

Moravian messenger



September
2012

Sr. Beth Torkington writes about

Struggling with Mission



Mission has to be a central theme for the Church in these early years of the 21st century as we struggle to be part of, and relevant to, a rapidly changing world. In the next twenty years (and maybe not as long as that) the whole landscape of the Church will be very different. This is something the whole Church is struggling with. And, dear brothers and sisters in this little church we love, we are at the sharp end of this struggle because being small means being vulnerable and having a glorious history won't save us.

This time last year I was forced to engage with some of the issues because I was struggling to write an extended address for the Fellowship Day. As it was their day naturally the Provincial Renewal Committee had chosen the theme, 'Re-Ignition', but honestly it wasn't what I would have chosen to speak about - hence the struggle. So I read and I thought and I panicked and read and prayed - until eventually I began to feel my way forward and I realised that it was all beginning to make some sense to me. And struggling with these issues is profoundly important for us now so

thank you Renewal Committee for making me do just that!

Re-ignition - the thought of being on fire for God feels far from the experience of being part of a Moravian congregation in the UK today. But I remembered the famous quotes on mission; Emil Brunner stating that "The church lives by mission as the Spirit lives by burning", Jurgen Moltmann writing that the church can only really be understood in the context of mission. As Moravians we don't need any convincing of that, indeed we would want to define ourselves as a mission church. But is that really true of us any longer? We still support overseas mission but in many ways that is the less challenging option, it's a long way away, the needs are clearer, giving money is relatively simple. But we know that the mission field today is on our doorstep, over our garden fence. Bishop Hastings told us that nearly 30 years ago in Coventry Cathedral and since then we have seen those words become ever more prophetic. But we have still not really worked out what being part of this new mission field means for us. The old ways don't seem to work, we're not sure how to do it, what to try. Or is it that we've lost our spark? Does the fire of mission burn within us? Is the church alive in that sense? And if it's not is it alive at all?

So I tried to understand more about the fire of the Holy Spirit and the Pentecostal experience, both as described in the Acts of the Apostles and also the events at Herrnhut on 13 August 1727, that were described by those who were there as a second Pentecost. As I looked at those events I came to a new realisation of the importance of the profound honesty of the participants. A humble honesty about their own weakness which enabled a genuine togetherness. That opening up, to each other and before God, became a prayerful waiting on God together that allowed space for God, rather than their own desires, to work. And God's power propelled them out into the world. Then, as you read Acts, it becomes all about the verbs, the doing words; accept, wash, confess, pray, forgive, teach, build up, bear, love. And we know that it was all about the doing for the renewed Moravian church in 1727; our brothers and sisters went out and lived what they had experienced. And ultimately it was their witness through who they were and what they did that converted, rather than preaching.

We can be immensely proud of our heritage as Moravians - but ultimately that belongs to the 18th century church and not to us. You cannot inherit the Holy Spirit, we have to pray for ourselves that we too may come

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Struggling with Mission *continued*

before God with such honesty, such a desire to be acceptable to him despite our failings, such a corporate sense of being willing to love another and work together for him; that God will take us and use us. But where does the spark come from? How do we even begin to get to the place where we wait in deep honesty and prayer together? Does it matter?

Yes it matters; for we live in a crucial, critical time to be church. It really is not enough to do just what we have done before. It is when I read the following sentence that it began to make sense for me; "the true sequence of mission is a surpassing awareness of the reality of Christ, corporately shared, expressing itself in thankfulness and wonder." * And I realised the disciples had that close walk with Jesus and those early Moravians had a real sense of the nearness of their Saviour.

'A surpassing awareness of the reality of Christ'; we need to become more aware of Christ. It sounds an odd thing to say to Christians doesn't it? But when we meet with Christ, is that a personal Christ we turn to, the friend we have in Jesus who helps us get through our trials and temptations? That friend is very real but it is not the only dimension to Christ and we undervalue and undersell him if that is the only Christ we relate to. When do we meet with the Christ who is out there in the world, the world outside our church? The Christ who has work for us to do?

As a church we need to learn to be more aware of Christ in the needs of others, for we need to know and love Christ more and we need to learn to trust him more. Meet with

Christ more often by meeting with other people. It's not much use inviting people to events they don't want; instead we should take a leaf out of the 18th century Moravian book and do things where we can serve them in some way. Serving in the 21st century will partly be about addressing loneliness and social isolation and a dearth of true spirituality. Those are things we should be well qualified to address. What we offer may well be on church premises because our buildings are a huge resource, not just for us but for the community around us. You and your church buildings can serve others. But also don't neglect service for its own sake, for example soup runs, street pastors, prison visiting, food banks, charity phone-lines etc. Whatever, whenever, when you start meeting people where they are, especially in their need, you will meet with Christ and that begins to have a profound effect. The more you begin to meet with Christ the more you learn to trust in him and the more you come to know him.

For so many years we have focussed on church life because we are so aware of our responsibility to preserve it but there is a more profound and important calling to serve Christ. Christ didn't much meet with people in places of worship; he met them in the streets and open spaces of their lives - and he met their needs. Can we get closer to our Saviour? Can we be part of his body today? Can we encourage our congregations to be part of a work of service to others? It will only be when we get to this deep reality of discipleship that we will have the right to come before God and ask for renewal - and sparks will fly!

* 'The Go-Between God' John V. Taylor

A word from the Editor

Recently I spent a glorious week attending concerts at the 285th Meeting of the Three Choirs of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester. It was a glimpse of heaven in Hereford Cathedral! From madrigals, to lunchtime organ recitals and cabaret, there was a wide selection of music on offer as well as awe inspiring worship in the form of Choral Evensong. It felt as if my feet hardly touched the ground as I was carried along on a wave of pure music which was a balm for the soul.

Scientists mapping the activity of the brain have known for a long time that our reaction to music is in part physiological, that we respond to a beat which echoes the natural pulse and rhythm of our bodies. 'At the inner core of music', says the singer Dame Janet Baker, 'is the possibility that performing it can touch and change the human heart.' That music can alter our moods and reduce us to tears or comfort us in our loneliness is without doubt but it also relates to something deeper than we can fully understand, our basic humanity.

During the same week that I was experiencing the Three Choirs Festival, Daniel Barenboim and his West-

Eastern Divan Orchestra completed the cycle of Beethoven's symphonies at the BBC Proms 2012. The idea for the orchestra was conceived in 1998 by Daniel Barenboim and Edward Said - an Israeli and a Palestinian. They wanted to create a workshop for musicians from Israel and various countries of the Middle East to combine musical study together with the sharing of knowledge between people who are traditionally in conflict with one another. The orchestra's summer camp is in Seville and an equal number of Israeli and Arab musicians form the base of the orchestra together with a number of Spanish players. Since 1999 the orchestra has performed around the world including Israel and the Palestinian territories as well as the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea.

Music will not solve these conflicts but it has a role to play in promoting understanding between nations and breaking down the obstacles with which we and nations surround ourselves in order to remain 'safe.' Music really can build bridges and appeal to the divine essence within us.

Don't forget to book your place at the...

FELLOWSHIP DAY

AT CARRS LANE CHURCH CENTRE
BIRMINGHAM B4 7SX

22nd SEPT 2012

STARTING AT 10am



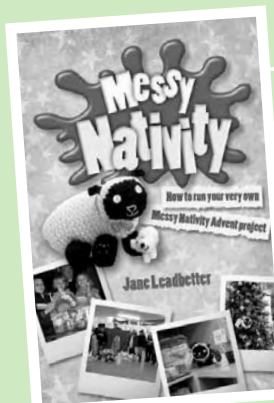
THEME: INSIDE-OUT

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

Contact Paul Greenhough

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Messy Nativity - a new resource from BRF

Knit-i-vity! How knitted sheep can bring Jesus baaaaa...ck into your shopping centre!

Messy Nativity

How to run your very own Messy Nativity Advent project

Jane Leadbetter

In 2010, Liverpool city centre shopping precinct played host to a Messy Nativity Advent trail... a great way to bring Christmas back into our communities. This book shows how churches can set up knitted sheep hunts around town, go house to house with the Christmas story or perform a Messy Street Nativity play. Having run these projects herself, Jane provides all the ideas and practical tips you will need to get them going.

A short and accessible book, that could bring the real Christmas back into our local shopping centres and communities. This is a good project to do with other local churches. Start knitting now!

http://www.brf.org.uk/news/messynativity?utm_source=Barnabas+in+Churches&utm_campaign=84a27a339f-BiC_Jul12&utm_medium=email

Over 18s

The Irish district have planned a weekend for an over 18s in Belfast. The weekend is 23-25 November. All you need to pay for are the flights, which if booked soon could be as little as £40!

The general plan is to meet at University Road on Friday, do pizza, Nightreach, Werewolf etc. Saturday is the first day of the Belfast continental market which we can visit, then off the Kilwarlin for BBQ, campfire and the torch game (you are never too old!). Sunday will be a church service, lunch then off home.

For more details and to get your name down contact Lynsey Kernohan - easily done through the Moravian Youth UK Facebook page.

Moryac 2013

The provincial training weekend for youth and children's workers will be from 17th May until 19th May 2013 at Shallowford House. The full cost will be £132 (this is the amount per person for the House) but PYCC hopes that your congregations will help with your costs. We are also investigating grants to bring the cost down. If there is a particular topic you would like to see on the programme please contact Joy or one of the PYCC as soon as possible.

Embrace Ballysillan 2012

Embrace Ballysillan is a young people's project and is a community based activity that takes place in North Belfast and which is now in its fourth year. It is organised by members of various churches in the Ballysillan area, including Cliftonville Moravian Church and is organised by Keeva Watson, a Methodist Youth Worker. This year forty young people and twenty volunteer leaders, including four Moravians, gathered every day during the first week in August at Eglington Presbyterian Church on the Ballysillan Road. They came so that they could go out together in order to go out into the local community and take part in various activities and each of the teams of youngsters were ably facilitated and guided by leaders such as Sr. Roberta Hoey of Kilwarlin.



The daily projects included street cleaning, gardening, litter picking on Cave Hill above Belfast, art work and singing in residential homes and Kid's Club. There was also a large community fun day on the Wednesday, attended by nearly 400 people of all ages, which offered, amongst other things a tea dance, face painting and wall climbing. I went along this year and ended up with the gardening team, not by choice when I think of my own garden, but it was good to go and make such a difference to people who couldn't get out into their own gardens themselves. Some people had not had any such help since members of Embrace Ballysillan had called at their house twelve months before.

Each day the teams were sustained by a hearty lunch, but we were also sent out with spiritual nourishment as well, in the form of worship, a talk by a local youth workers and team times. This year we concentrated on the story of the Good Samaritan and what he did for his neighbour. At the end of the week Sr. Patsy Holdsworth lead a Moravian Communion service for everyone and most partook, including Anglicans, Methodists and Presbyterians. All Embrace team members wore a blue T-shirt with scripture on the back, which they have for the last four years. This year's scripture was 'Love your neighbour as yourself, from Matthew 22:39, a very appropriate piece for the things that they doing out on the streets.

Alan Holdsworth

Summer Camp

Many thanks to everyone who supported this year's camp. At the time of writing camp was 12 days off but everything is booked and planned and we were looking forward to a successful week.

Church Service

I am writing this in my room at the Moravian Institute, at the end of my voluntary year, and my head is a whirl with all I have seen and experienced. My emotions are completely muddled; I look forward to the reunion with family and friends and yet my heart is heavy at the thought of leaving all the people I have grown to respect and love and the place itself which has been my home for the past 12 months.

In June I had a taster of life in Ladakh and, whilst there, was privileged to meet and work with key figures in the Moravian Church. I was welcomed into Br Samson and Sr Indira's home in Khalatse where I helped for 3 days at the Moravian Academy. It is a delightful little school, set in stunning scenery, with just over 100 pupils from local villages. At the moment children aged 4 - 14 (KG to Year 8) are educated there but it is hoped, with support from the Moravian Church, to extend the school over the next 2 years until children up to the age of 16 can be taught. The school day begins at 10 am, in order to capture the heat of the day, and ends at 4 pm. Even so it was extremely cold and rained for some time every day - not bad for a desert region!

My visit culminated in a school “trip” to the neighbouring village of Alchi where a team of Dutch doctors gave medical examinations of children from KG to Class 6. Everyone piled onto the school bus for the 28km journey which took over an hour to achieve. The doctors, all volunteers, organised a series of stages through which the children moved individually: height and weight, blood test, physical examination and distribution of medicines. The teachers acted as translators and did a marvellous job reassuring the children and interpreting their symptoms for the doctors. Br Samson's elder daughter, Sarah (12), home from school, also did an excellent job translating for the little ones. Because of the extremely cold winters, when the main supply routes through the mountains are closed, the children have little/no access to fresh food and are limited to staples like rice or roti (bread). As a result they are often undersize for their age and may suffer from anaemia. A growing trend towards “junk” food (chewing gum, sweets, crisps and biscuits) is making children more prone to tooth decay, diabetes and other associated illnesses.

In Leh I went to see Br Elijah Gergan, Pastor and Principal of the Moravian Mission School, and offered my services for the duration of my stay. On my first day I was asked to watch and comment on a production of “Macbeth” that the senior children (Years 9 and 10) were giving. What a privilege that was! The performances, which coincided with the Ladakh Film Festival, were in traditional dress and really gave the Bard's story an original twist. My other duties included cover work for absent teachers and assisting in the library.

I was able to attend church services in the 3 congregations, Khalatse, Leh and Shey, and enjoyed meeting church members, several of whom are migrant Nepalese workers. The Ladakhi members all seem to be part of a vast dynasty, a bit like what happens in many of the UK congregations I suppose. They are very proud of their history and tradition, as well they should be. The churches at Khalatse and Leh are built in the traditional style with poplar beams, willow ceiling slats and mud bricks and they

have beautiful Tibetan rugs on the floor for members to sit on. Fortunately for me there were also wooden pews at the back. The church at Shey, Br Dechen's congregation, is a more modern building, rectangular in shape, and on the first floor so allowing wonderful views of the surrounding countryside.

Back in Rajpur I was asked to help with the visitation of a group of 24 young ladies and their teachers from Ockbrook School. The girls had volunteered to do manual work at the school before setting off for Rishikesh and the start of a trek into the mountains. From there they were organising visits to Agra and Jaipur before returning to the UK. I was most impressed with the attitude and willingness of the girls who removed vast amounts of rubble from the girls' old dormitory, dug up a mini forest of shrubbery from the back of church, dragged huge boulders and hoisted sand, cement and gravel for wall building. In the afternoons they wanted to work with the pupils of the school and so offered themselves as tutors. They did have a little time for shopping and a trip up the mountain to Mussoorie where, unfortunately, thick cloud prevented views of the Doon Valley. They attended church in their new salwar/khameez or Moravian T-shirts and enjoyed sampling the samosas given by a congregation member for the occasion of his daughter's birthday. I know they will take away with them many happy memories of their stay at the school.

At this stage I would like to express my very grateful thanks to Thsespal and Susan Kundan (Principal and Vice-Principal of the school) who have become very dear friends and who have looked after me so well during the year. Thsespal has a deliciously wicked sense of humour and is forever pulling my leg. I have also become very fond of the Assistant Pastor and his wife, Br Emmanuel and Sr Ruby Peter, who have entertained me royally. Br Peter was responsible for the construction of both the church site and also the girls' new dormitory, as he has his own construction company, so he is a very busy man. All four have a real depth of Christian faith and are excellent witnesses in the furtherance of the Christian message.

If you should wish to help the work of the Moravian Church in Rajpur or Ladakh there are always opportunities to sponsor children from poor families. Perhaps congregations could decide to sponsor one child through his/her education at one of the schools. This is quite a commitment for an individual but might be possible through the efforts of a number of congregation members. You could always consider a period of time working as a volunteer; it doesn't have to be a year nor does it have to be in education. If you have a particular skill in computing, finance, construction, children's welfare, gardening, worship, sport coaching, vehicle maintenance you can apply to Br Hopcroft at PEC and see if your skill is of use to the school. You would need to provide your own transportation and spending money but food and accommodation are provided during your stay. The people here are so easy to work with and, although the children can be a little challenging at times, once they get to know you (and you them) they really appreciate whatever you do for and with them.

If I can do it then so could anyone!

Maureen Colbert



GRANDSTAND VIEW

How do you follow that?

I write the day following the Closing Ceremony of the Games of the 30th Olympiad - the London Olympics.

Somehow, all seems very “flat” today. The daily routine of following Team GB was becoming quite addictive. From the inventiveness of the Opening Ceremony, through the excitement of 26 sports and the award of hundreds of medals, to a “pop concert” of a Closing Ceremony, the mood of a nation was given a tremendous uplift.

Yes, by the time this article is published, the Paralympics will be holding centre stage; and I'm sure that they, too, will grab the imagination of the British public who will have a sense of wonder at the efforts of all taking part. But I think it is too much to expect the Paralympics to be able to match these past 16 days.

Crowds of enthusiastic spectators; brilliant teams of volunteers (or “gamesmakers” as they were known); friendly and willing security personnel alongside members of the armed forces and Metropolitan Police. All went so well.

And, as I say, the mood of the nation was uplifted.

Over the past months, I have focussed on the Games in “Grandstand View”, and I hope that those Moravians who had tickets for events (Olympics or Paralympics) or watched the “free” view events on the streets of our capital city, enjoyed their experience and will long remember London 2012.

Last month, I quoted Rudyard Kipling's great poem, “If”; how fitting to hear a wonderful rendition of those words on Radio 5Live this morning, using the deep Welsh tones of Eddie Butler and the voices of some of our Great British winners and nearly winners (we didn't have any losers). For

me, it summed up so poignantly the Olympic experience.

All of which begs the question - how do you follow that?

For four years now I have contributed this monthly page, reflecting on the sporting issues and events “of the day”. Some months, the ideas have flowed freely, in other months, it has been hard work finding a theme to focus on. But the deadlines were always met, and I have been flattered by many kind messages of appreciation.

When I started writing at the invitation of Sr Judith Ashton back in 2008 following her appointment as editor of the Messenger, I think I envisaged it being for a couple of years. However, it went better than expected and I agreed to continue.

Now, I feel that it is time either to “pass the baton” (if you're Jamaican), or to “drop the baton” (if you're British). To continue will put me in danger of going back over old ground, or rambling, which I suspect I am beginning to do in this article. And then what I currently enjoy will become a chore. I don't know who said it, but I recall the quote, “Go out whilst you're ahead; always leave them wanting more”.

I would like to contribute one final “Grandstand View”: to compile an article using the experiences of **all of you** who did get to see Olympic and Paralympic events. Just as the 2012 London Olympics were so delightfully the “People's Games”, I would like to make the article in October's Messenger the “People's Grandstand View”. Please get in touch with an e-mail by 12th September at the very latest.

David Newman

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Around the District Conferences

YORKSHIRE DISTRICT

Conference was held at Fulneck in February and was chaired by Br. Ken Evans. At the outset, appreciation was given for the life and work of the late Wilfred Mortimore, the much-loved Moravian minister who died in December.

Br. Simon Dunn, reported to the Conference on behalf of the Moravian Singers, whose membership now stands at 25. He noted that each congregation in Yorkshire had its own collection of music and he wondered whether this could be brought together under one roof, collated and slimmed down where necessary. He called for a volunteer from each congregation to help with this work.

Br. Dunn asked whether more use could be made of the singers and what their role should be, given at heart, their function was a spiritual one. He also said that the Choir Festival at Gomersal had gone very well and was well attended. Br John McOwat congratulated Br. Dunn on his work since becoming Musical Director in September.

Next came the elections - Br. Ken Evans - Chairman, Sr. Diane Thornton - Minute Secretary, Br. Michael Newman - Vice-Chairman, Social Responsibility Secretary - Sr. Margaret Shaw, Dick Porter - Messenger Correspondent, Sr. Lorraine Shorten - Youth Secretary, Treasurer Ken Machell, and Mission Secretary - Br. Paul Greenhough. Sr. Thornton was unable to attend Conference due to the death of her father but Sr. Hilary Smith took over her duties for the meeting.

It was announced that a training day to teach computer skills to lay preachers will be held on May 31st.

Discussion took place on whether costs could be saved by merging the Yorkshire and Lancashire District Conferences.

In another debate, Br. Alan Holdsworth, the Deputy for Wellhouse and Lower Wyke, said he feared Christians were increasingly under threat in their own country. He was speaking the day after the ruling that prayers no longer need be said at council meetings.

Br. Michael Newman then went on to outline plans to mark the 270th Anniversary of the first Moravian Settlement in Yorkshire with a sponsored walk from Lightcliffe to Fulneck. It will be held on May 26th and covers 10 miles though no one has to walk the entire route.

The Autumn Conference will be held at Gomersal on October 6th.

Dick Porter

IRISH DISTRICT

The Spring meeting of the IDC was held at University Road on Saturday 10th March. Br. Holdsworth welcomed the representatives to Conference and led the worship.

It was noted in Matters Arising that Sr. Patsy Holdsworth had led the introductory session of the new lay training course in Balinderry. Six people have begun the course and the Irish District ministers were in attendance. Thanks were given to Br. Len Broadbent who is working on the revision of the original course. He pointed out that the course is designed for anyone who is interested in the Moravian Church and the Bible, not only those who are thinking of becoming lay preachers. The other sessions will be led by Sr. Sarah Groves and Br. Paul Holdsworth at various venues throughout the Irish District.

Br. Broadbent presented the accounts, which looked fairly healthy and so it was agreed that a gift of £100 would be sent for Summer Camp funds. Br. Holdsworth presented the Youth Report and spoke about the availability of financial help for any young person wanting to go to Summer Camp. There is also the possibility of a Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme being established in the District, as long as insurance could be arranged. An all age Summer Camp Reunion may be arranged for the District. Sr. Groves spoke about the new Youth Fellowship group at Gracehill. Sr. Holdsworth also reported on the activities of the Lock Up group at Kilwarlin and the Community Youth Club in Ballinderry. Sr. Lizzy Mewha said how much she had enjoyed the 18+ Weekend in Bradford. With regard to Child Protection Br. Holdsworth pointed out that it might be necessary for the Irish District to have its own umbrella organisation for Access NI checking.

Sr. Sarah Groves presented the PEC Report to Conference.

The Social Responsibility Report was presented by Sr. Eunice Hoey and led to a discussion about the effectiveness of the Moravian Church in a world that is troubled and with so many needs. Sr. Lizzy Mewha reported about renewal activities in the District. There are various events planned for the future, including a District Prayer Meeting, a BBQ and Dance as well as a Fun Day.

Br. Holdsworth reported on ecumenical matters and stated that the membership fee for the new Irish Council of Churches will be £400 for small denominations, which is better than £2,000 which had previously been suggested. There is slow and steady progress with the Church of Ireland and Moravian discussions and that there is a possibility of using the 'Delight in the Lord' document from the USA.

At a local level the ministers reported about what has been happening in the five congregations in the District. A united service had been held at Ballinderry for Ash Wednesday as well as a joint Bible study for Women's World Day of Prayer. From Kilwarlin we heard about the ecumenical

youth club and a bowls club. Ecumenical relationships at Gracehill are ticking over nicely and there was also a report from the Ballymena Borough Forum, which includes ecumenical discussions. Cliftonville hosted the Women's World Day of Prayer, with Sr. Carol Ackah of University Rd. as the speaker. University Rd. is still running ecumenical Nightreach sessions and is hosting the Irish Council of Women's Link Conference.

Next came the elections and there was little change. Br. Paul Holdsworth continues as Chair of the District Conference and Youth Representative, Sr. Joan Brown as Minute Secretary and Messenger Correspondent, Br. Len Broadbent - Treasurer, Sr. Eunice Hoey - Social Responsibility Secretary, Sr. Lizzy Mewha - District Renewal Secretary and Sr. Kathleen Kitson - ICC Women's Link Representative.

The meeting concluded with the Grace and a splendid meal, provided this time by the ladies of the University Road congregation.

Sr. Joan Brown

LANCASHIRE DISTRICT

The Lancashire District Conference was held at Dukinfield on Saturday morning, 3rd March 2012 and the meeting started with a brief act of worship, led by Br John Wilkinson and continued with the election of District Officers. There were few changes with the exception that Br Ben Cooper was elected as Youth Secretary to the Lancashire District. The role of Renewal Secretary remains vacant and nominations were requested.

Br Philip Cooper read Br Robert Hopcroft's PEC Report. Various dates were given for provincial meetings and for several children and young people's meetings.

Br John Wilkinson then gave the Social Responsibility Secretary's Report by stating that although he is aware of the church's uptake of the Fairtrade initiative he is concerned that individual congregations are not buying Fairtrade goods as often as they could. He added that the quality of these goods had improved over recent years.

Greater Manchester Churches Together: This organisation has suffered a major upheaval in recent months, mainly due to a reduction in financial donations from both the Church of England and the Catholic Church.

This has resulted in the loss of Mr Graham Kent, the Ecumenical Officer. There is now only one part-time member of staff manning the office. There will be a meeting to discuss the new constitution on 30th October from 5 - 9 pm, the venue of which is unknown at present.

The Lancashire District Quiet Day is to take place at the end of April under the heading "What's in a name?"

A request has been received from Br Kenneth Evans

that one of the Lancashire churches host the 2013 Fellowship Day. A charge would be made and costs will be reimbursed. Fairfield showed a willingness to be the hosts and will take the matter to their church committee.

The next meeting will be held at Fairfield on 6th October commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Sue Selby

EASTERN DISTRICT FELLOWSHIP DAY

The congregations of the Eastern District met at Hornsey on Sunday 19th May for a picnic lunch and a time of fellowship. We were greeted by the worship band from Westbury Avenue Baptist Church who played rousingly for us. All congregations from the District were represented.

Br Joachim welcomed everyone present and after a Bible reading from Acts 2 v 1-12 : Jesus taken up to heaven, spoke on the theme 'Why do you stand here looking up to heaven?' We then sang 'I stand amazed in the presence' before handing over to our guest speaker.

Azariah France-Williams is a curate in the Church of England who is working on the Dalgarno Estate in North Kensington. He moved on to the estate in 2010 with his family and has restarted services at St. Francis Community Church.

He stressed that as there are different seasons with different fruits, we all have a calling and a destiny to share the gospel. He went on to pose the question, "What is evangelism?" He responded with, "a searching out of people for the Lord." He then stated that he felt there was a sense of coming together as family at the Fellowship Day but on the estate where he works the biggest problem is loneliness. We were encouraged to think about someone we could share the love of Christ with. Azariah advised that we can all share a story. It takes time and lots of positive encounters.

One way that St Francis Community Church have engaged with their local community is by giving out free cakes to passers by and saying "God bless you." Whilst it's not always possible to get people into church we can meet them where they are, whether it's in the park, in the streets or in pubs. We have to take risks and leave our comfort zone. We need to pray and ask God for help and begin from that place of love.

Our closing devotions were led by Br. Robert Hopcroft who encouraged us to be risk takers and pray about the direction we should take in the future. We ended with the hymn "Shine Jesus shine".

Edward Quildan

PEC Responsibilities

The Provincial Synod 2012, which met at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, from 8th - 11th June elected the following to serve as Provincial Elders:

Br Robert Hopcroft for 4 years full time and Sr Sarah Groves for 4 years part-time.

At Synod 2010 Sr Gillian Taylor elected for 4 years full time and Br Philip Cooper elected for 4 years part time.

The Provincial Board (PEC), in being elected at Synod, are thereby elected as Trustees of The Choir House, Fulneck School, Ockbrook School and the Moravian Union Incorporated which includes the Moravian Church, the Estates Property Portfolio and the British Mission Board, in compliance with the Charity Commissioners.

In addition the Provincial Board act as Directors of the Moravian Union Incorporated as regulated by Companies House and each hold one share in the Company whilst in office. Mrs Gillian Taylor has been appointed as Company Secretary.

The P.E.C. met to decide upon the divisions of responsibility; but it remains a collegiate body, with all decisions being the responsibility of the Board as a whole.

THE PROVINCIAL BOARD

Chairman	Br R Hopcroft
Provincial Treasurer	Sr G Taylor
Property matters	Sr G Taylor
Ecumenical Officer	Br P Cooper

Representatives on Finance Committee	All PEC
Representatives on Church Service Advisory Board	All PEC
Representatives on Faith & Order Committee	Sr S Groves, Br P Cooper
Representative on Renewal Committee	Sr S Groves
Representative on Social Responsibility Committee	Sr G Taylor
Representative on the Provincial Youth Committee	Sr G Taylor

THE BRITISH MISSION BOARD

Chair	Br R Hopcroft
Treasurer	Sr G Taylor

The Unity Synod has entrusted oversight of the work of the Moravian Church in the South Asia Mission Province to the Mission Board and has a close relationship with the Western Province of Tanzania as agreed by the Unity Mission Agencies.

In addition the British Province, through the British Mission Board, continues to have close links with and give support to the Elim Home, Star Mountain and Sikonge Hospital. This support is directed through the Unity Mission Agencies who have been entrusted with that responsibility by the Unity Synod.

Open Book

2 CHRONICLES

The second part of Chronicles opens in a more interesting way than the first part. The lists of names have gone and we are introduced to the exploits of King Solomon. The first nine chapters are all about him and seven of those chapters are taken up with the building and dedication of the first temple in Jerusalem. It was destroyed and rebuilt twice between 970 BC and 70 AD. The last one was built by a Herod. Although Solomon is held up as a virtuous king, it is likely that forced labour was used to a large extent since those assigned to various jobs were 'aliens in the land,' (Chapter 2 verse 17 and chapter 8, verse 8). This was the norm however at that time, when prisoners of war were kept as slaves. Solomon is also recorded as making gold and silver as plentiful as stone in Jerusalem. (Chapter 1 verse 15). Much of this would also be booty taken after battles or even extracted as tribute from defeated enemies. The outcome was a centre of worship that exceeded every other building in magnificence, and although subsequent replacements were also lavishly constructed, none of them compared with the description given in chapters 3 and 4. Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple is worth reading on its own in chapter 6 verses 12 to 42. Although the expression 'a house for God to dwell in' is used several times by David and Solomon, this is modified in the prayer as a place where God's name would be. (Chapter 6 verse 20) and there are several references to God's dwelling place being in heaven and to the fact that even the universe cannot contain him. (Chapter 6 verse 18). Although it is recorded that Solomon had an Egyptian wife (chapter 8 verse 11) there is no mention made of the extras recorded in the opening verses of 1 Kings chapter 11, nor of the effect that they had upon him during the last few years of his reign. The visit of the queen of Sheba is to be found in chapter 9 and during one of her speeches she refers to 'your wives' (verse 7). Chapter 9 also records the kind of wealth that Solomon acquired each year, no doubt in tribute from the various kings over whom he ruled and who are mentioned in verse 26. The closing verses of chapter 9 suggest various sources of further information.

Solomon was succeeded by his son Rehoboam and it was during his reign that the kingdom became divided, ten tribes breaking away and forming what became known as the Northern Kingdom while the remaining two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, formed the kingdom of Judah. From this point on, the compiler of Chronicles deals mainly with the kings of Judah. Chapter 11 records the fact that many priests and Levites from the Northern kingdom fled to the Southern because they were no longer required under Jeroboam's rule. The division of the kingdom was not the only catastrophe in Rehoboam's reign. Jerusalem was sacked

by the king of Egypt with the help of mercenaries from Libya, Ethiopia and Sikkiim and all the riches built up by Solomon in the temple and the royal palace were taken away. Certain items made originally from gold were replaced in bronze. (Chapter 12 verse 10). Rehoboam reigned for 17 years and was succeeded by his son Abijah who reigned for three years and went to war against the Northern kingdom, whom he subdued. (Chapter 13 verse 20). He had fourteen wives, twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters. He was succeeded by one of the sons, Asa, who, unlike his father and grandfather, is described as 'doing what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord'. He reigned for forty-one years in Judah, during which seven kings ruled in the Northern kingdom. It was largely a time of peace, prosperity and religious reform. Asa removed his mother from the status of Queen Mother because of her attachment to foreign gods, (Chapter 15, verse 16). Although described as a good king, toward the end of his reign, Asa was not beyond imprisoning a prophet who admonished him for his behaviour, and he was afflicted with some kind of foot trouble with which he met his end! (Chapter 16 verse 12.)

Jehoshaphat, his son, ruled in his place for 25 years, during which time he continued the religious reforms instituted by his father. He organised a mass education programme for the nation, sending out missionaries to teach people about the religious law (Chapter 17 verse 7). The rest of the book deals with the life and times of sixteen Kings and one queen

many of whom are described as evil in one way or another. Jehoram comes to an unpleasant end in chapter 21. His son ruled for a year after him but was succeeded by his mother, Athaliah, daughter of the infamous Jezebel, who set about abolishing the line of David by murdering her grandchildren. One of them, Joash, was hidden as a baby and crowned king at the age of eight when his grandmother was murdered (chapter 23, 12 -15). Among the good kings recorded in Chronicles are Jotham, Hezekiah, and Josiah. The rest are described as either evil or a mixed blessing. The shortest reigns were those of Jehoahaz and Jehoiahin, both of whom sat on the throne for three months before being taken to Egypt and Babylon respectively, as prisoners. The last king mentioned is Zedekiah who succeeded his eight year old brother Jehoiahin and was appointed king by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. The last three kings of Judah are described as doing evil in the sight of the Lord and their failure to listen to God's messengers as responsible for the sacking of Jerusalem and the exile of the inhabitants to Babylon for the next fifty years.

Peter Gubi

Notice Board

Thank You - Br. Trevor Kernohan

Br. Trevor Kernohan retired as Principal of Fulneck School at the end of August. He has been at the school as a teacher for forty years, and has been Principal for the last nine years. All the school will miss him, but Trevor and his wife, Ann, are active members at Fulneck and will continue to live in the settlement. The new Principal is Deborah Newman, who has been at the school for a number of years as Vice-Principal.

Michael Newman

Heritage Open Days

Lower Wyke

Once again the church at Lower Wyke will be opening its doors to

visitors during the Heritage Open Weekend. On Saturday 8th September from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and again on Sunday 9th September from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. On display will be photographs, memorabilia and church registers.

Fairfield

Fairfield, too, will be taking part in the Heritage Open Days on Saturday 8th September from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday 9th September from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Calendars of Nepal 2013

Sr. Maureen Colbert has had a calendar produced using photographs taken during her time in Nepal. If you've been reading her articles you will know what a fascinating year she has had and

all profits will be going to the International Kindergarten. The calendars cost £6 each but Sr. Colbert is "happy to accept more." You can obtain them from Sr. Colbert at: 213, Smith House Lane, Lightcliffe, Halifax, HX3 8UP.

Sr. Colbert will also be attending the Renewal Day at Carr's Lane in Birmingham on 22nd September and will be selling them on the day. The calendars make superb Christmas gifts so please try to support the school.

YPMA Update

Sincere apologies to Lilie and Freya Burchill for not being included in the August Messenger. Lilie and Freya from Bath Weston both received the Brown 300 Award.

Paul Greenhough

Congregation News

Fulneck

Congregation life at Fulneck has been as busy and rewarding as ever through spring and summer 2012. As this update is compiled we are on the very cusp of, as the French say, 'Le Holidays'. Certainly we're all ready for a few week's hiatus and hoping for some sunshine during the long weeks of Trinity.

But before we welcome summer, let's back pedal to late winter and Shrove Tuesday. As is the case in many Catholic countries, Fulneck had a bit of a fiesta before the Lenten fast. We enjoyed a splendid Pancake Party which was held in the Boys' Brigade Hall. Along with delicious pancakes there were games, music and a raffle.

One of the quiet joys of Lent are the evening services. They start in the dark days of late winter, but as each week passes, the daylight lengthens bringing with it the first hints of spring, of brighter days ahead and, of course, the joy that is Easter Day. This was celebrated as usual with a seven o'clock service in God's Acre, followed by a hearty breakfast.

The Queen's Jubilee included both partying and some hard work. The hard work was the planting of well over a hundred saplings to mark her Majesty's 60 year reign. When mature they will form a natural border to the extended Burial Ground. A hardy team braved the elements on a wet, cold and windy May morning to get the job done. The plentiful rain we've endured ever since will ensure they've got away to a well-watered start.

Whilst we've had much to celebrate there was also a time to mourn. Since the turn of the year we've bid farewell to Sister Dee Mortimore and Brother Bill Hercules. Bill and his wife Isa have been members of the Fulneck Congregation, initially within the Leeds Society, for 40 years and more. Sadly Bill had been in poor health for the best part of a decade - but always in good spirits. The Lord gave him a strong heart and he bore his maladies with fortitude. His funeral was magnificent; a packed church with Gospel singing and contributions from friends and family. It was a privilege to be part of this celebration of the life of a great guy.

Of course, the life blood of our future Church are today's young people. We have an active youth group at Fulneck



that combines with the young people at Gomersal. They've been busy fund raising to help finance their stay at Summer Camp. Activities have included car washing, a nail bar and a meal at Zachary's restaurant. They also cleverly picked one of the few hot days this year to undertake a sponsored walk which raised £1,500. Well done! And of course they couldn't let the Olympics pass without organising their own 'Fulneck Olympics'. A heavy downpour during the egg and spoon race forced activities indoors, but a good time was had by all. Howard Jones organised an archery competition which proved very popular.

The Congregation is now looking forward to the return of Summer Camp in August. Other visitors also included a visit from bretheren and sisters in North Carolina who joined us for Holy Communion.

July saw Fulneck take over the Moravian Church's worldwide Prayer Watch from our sister Congregation in Gomersal. It also marked the retirement of Trevor Kernohan, Principal and teacher at Fulneck School for over 40 years. Trevor and wife Anne will continue to live in the village and play an active role in the life of the congregation.

And finally, congratulations to Fulneck Dramatic Society. They completed their season with an outdoor production of Shakespeare's 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' which was performed outdoors at Fulneck Golf Club to coincide with the Jubilee. Their winter production; 'The Happy Apple' won 'Best Overall Production' at the Wharfedale Festival of Theatre. The Group have now won this award five times in the past eight years. Quite a record!

Dave Robbins

Bath Coronation Avenue

In May the congregation were very sad to learn of the death of Sr. Marjorie Quick after a short period in a nursing home and there was a very strong turnout for her funeral at Haycombe Crematorium.

On the 15th of July Frances Smith became a member of the Bath Coronation Avenue Congregation. The service of reception was carried out by the Rev David Newman at one of his regular visits to the congregation to provide

Holy Communion. Frances had been coming to the Coronation Avenue Congregation for some time and the congregation was more than pleased to receive her as a member.

The service was followed by tea and cream cakes.

Graeme Smith

Frances with Rev David Newman and Sr. Sandy Smith following her reception into membership



Brockweir

On Sunday 15th July we were delighted to receive a visit from members of the Fetter Lane congregation. The sun shone - which in itself was a blessing this summer - and Br. Thom Stapleton lit the barbecue whilst our brothers and sisters from London strolled around God's Acre and viewed the church. The peace and serenity of the church is usually commented upon by visitors and some of this stillness and calm settled upon our guests as we chatted companionably in the Sunday School. It felt as if we'd known each other for ages, as in a sense we do, for Moravians have a tremendous sense of shared identity and heritage.

We also like to break bread together and Br. Stapleton's barbecued sausages were quite simply delicious. After we'd eaten together we went over to the church for a shared summertime 'Songs of Praise'. Members from both of the congregations had chosen their favourite hymns and some gave reasons for their choice. It was a welcome mixture of

old and new and Brs. Stapleton and Quildan also gave a brief history of each hymn.

It was uplifting to sing in such a large group and it was a day of fellowship and joy which we will remember for a long time to come.

September is the beginning of our new church year and many clubs and societies restart after the summer holidays. We will be holding our monthly Soup Lunches once more and hoping to beat last year's total of £1,729 for various charities. So if you'd like to try arguably the best soup, puddings and pies in the Western District, join us in the Sunday School on the first Thursday of each month from 12:00 p.m. onwards! We've also got some new ideas for serving the community but we are still busy working on them as yet!

Judith Ashton



Easter was celebrated in our traditional way: the children flowered the cross on Palm Sunday, leaving the flowers to wilt until the cross was re-flowered on Easter Sunday morning.

The congregation is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2012 and a special service was held on 11th May at which Sr. Sarah Groves was the preacher. A hymn-writing competition was held and the winning hymn, written by Srs. Margaret and Lizzy Mewha, was sung at the service. All those present received a commemorative pen, key-ring and bookmark. We were delighted to welcome the local MP, Dr Alasdair McDonnell, to the service and to lunch

University Road, Belfast

afterwards. The service was well-attended by members and friends of the congregation and some older members made a special effort to be present. A reunion service will be held on 30th September. All those baptised, confirmed or married in the church, or indeed having any connection with the church, will be invited.

The youngest member of our congregation, Olivia Rose James, who was born in April, was baptised on 17th June. After Olivia's christening, the remainder of the service was handed over to the children as a celebration of the last 18 months of Sunday School. Amy Johnston read the lesson about the wise man who built his house upon the rock, and Darcey James (age 5) and Naomi McVeigh (age 4) sang a song based on the reading. Br Len Broadbent presented prizes. Thanks were due to the Sunday School teachers, Srs Tanya Costley and Emma Kinghan.

The Bowls club has been successfully revived by Br Charles Costley and will be meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from September to May.

The Parents and Toddlers group continues to go from strength to strength. Numbers have increased and during the last few weeks of term the toddlers enjoyed a Jubilee party, 'Toddler Olympics' and a teddy bears' picnic.

Helen McVeigh

CONGREGATION REGISTERS

BAPTISM

29th Jul. **Eliza Crompton- Ostell.** Royton

MARRIAGE

28th Jul. **David Philip Ball & Lisa Marie Greaves.** Royton

Provincial Diary for September

8	Provincial Youth and Children's committee at Church House	Sr Taylor
	Heritage Open Day in a number of our congregations across the Province	
11/12	PEC, BMB, Unitas Estates Meetings	The PEC
13	Ockbrook School Speech Day	Br Hopcroft
12-28	All Tanzania partners Conference	Sr Taylor
20	Fulneck School Speech Day	Sr Groves
		Br Cooper
22	Provincial Fellowship Day, Carrs Lane Birmingham	

PRAYER NOTES

1st September - Ecclesiastical Year begins (Orthodox Christian)

8th September - Nativity of Mary

14th September - Exaltation of the Life Giving Cross - Holy Cross Day (Christian)

17th - 18th - Rosh Hashana (Judaism)

19th September - Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)

20th - 29th - Paryushana Parva (Jain)

26th September - Yom Kippur (Judaism)

28th September - Meskel (Ethiopian Christian)

29th September - Michael and All Angels (Christian)

Meditation on Mary's Birth

Imagine her being born in the town of Nazareth, daughter of Joachim and Ann.
 Imagine her as a little girl in the town of her birth, in the Galilee region.
 Imagine her growing up and being close to her cousin Elizabeth.
 Imagine her becoming betrothed to Joseph of the House of David.
 Imagine her, still a girl really, finding out that God had a great plan for her.
 Imagine her finding out that she was to become a mother before she was married.
 Imagine her journey to Bethlehem with Joseph to be registered.
 Imagine her giving birth to her own son, so few years after her own birth.
 Imagine her wondering what all this was about, for her to be so young and so important.
 Imagine her knowing that that all would be well and that she was in God's hands.

Medication on the Holy Cross

Whether we call it Meskel or the Exaltation of the Holy Cross we can only imagine the full significance of the pieces of wood that Jesus was nailed to by the Roman soldiers. As the cross was raised by the soldiers just outside Jerusalem that day, the hopes of countless people were raised all over the world, never to fail again.
 And we know that it was not the nails that held Jesus on the cross, but his love for his people and his world, poured out for us through his wounds onto the dry, dusty earth. But it is the empty cross that brings us true hope, for the sufferings and death of Jesus was not enough - only his triumphal resurrection raises us up to share his glory.
 So we turn to the cross, that symbol of agony and shame, for our salvation, knowing that it shows us what our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ has done for us. Thank you, Lord...

Prayer for the Sick

Dear Lord Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the Sick, we turn to You in this time of illness. O dearest Comforter of the Troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with Your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden. Dear God, we place our worries in Your hands. We ask that You restore Your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge Your holy will and know that whatsoever You do, You do for the love of us. Amen.

Prayer for Strength

O Lord, In this time of need, strengthen me. You are my strength and my shield; You are my refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. I know, Father, that Your eyes go to and fro throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts long for You. The body grows weary, but my hope is in You to renew my strength. I do not fear, for You are with me. I am not dismayed or overwhelmed, for You are my God. I know You will strengthen me and help me; that You will uphold me with Your righteous hand. Even as the shadows of illness cover me, I feel the comfort of Your strength, O Lord. Amen.

Evening Family Prayer

Lord, behold our family here assembled. We thank you for this place in which we dwell, for the love that unites us, for the peace accorded to us this day, for the hope with which we expect the morrow; for the health, the work, the food and the bright skies that make our lives delightful; for our friends in all parts of the earth. Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson

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