scholarship Fund Leh school Ladakh.

Money for Scholarship Fund Shey school Ladakh.

Money for Scholarship Fund Khalaste school Ladakh.

Contribution to the Elim home for handicapped children Cape Town South Africa.

Paul Greenhough



Game, Set - and Murray!!!

After the disappointments of the football at Euro 2012 in June, this year's Wimbledon Tennis Tournament was a most enjoyable fortnight. Okay, the weather wasn't brilliant, but the sliding roof on Centre Court meant that many crucial matches could continue into late evening, and that the schedules weren't overly disrupted.

If . . .

In the tunnel that leads to Wimbledon's Centre Court, the players pass under two lines of poetry by Rudyard Kipling:

"If you can meet with triumph and disaster
and treat those two impostors just the same."

That must surely send a shiver down the spine of those who read it. But there's much more of the poem that could be applied, not just to Wimbledon, but to all modern sport, and appropriately to competitors in the Olympics and Paralympics taking place in Stratford at the beginning of August.

It's such a wonderful piece of writing that it's worth quoting in full, and I commend the words to you. I often reflect that as a minister of the church, these words can be so very appropriate. Dare I suggest that they contain Christ-like virtues?

*If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;
If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;
If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breath a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on";
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch;
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run -
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And - which is more - you'll be a Man my son!*

(And "men", "Man" and "son" should be read as all-inclusive non-gender specific designations.)

Murray . . .

Andy Murray thrilled the crowds on Centre and Number One courts, as well as those watching from "The Hill" and on television at home. How Kipling's words fit to his efforts and circumstances; and his future as a potential Grand Slam winner will hinge on how he treats "those two impostors".

Murray . . .

Yet for all the excitement generated by Andy Murray and his noble efforts, the match that gripped me most, and was for me the most enjoyable, was the final of, as it is called at Wimbledon, the "Gentlemen's Doubles".

I expect most readers are familiar with the story of Jonny Marray and Freddy Nielson. A scratch pairing who only got together a few weeks before Wimbledon, and won a tournament in Nottingham. On the strength of that they were given a "wild card" entry into the Wimbledon tournament. They clawed their way through round by round, beating several "seeded" couples along the way, and found themselves in the final, matched against the pair who had been losing finalists in the two previous Wimbledon tournaments. Five sets of glorious, joyful tennis on a Saturday evening had me and Marilyn glued to the TV. When the match point was won, the reaction of Marray and Nielson, and of the crowd, was something special.

But even more special was a moment earlier in the match.

Marray finished off a rally with a winning shot. The point was called by the umpire and everyone was ready to carry on. But Jonny Marray had his racket aloft, acknowledging to the chair umpire that he had fouled the net - the very slightest of touches which nobody else on court or in the watching crowd, or in the commentary box had seen or heard. What a glorious moment of sportsmanship. In interviews afterwards, a modest Jonny Marray explained that this was the way he had been brought up to play the game, and his conscience wouldn't allow him to continue. So the call of the umpire was reversed, the point was lost; but joy of joys, the match was eventually won. That incident was for me the highest point of many highs during a fabulous fortnight of competition.

It was also nice to see the "oldies" doing so well. With the exception of Freddy Nielson at 28 years of age, all of this year's crop of Wimbledon champions, in singles and doubles, were "thirty-somethings". As a recent "sixty-something", I find that most encouraging.

And so we now look forward to the new football season. Season tickets purchased for me and Jonathan at The Cottage. Why do we football fans continue to put ourselves "through the wringer" every season?

David Newman

david.newman@moravian.org.uk

Delight in God

A look at Psalm 84 with Paul Gubi - metrical version "Sing Out Today" 37

Up to its relocation in 1999, one of the joys of worshipping with the Coronation Avenue congregation in Bath was the regular use of the sung Liturgy. A favourite was the Fourth Order with its awakening and awesome call to worship: "Beloved, we are come together in the presence of Almighty God ...". The prayers that follow are mainly The General Confession, The General Thanksgiving, and The General Intercession, with, of course, The Lord's Prayer. What finer accompaniment to this feast of great prayers, this litany of delight in God, than Psalm 84, and sung to the lovely Chant 31 by Brooksbank. Sadly the sound of the Anglican Chant is rarely heard in Moravian services in this Province now - and the latest Liturgy arrangement is designed to be read not sung. The theme of the Psalm is one to sing about, as Isaac Watts felt in his version: "Lord of the worlds above".

In the metrical form by me that follows here, I have stayed closer to the wording in Canticle 22, having always been attracted to those opening lines: "How lovely are thy dwellings, O Lord of hosts!" I turned to these words at the time my father died 32 years ago, which is when this hymn was written, whilst arranging the funeral service. Thinking of his 54 years of service in the ministry, the words seemed to embrace that life-long walk with God and the joy of serving which he and my mother embodied - a walk not without its passage through the dark valley and challenging, sometimes searing, moments where grace and glory shone through; the reinvigorating 'sun and shield' vindicating trust in the love and goodness of God.

How lovely are Your dwellings, Lord, what blessings in Your house are stored,

To satisfy the soul that longs and fill the heart with joyful songs!

To me it says "Let's sing!" Psalm 137 gives us a sad picture of a captive Israel being urged by their captors to "Give us one of your songs", provoking an extremely bitter response. Who wants to sing in our situation! But an important feature of the Psalms - perhaps the thing above all that gives them their enduring appeal and value - is their recognition of the presence and reality of God even when they express anger, frustration and bewilderment or whatever. So, what kind of God is here?

Beneath Your roof the sparrows nest, and here I too would find my rest

Where, round Your table comes Your peace whose presence bids our tumults cease.

Endless the praise that here shall rise to You, the Lord of earth and skies;

For in Your strength is confidence, and You are our secure defence.

This is God who knows our innermost thoughts and brings healing and solace to our hurts and sorrows. He is God also in whose strength is our abiding refuge.

Through valleys dark, filled with alarm, I come, by You preserved from harm,

And journeying on from strength to strength shall stand before Your throne at length.

We sometimes find ourselves in dark, even frightening, places. It is especially important then to know that we are still in the hand of God, and to trust the Hand that holds us. Are such things really sent to try us? What sense do we make of some experiences? Like St Paul, knowing that God is in every situation, working in love for our good, I believe we can emerge stronger - journeying on from strength to strength. What matters most is the goal before us. To know the ultimate purpose of our journey in life is more important than struggling with the temporary meaning of what might be described as passing incidents along the way. What helps to maintain our focus are those special moments where we come together in the presence of Almighty God - the God of power: resurrection power.

Lord, hear my prayer, O God of power: better by far one glorious hour

Within Your house, to keep Your door, than elsewhere spend a thousand more.

Eternal God, whose love of old Your people's good will not withhold;

Our steadfast trust is in Your name, now and for ever still the same.

Eternal love, the experience - steadfast trust, our response - the unchanging God whom we worship and adore, our abiding joy to Whom be praise and glory.

"Truro" (by C Burney from Psalmody Evangelica, 1790) is a lively and pleasant tune from the late 18th Century which feels made for the words, notwithstanding the 'age difference'. May you enjoy a continuing appreciation of this psalm.

In Remembrance

Br. Robert Gerald Farrar

1916 - 2012

Robert Gerald Farrar was born a child of the manse in Leominster on 20th May 1916, where his father served as a rural missionary to The Broad, Cobnash and Cholstry. At the age of 3½ he moved with his mother and father to Crook in the north-east. He began his formative years, in addition to the family setting, at a private school run by a Mr. and Mrs. Wilson - themselves members of the Crook congregation. He continued his primary education in the local council school followed by entrance to Scorton Grammar School near Richmond in Yorkshire - entering Fulneck Boys' School around 1926. Whilst he was at Fulneck he was confirmed by Br. C.H. Mellowes.

He was exceptionally good at all kinds of sports and won many trophies. He was appointed head boy and I am told he considered the possibility of being a P.E. teacher - then a doctor - but his calling led him into the ministry and church service. He received his training at Fairfield College and began his ministry at Malmesbury as a student pastor in 1938. He was later ordained by Bishop H. Blandford.

Malmesbury turned out to be a significant call for him as it was there that he was to meet and later marry his beloved wife Gertrude Mary Jones. In 1944, they were called to the Crook congregation where he was to learn much of his boyhood days as members recounted stories of the 8 years his father had been their minister. It was during his own ministry there that Penelope was born at Bishop Auckland. It was in 1944 at the Fulneck Synod that he was consecrated as a Presbyterian again by Bishop H. Blandford.

Subsequent calls took him from district to district except to Northern Ireland. He served the congregations of Maudlin St. (Bristol) and was minister in charge of Kingswood. He

then moved to Hornsey with oversight for Upton Manor. Next came a call to Ockbrook (at which time Penelope was a boarder at the girl's school). From Ockbrook to Bath Weston and Coronation Avenue, then to Westwood, Oldham. He finally returned to the Western District to minister to Kingswood with oversight of the remaining members of Maudlin St. whose church had closed and been swallowed up in the development of the hospital. In 1981 he retired and remained in Kingswood.

It was in 1958 when Gerald and Mary came, in answer to a call, to Ockbrook that I first came to know him. From that time to this day I realised that we had many shared hopes and aspirations. He always led worship with a place for liturgy and free style worship with a space for the leading of the Holy Spirit. The sacraments were conducted with a degree of formality befitting the occasion. His pastoral ministry was conscientious and empathy, care and concern and Christian love shone out as he attempted to minister to the full spectrum of humanity.

Gerald had an outgoing (sometimes gregarious) nature. It caused him to befriend people, to show Christian love and compassion to multitudes of people up to his last days. Everywhere he went the manse became a home offering hospitality and generosity in tangible ways as his means allowed. He loved and was loved by so many people.

Finally let us not forget his smile, his chuckle and that infectious laughter that could ease troubled hearts and minds and bring joy and happiness. May he rest in peace.

This is an abridged version of Br. Michael Rea's funeral address.

Notice Board

In response to a resolution passed by Synod, Br. John McOwat sent the following letter to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II:

Your Majesty,

I write on behalf of the Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church in Great Britain and Ireland.

As President of Synod I was asked to convey the loyal greetings of the British Province of the Moravian Church on the occasion of Your Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

We are grateful for the long years of service so faithfully rendered by Your Majesty and we will continue to uphold Your Majesty in our prayers.

With all good wishes, I have the honour to be, Madam, Your Majesty's humble and obedient servant,

John McOwat

The Rt. Rev. John McOwat
President of Synod.

Mr Christopher Sandamas replied as follows:

Dear Reverend McOwat,

The Queen has asked me to thank you and the Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church in Great Britain and Ireland for your kind message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

The Queen much appreciates your thoughtfulness and the assurance of your prayers and in return, sends her best wishes for an enjoyable Diamond Jubilee year.

Yours sincerely,
Christopher Sandamas

Christopher Sandamas
The Chief Clerk to The Queen

The Right Reverend John McOwat.

Cyprus in a time of economic uncertainty

In writing this article I should say at the outset that it is a personal opinion gleaned from the facts as presented by local media and well informed political and social commentators.

Everyone is aware of the economical difficulties in both Britain and the Euro zone. Indeed there seems to be, with a few notable exceptions, a global crisis. The increase of informal and formal meetings of the G8 members seems to be a fair indicator of this.

I have a friend who is of the opinion that the Euro is doomed to financial meltdown. I am not quite so pessimistic but he is adamant, and since he has a track record of foreseeing the 2008 crisis and protecting his own investments at that time, then I don't dismiss his opinion off-hand.

So, with a definite double dip in the British economy, and Greece bordering on a decision to leave the Euro zone, (This may have been resolved one way or another before this article goes to press.) what may constitute a Christian outlook on the fortunes of a small island like Cyprus?

In order to attempt an answer, I need to say a little about the quite formidable character of the Cypriot citizen. I find them (to borrow a phrase of the late Br A.J.(Jim) Lewis) to be quite indelible! They have a tenacity that has kept them throughout a turbulent history of over 5000 years. (Kittim was the Old Testament name for the island.) Indeed, recent archaeological finds probably push back the dating of human habitation of this island to 10,000 years! And in the history of this place every invading force has wanted a footing here.

It has been and still is, because of its location, a strategic place. Britain still recognises this as we maintain a sovereign base area at Episkopi and Akrotiri. With the volatility of the Middle East we are wise to maintain this position.

With its Orthodox Christian position, Cyprus has a longer history of Christianity than the UK! St Paul, with his Cypriot companion Barnabas, took an overland route from Salamis

to Paphos, where he took a beating for his pains, and was instrumental in the conversion of the island's governor to Christianity.

With its long history and experience I think that Cyprus can teach us all something worthwhile - crisis? What Crisis? Cypriots have a fundamental self belief that can be quite inspiring. (It may not always be grounded in "reality" - but who would dare define what is reality in these uncertain times?) They hunker down in difficult times and do what they can to protect the wider family. Sometimes they dare to brook the trends and so large developments of land continue if at a reduced rate.

Cyprus is not as exposed to the Greek crisis as you might expect. Other EU countries are more exposed. It might be a real case of "small is beautiful". The Cyprus economy is small.

If I have one concern for Cyprus it is for its young people. They are caught between a rock and a hard place. They no longer want the hard toil of the land like their elders have endured. They do not want the work that Eastern Europeans have filled. Many of them see emigration to places like Britain as preferable to life here. I am concerned that their future, like that of many young people may not yield all they hope and dream of. That makes them vulnerable to the charlatan politics of the extremist.

If only for their sakes, it is time for the Church (of all persuasions) to rise to the challenge of today - real faith for real people in real circumstances. Hunker down on the fundamentals by all means, but don't knuckle under to any difficulty. If Christ is risen from the dead shall we not rise with him? Crisis? What crisis?

Trevor Auty

Since receiving Br Auty's article on Cyprus, the Cyprus government has admitted it is greatly affected by the position of the Greek Banks. It has applied for a bailout from the EU. For good or ill, reality comes to us all at some point.

Open Book

1 CHRONICLES

Like the books of Kings and Samuel, 1 and 2 Chronicles were originally one book. Anyone reading the Bible for the first time should be discouraged from starting with 1 Chronicles because it consists of several chapters which are little more than lists of names. It is well to remember that before writing became widespread, these names were committed to memory and passed down from one generation to another. While many people will be unimpressed by these lists, it is surprising to find a record of the names of the choir members who looked after the music in the original tabernacle before the temple was built in Jerusalem. (Chapter 6,31. There are the linen workers of Beth-ashbea in 4, 21. There are the potters of Netaim and Gederah in 4, 23.). There are other interesting details slipped in among the names. In chapter 1 we read that before Israel had any kings, there were kings in the land of Edom and their names are recorded along with the cities where they made their headquarters. In one case the name of the King's wife is also recorded along with her genealogy. (Chapter 1, verse 50.). There is a great deal in 1 Chronicles that can be found in other Old Testament books, mainly Joshua, Samuel and Kings, and while this book is listed among 'The Writings' in the Hebrew Scriptures, it is usually described as being the religious history of Israel in some Christian commentaries. David is held up as an example of a righteous God-fearing king, and so he was in comparison with others of his time. Although it is admitted that he had blood on his hands (Chapter 28, verse 3) his misdemeanours, that are mentioned elsewhere, are not recorded in 1 Chronicles.

In chapter 2 verse 7, Achan is described as having brought trouble on Israel in a few words. The incident takes up a whole chapter in Joshua, chapter 7. In chapter 3 verses 1 - 9, we discover that some of David's children were born in Hebron while others were born in Jerusalem after the family moved there. In chapter 4, verse 9, Jabez, the head of a family in the tribe of Judah, is noted for his honourable character in comparison with his brothers but there is no information about what caused him to be regarded in that way. In chapter 5 verse 21 we have an account of the booty captured in war by the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh against the Hagrites; 50,000 camels, quarter of a million sheep, 2,000 donkeys and 100,000 men. Chapter 6 deals with the distribution of land among various tribes while chapter 7 is unusual in that it describes Sheerah, the daughter of Ephraim as having built three cities. (Verse 24). She must have been an impressive person since cities were usually established by men. Chapter 8 records the genealogy of Saul, Israel's first king. This is repeated in condensed form in the closing verses of chapter 9, which also records the names and

occupation of those who returned from exile. One commentary suggests that the first nine chapters of First Chronicles need not be read for devotional purposes!

Chapter 10 is a condensed version of the life of King Saul and is worth comparing with 1 Samuel chapter 31. The wording is almost identical. Chapter 11 begins with a history of king David and then reverts to listing groups of people and their claims to fame. Chapter 12 is a list of David's mighty men who appear to have been a privileged group. In chapters 13 to 16 the bringing of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem is covered with all the pomp and ceremony in connection with the event. In chapter 16, verses 8 to 36 are a prayer of thanksgiving, much of which is repeated in Psalms 105 and 145. In chapter 17 we learn of David's intention to build a permanent temple in place of the tent which was then in use, but is discouraged from doing so by Nathan the prophet who had a revelation from God in which he was told that David was not the one who

...he was told that David was not the one who would build 'a house for God to dwell in'.

would build 'a house for God to dwell in' and that this would be done by one of his sons who would be king after him. Verses 16 to 27 form a beautiful prayer. Chapters 18, 19 and 20 contain more names and statistics and accounts of further battles. In chapter 20 we discover that there were still giants to be dealt with including Goliath's brother Lahmi.(Verse 5). In chapter 21 David organises a census which met with God's disapproval and a plague was sent which decimated the population and made the census useless. The plague

was stopped only when David built an altar on the threshing floor of Ornan, the Jebusite, for which he paid 600 shekels of gold. In chapter 22, David prepares materials for the building of the temple which had to be 'exceedingly magnificent, of fame and glory throughout all lands'. Chapters 23 to 27 record the way in which David organised the future temple staff, the priests, the musicians, the gatekeepers, treasurers and other officials including the military and the leaders of the tribes. Chapter 28 consists of David's farewell speech to Israel and to Solomon while handing over the plans and materials for the building of the temple. The closing chapter gives an account of the amount of gold, silver and precious stones that was generously contributed by the king and the people for the building of the temple. This is followed by another prayer offered by David and the people, and the final verses tell of the anointing of Solomon as David's successor and the death of David 'at a good age, full of days, riches and honour.' A list of the records and documents, from which first Chronicles was compiled, brings the book to a close. Many of these original records have disappeared over the years or been included in other books of the Old Testament.

Peter Gubi

Congregation News



Dukinfield

The weekend at the end of May was a particularly busy one for the members of the Dukinfield congregation. The Youth Club for 5 - 10 year olds was re-launched at the beginning of the year, meeting twice-monthly on Friday evenings. This has proved so successful that the leaders have had to create a waiting list! The meeting at the end of May took the form of a Diamond Jubilee Street Party and was a great success. On the day after, Saturday, Sr Glenys Marshall held a Messy Church also in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This attracted record-breaking numbers of children and their parents or carers, and as you can see from the photograph, this event finished with

a party meal.

The Sunday, being Pentecost, saw our usual Walk of Witness procession to the Town Hall and back. It is always an enjoyable event, and we were blessed with beautiful weather this year.

A note of sadness, however, as Whit Sunday was the last day we had the company of our dear sister Doris Evans, as she passed away suddenly on Monday. We will all miss her smile, the twinkle in her eye, her love and compassion and simply her joy of life.

Sue Selby

CONGREGATION REGISTERS

BAPTISM

13th May. □ **Matthew John Davidson.** □ *Ballinderry*
17th Jun. □ **Madelaine Evie Kovacevic.** □ *Royton*

DEATH

9th May. □ **Dorothy May Cope.** □ *Dukinfield*
21st May. □ **Marjorie Quick.** □ *Coronation Avenue*
28th May. □ **Doris Evans.** □ *Dukinfield*
5th June. □ **Madge Shaw.** □ *Royton.*
18th June. □ **Robert Gerald Farrar.** □ *Kingswood*

Lower Wyke

As we sang "All over the world, The spirit is moving" on Pentecost Sunday, moving was about to become a reality for Tony and Jan Ellis who emigrated to Australia on 11 June.

Tony was brought up at Lower Wyke and although the family have not lived in the area for many years they have always kept up friendships and visited when they could. Tony and Jan will live in Perth near to their daughter, son-in-law and grandson and close to their son and fiancée. Jan's family also live in the area so family beach BBQs here we come!

Tony and Jan shared their last service at Lower Wyke bathed in sunshine - a lovely memory to take to the other side of the world!

Diane Thornton



Fairfield

Whodunnit?

Well first and foremost the finger points to Sr Kathleen Openshaw as producer and her partners in crime; Srs Margaret Kelshaw and Lesley Birchwood and Brn Derek Ellwood, Paul Clayton and Alan Millea. Yes they were the cast in Sr Openshaw's latest successful whodunnit evening held in the college on the evening of Saturday 3rd March.

It was a very well attended and well received event and made an impressive £723.21 profit for church funds.

Whodunnit?

This time the responsible party is the Board at Church House. We thought we were going to have a period without a minister and then.....

On 11th March during Café Church we were introduced to Rev Graham Kent. Graham is our new Minister, initially for a 6 month period. He has come to us on loan from the Methodist Church and I'm sure some of our Moravian/Fairfield customs and traditions must seem strange to him, but he seems to be coping well and is settling in with our ways and we with his. His first big challenge was Easter, the most important time in the church and a very busy one. He certainly didn't seem to run out of stamina or ideas for services (although he did need a few days holiday straight after Easter)! I know I am not alone in looking forward to seeing what he has in store for us in the coming months. We also introduced him to what has become a Fairfield tradition; washing up at the sister's tea on 6th May, a good way to learn your way around the college kitchen, you never know when this may come in handy.

Margery Sutcliffe

Ballinderry

On Friday 2nd of March, for the first time ever, Women's World Day of Prayer was held in Ballinderry. The church was full of women and even a few men from all over the district. The Reverend Grace Clunie, from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, spoke to the congregation. The theme of the service was Let Justice Prevail and was prepared by the Christian Women of Malaysia. Women from the many churches in the area read from the pamphlet provided and the church was decorated with exotic fruits and flowers. We shared tea, biscuits and fellowship at the end of the service.

On Sunday 11th of March the Anniversary Service was held. Br. Charles Costley spoke to us and some of our talented Sunday School Children sang for us.

On Saturday 12th of May we held the annual Sponsored Walk and BBQ. We were fortunate in the weather although it did rain a little at the end, which cut short the programme of games planned by Br. Paul and Sr. Patsy Holdsworth. We are very pleased with the money raised, which so far has come to £415.

The following day the church was full for the baptism of Matthew Davidson.

Children's Day was held on May 27th. We are fortunate in having very talented singers in Sunday School, who perform frequently for us and on Children's Day we enjoyed their contributions very much.

Marilyn Marshall

Provincial Diary for August

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| □ 15-16 August □ PEC, BMB, Estates Meetings □ | The PEC |
| □ 18-25 August □ Summer Camp, Fulneck | |
| □ 8 September □ Provincial Youth Committee □ | Sr Taylor |
| □ 8 September □ Heritage Open Days | |
| □ 11-12 September □ PEC, BMB, Estates Meetings □ | The PEC |
| □ 22 September □ Fellowship Day, Carrs Lane, Birmingham | |

PRAYER NOTES

- 1st August - Lammas (Christian)
1st August - Fast in Honour of the Holy Mother of Jesus (Orthodox Christian)
2nd August - Rakasha Bandhan (Hindu)
6th August - Transfiguration of the Lord (Orthodox Christian)
13th August - Manifestation of the Spirit (Moravian church)
15th August - Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian)
15th August - Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christian)
19th - 21st August - Eid al Fitr (Islam)
21st August - Beginning of Moravian Missions (Moravian Church)
29th August - Beheading of John the Baptist (Christian)

A Prayer for Lammas

God of the harvest, we know that it seems early to be thanking you for the gifts that come to us from the fields, but we take this opportunity to think about Lammas, that first gift of grain. And so we offer you this verse, by way of thanks, for the wheat that will feed us once again:

Fields of gold, waves of grain, the summer comes to a close.

The harvest is ready, ripe for threshing, as the sun fades into autumn. Flour will be milled, bread will be baked, and we shall eat for another winter.

Thank you Lord, Amen.

A Prayer for the Manifestation of the Spirit

Heavenly Father, we thank you that, through the power of your Holy Spirit, we can be made one, as our brothers and sisters were centuries before us. And with the Holy Spirit within us, sharpening the sense and highlighting our talents, anything is possible, anything at all. In you, through you and filled with your spirit, we can do anything.

And so, Lord, we ask that you fill us again with your spirit, share with us the gifts that come with it and help us to use them to work for you, in your world.

In the name of Jesus, giver of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Prayer for John the Baptist

Lord God, You raised up St. John the Baptist to prepare a perfect people for Christ. Fill Your people with the joy of possessing His grace, and direct the minds of all the faithful in the way of peace and salvation. Grant that, as St. John was martyred for truth and justice, so we may energetically profess our Faith in You, and lead others to the Way, the Truth, and Eternal Life. Amen.

Song about Moravian Missions

Verse One

They set out, turned westward,
Into the northern seas,
Travelling as our missionaries.
Went off to distant lands,
This dedicated band,
We knew they were in safe hands.

Chorus

And they knew they were not alone,
They worked and the faithful have grown.

Verse Two

No food and no money,
They went out into the world.
They had nothing but God's word.
They strove in hot sunshine,
With those who had no choice.
Shared with them their Master's voice.

Chorus

And they knew they were not alone,
They worked and the faithful have grown.

Verse Three

Some ended their lives there,
Far from what they called home.
But God was where they roamed.
They fought to overcome,
Their many fears and pains,
And their lives were not in vain.

Chorus

And they knew they were not alone,
They worked and the faithful have grown.

Meditation for the Dormition of the Theotokos

Falling asleep:

An interesting term for being called home and yet even Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus eventually came to the end of her life on earth. Jesus, when he was on the cross, made sure that his mother had a home with the disciple he loved but, when her time had come, she fell asleep and went to her eternal home. How reassuring for us all that Jesus would care so much for his mother, ensuring she had an earthly home before he went to prepare for her heavenly home. If he did this for her, then we know that he has done this for us all, just as he promised he would. And so, we can be assured that, when the time comes for us to fall asleep, there will be a place for us, made ready for us by our Lord Jesus. Thank you.

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