

# Moravian messenger



November  
2012



*Sr. Maureen Colbert (Horton) enjoyed the*

## Fellowship Day 2012

It was a bright and sunny morning when we three Horton members began our journey to Birmingham for the annual Fellowship Day. Accompanied by the dulcet tones of the Sat Nav lady we sped along the M62, M60, M62 (again!) and finally the M6 without any mishap: traffic flowed freely and road works were limited so we made good progress. After a couple of hours we reached our destination, thanks to our ethereal guide, but we were unprepared for the exorbitant expectations of the Albert Street NCP multi-storey car park.

Trusting to our other Ethereal Guide we found a cheaper alternative and made our way, in a rather circuitous route, to Carrs Lane Church Centre.

Once inside we were given a most welcome cup of coffee along with a warm welcome from Br Peter Gubi who showed us into the hall where the opening service was being led by Sr Jane Hutchings. After registering we joined the throng bobbing up and down in an attempt to read the hymn words from the screen.

The first item was a humorous dialogue between Sr Sarah Groves and Br Paul Greenough. The theme was "Inclusivity" and the Paralympics was used as a great example of how people, once discounted by society, are now important and integral members not just in the sporting world but also in

life. Links were made with our Lord Jesus Christ who included people rejected by society like the Phoenician and Samaritan women, the infirmed, the lepers and the Gentiles. Paul reached across all sorts of barriers to include outsiders and he often got into lots of trouble as a result. Our main concern in the present day is how we can reach out to include people from our own church communities. It is all too easy to remain in our own comfortable insular circle. We place far too much emphasis on expecting people to enter our Church building when the "Church" is actually the people who worship together and enjoy fellowship with each other. That immediately makes things easier to me as, on a day-to-day basis, we are all interacting with people at the bus stop, in the supermarket, on the street and in the library so, in our Church environment, talking to people and making them feel of worth can be just that easy. Ideas related to the Biblical texts given in the dialogue were shared in discussion groups.

During the lunch break we were treated to the pan music of "Disciples of Steel", a steel band from Hall Green Methodist Church, Birmingham. There were opportunities to buy calendars, Christmas stars (made by Br Tom Stapleton), Moravian merchandise and Fair Trade goods. Once again the

Birmingham sisters treated us to refreshing cups of tea and coffee.

After lunch we witnessed some "Real Life Issues" as Br Andre Fleming interviewed Moravians from different parts of the Province about issues close to their hearts. Br Macilwain was asked about life in Northern Ireland during the Troubles and how inclusivity is becoming evident in day-to-day living.

He said that there is a great hope for the future with inclusivity for all with the right to agree to disagree. Sr Margaret Shaw was asked about autism and how people with Aspergers can be excluded because of differences in their behaviour and understanding. She explained that people with autism "view the world through a different prism to those deemed 'NORMAL'". She spoke with enthusiasm of the book "Opening Doors" which has been published by the General Synod of the Church of England. Finally Br Andre's excellent interviewing technique (watch out Jonathan Ross!) encouraged Sr Rose Griffiths to tell of her welcome into Hornsey Moravian Church after meeting Sr Clarissa Johnson who gave instruction and friendship. The history of the Moravian Church in Jamaica helped her relate to the fellowship and doctrine at Hornsey. Sr Rose felt that she could use her nursing talents to make people feel included; a warm smile, a friendly approach can make

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people, who are seeking solace and love, feel nurtured and enriched. In the discussion groups which followed it was said that, until you walk in someone else's shoes, it is difficult to appreciate what their lives are like. Whatever chances we are given to help must be grasped with both hands and bridges should be built to reach people who would find being in a church building difficult.

Before the closing service, which was led by Br James Woolford, we watched an amusing sketch between Sr Sheila Clough and Br Ken Evans. It was set in a church vestry and described how elderly people can be excluded because we are so keen to encourage young people into the church.

It was wonderful to be a part of the day. The programme was varied and thought-provoking and the discussions stimulated a desire to be more proactive in making others welcome in our worship. I would recommend all Moravians to try to be part of this in future years.

### *A word from the Editor*

On Saturday 22nd September I attended the Provincial Fellowship Day at Carr's Lane in Birmingham. As always it was good to see familiar faces and a few new ones as well. The theme for the day was 'Inside Out: The inclusion and exclusion of people in Biblical times and in our Church today.' I'm not quite sure what I was expecting but the various interviews, cameo roles and group discussions stirred memories and feelings I'd not thought about for years.

Growing up in the 60s and 70s with an unpronounceable surname - at least to many - was something I'd willingly have forgone. Teenagers can be sensitive souls and coping with puberty, acne and the meaning of life is enough to be going on with, without a Polish surname that is easily derided and ridiculed! Being on the outside looking in, is not always a happy place to be whether in school, church or our daily lives.

A member of the discussion group I attended, a Sister of the Windrush generation recounted how she'd looked around for a church to attend on first coming to this country. On the first Sunday she'd been welcomed but when she'd attended the following week she was advised not to visit too often. Her face obviously didn't fit with the serried rows of white faces. Happily she was invited to a Moravian Church that welcomed her and valued her for who she is, a pilgrim on life's journey.

## Letter to Ed

*Dear Sir Editor,*

*Jesus said that the poor will always be with us, words that were spoken in a distant corner of the Roman Empire. The Empire was run by tyranny and it must have seemed incredibly unlikely that Christianity would survive in those early days, let alone spread around the world and have millions of followers. And, since this struggle to achieve global Christianity has been successful, it is perhaps time for a 21st Century challenge for the Church. We need to tackle the issue of poverty in this wealthy country of ours and break free of the notion that the poor and poverty will always be with us.*

*Christian groups like Church Action on Poverty and Churches Against Poverty have been around for decades and yet the wealth of this nation and the growth of poverty have increased side by side. Successive governments have promised to eliminate child poverty in the UK and yet have failed miserably, but this is something we could and should eradicate. I would like to see a United UK Churches Against Poverty Conference organised by our Province of the Moravian Church. We can all contribute and help with this idea by ensuring that issues about poverty are raised at our District Conferences and questions are asked about what we, as a denomination, can do about it.*

*Now I know that some of you reading this letter believe that the eradication of poverty in this country is impossible, but consider some of the achievements of mankind in the last 100 years, such as the unlocking of the secrets of DNA and the cataloguing of the human genome. If the will is there to achieve these remarkable things surely we can end poverty in the UK.*

**Alan Holdsworth**

I was invited to attend Dukinfield Moravian Church by a friend when the church moved from Old Road to Yew Tree Lane. It was a revelation, if the congregation thought my name was foreign and peculiar they didn't show it and I was met with nothing but kindness. It probably explains why I'm still a Moravian and my experience of church life has been so positive. How we greet visitors to our services is so important, and a smile or a polite enquiry from members of the congregation will put them at their ease and make them feel welcome. It's probably not the best time to ask if they'd like to join the grass-cutting rota!

Occasionally I shop in Hereford and it is impossible to walk around the town without hearing a few Polish voices. I often wonder about their lives and whether people treat them well. In Leominster in April 2006 the Moravian congregation and minister decided to open a 'Friendship Centre' in the newly refurbished church hall, for migrant strawberry pickers. Working with Churches Together in Leominster they offered friendship, refreshments and practical help and advice for people working long hours for relatively poor pay. Although the work now continues elsewhere the congregation saw a real need and didn't hesitate "to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13 v 2.



## The Sleep Over at Hornsey

The children arrived and participated in games during the garden fete which was blessed with cloudless skies, the day of the sleep over had come. The fun, laughter and games continued into the seamless transition of the sleep over. Firstly the children explored the church and its facilities as they wandered around and made new friends.

programme planned, and facilitated the children who pursued their sense of freedom as they entered the church and began using instruments, the drums, piano and percussion for the impromptu service of worship and praise.

Even though their words were simple and encouraging, their humour and eagerness to participate generated a celebration of worship. What emerged was an opening verse, with a focus of the Olympics and an activity (response to the word). This part was closed with a race it represented running God's race, someone fell, could this be our difficulties and bruises of life, and last of all the cheers of the children as the winner came to the front of the church and instead of saying congratulations the children shouted "praise God".

Next the children went to the local park where they played a game of hide and seek. (Are we, hiding or seeking God I asked myself). How should the church help us to find God. It was clear that some children may need a type of drop in church, where games and hands on support can be accessed. Others may be happy to come more often to search God out for themselves. On our return to church



we had a meal later a young person from the church called this meal a "Jesus feast".

The formal day ended with a bible study and some preparation for the service the next day.

The question I asked myself was would we sleep, however after more energetic games and sleeping bags prepared we were eventually touched by the sleep of exhausted peace.

The children all participated in the next day's service with enthusiasm gained by their time together at the sleep over. Br Colin McIlwaine from Birmingham was our guest preacher. He and his wife Susan helped us to get into the spirit of the Olympics, but moreover into God's spirit who allows us all to be winners if we trust in Him.

Thank you Hornsey Moravian Church for such a good experience.

*Susan Foreman.*

## New books Autumn 2012

Intended for use at home with your own children this book of activities for a family could easily be use in a small group. Some of the activities are very suited for a session with your children and could be adapted for use in a service. I particularly like the treasure hunt looking for models that can be used to tell the story of Christmas. The church nativity set could be used, if suitable, or other models supplemented by farm animals, or even pictures printed from the internet. This would make an excellent present for a family as they approach Advent and at £4.99 is about the same price as an advent calendar and far more fun.

An imprint of brf ISBN 978-0-85746-063-9 □  
Paperback £4.99



## Future events

### MORYAC 15-17th May 2013

**At:** Guy Chester Centre, Muswell Hill

**Cost:** £100 for the weekend,  
or £25 for day attendees

**For:** all those working with children and young people in the Moravian Church

**Topics:** to be decided, if you have any ideas of what you would like to cover please contact Joy Raynor

### Summer Camp 27th July-3rd August

**At:** Fulneck School

**Cost:** £250 with £20 discount for early booking

**For:** young people 10-17

**Topics:** fun, friendship and faith development

# Animal Blessing Service

On a sunny Sunday in October Brockweir held its first animal service for the village and those passing through. The afternoon started with a range of activities for everyone, from 'hook a duck' to a 'find the animal' quiz with the background music of corny animal songs that added to the festive atmosphere. A range of dogs, and three tortoises, brought their humans who all behaved well. The short service was followed by the opportunity to have your pet, and yourself, blessed by Thom Stapleton and refreshments with a typical Moravian range of cakes. The afternoon was well attended and despite there being a number of dogs there was no fighting and very little barking, except for the one dog who didn't like the singing, or was he joining in? It was a pleasure to see the congregation reaching out to the community in a way which seemed very relevant for the surroundings. Thank you for welcoming me and to everyone who took an active part in the organisation: I think it was a success and worth repeating.

*Sr Joy Raynor*



## November 13th, 1741 - Freedom Day?

When the Moravian Church was coming to renewed life at Herrnhut, after the arrival of the refugees from Moravia in 1722, plans had to be made for the smooth running of the village. Twelve Elders were elected to be responsible for the whole life of the developing community of refugees who had settled there. One of those twelve was appointed as Chief Elder, especially responsible for the spiritual life of the people. In 1735, on his return from the Caribbean, Leonard Dober was elected to that position. In the following years, the Chief Elder took on more and more responsibility and more and more power in the growing church; so much responsibility that Dober found the load too heavy to carry. At a Conference in London in 1741 he asked for release.

The Conference was not able to find a successor who had the unanimous support of all its members. In the end, in the custom of the time, they put a question to the Lot: would the Lord accept the office for himself? The Lot approved. From this time on, the Moravian Church came to regard no human being, only Christ, as its Chief Elder. It was agreed that November 13th should be the day when this decision would be announced in all the congregations. Ever since, that day has been observed as a Memorial Day to mark the Church's realisation of the Headship of Christ.

On the face of it, this may seem a rather abstract idea. But I suggest it has two quite practical results in the life of our Church. In his History, Hutton calls it "the day when the Brethren gained their freedom and bowed to the will

and law of Christ alone."

First, it emphasises again the centrality of Christ in our life. No human doctrine, no creed, no tradition, no ritual can occupy the central place. Only Christ! So that challenges us to go on studying the life and teaching of Jesus as fully and deeply as we can and prayerfully to try and understand what that life and teaching are saying to us today.

Secondly, it affects the way the Moravian Church is organised. No minister, no bishop, no Provincial Board member, no Church Committee member, has absolute authority. "One is your master, even Christ, and all you are brothers (and sisters)". Of course we recognise and respect those brothers and sisters to whom the church has given special responsibility and authority. We look for order and discipline in the life of the church, not anarchy. But essentially, whatever position a person holds, we are not a hierarchy but a fellowship of brothers and sisters under Christ, each playing his or her own part in the development of the Kingdom.

So this Memorial Day still has something to say to us. It reminds us of some of the important things in Moravian understanding of the nature of the Church. It challenges us to go on making Christ central in our lives so that we may play an ever fuller part in the Church's mission of loving service.

*Fred Linyard*

# With Christlike Mind

*A look with Paul Gubi at*

*"an enriching hymn"* MHB 231 (1963 ed.)

For many the month of November is linked with remembrance, not least of those who have laid down their life in the service of king or queen and country. The monarch is the figure-head that unites us as a nation and commands our loyalty. In this Diamond Jubilee year of our Queen, attention has been drawn to the great personal sacrifice demanded and given in her life-time commitment to this role - at a cost we have not always appreciated. Her arrival on the UK throne owed all to the unwillingness of her uncle, Edward VIII, to commit to certain sacrifices, and it is to this turbulent time in the 1930s, around the George V Silver Jubilee, followed by Edward's abdication and the subsequent Accession of his brother, George VI, that this beautiful hymn by W.J. Penn is attributed. Penn lived from 1875-1956, apart from which I know nothing more about him, other than the approximate date of the hymn. I do love this hymn which has spoken to my soul since I first encountered it.

The familiar "Onward! Christian soldiers" contains the line: "Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane", from where it goes on to the constancy of Christ's Church (kingdom). Quite possibly the royal comings and goings of the mid-1930s, especially the Abdication turmoil and Edward's speech about his inability to do the job without the woman he loved, could have been the thing that inspired Penn to put his thoughts down in this beautiful way:

***Enthroned thy God within thy heart, thy being's inmost shrine;  
He doth to thee the power impart to live the life divine.***

To have God at the heart and head of our life, revered in the highest place of honour, is to embrace the enabling power which He gives, and thus to meet life full on and lift it to the divine level as we aspire to the imitation of Christ. George Herbert put it wonderfully simply: "Teach me, my God and King, in all things Thee to see, and what I do in anything, to do it as to Thee."

***Seek truth in Him with Christlike mind; with faith His will discern;  
Walk on life's way with Him, and find thy heart within thee burn.***

There are times when we perhaps look around us and maybe thoughts are prodded as to what, as Christians, we have to offer to inspire the world around us. The truth of the Gospel is in fact quite staggering. At the heart of it

stands the truth of the Resurrection. Like nothing else, it widens the horizon of life far beyond death and the limits of our earthly sight. It is almost impossible for us post-Resurrection believers to grasp the sheer astonishment of those disciples on the walk to Emmaus, with absolutely zero experience of anything like it, to find that the One to whom they had been opening up their dashed hopes and painful disappointment was in fact the Conqueror of Death: Christ the Way, the Truth, the Life. When the revelation of it came, they suddenly realised what that inner feeling of burning was about - not the bonfire of their dreams but the kindling of faith and hope that had so lightened what began as a pretty despondent journey. If we want to get our direction in life we need to seek out this fundamental truth and embrace the Christlikeness that puts God first everywhere.

***With love that overflows thy soul love Him who first loved thee;  
Is not His love thy life, thy goal, thy soul's eternity?***

What is there to fear when all springs from love? "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 John 3.1). Instinctively we may wonder what we have to do to be loved by God, and the answer to that is "Nothing". God already loves us with an everlasting love. Were our response so full as to overflow our soul, it would never outweigh God's love for us. To aspire to such love is to find the strength to live and the purpose of life and, through faith in the living Lord, to look forward to the ultimate joy of eternal life.

The final verse sums up the foregoing verses and encompasses also the assurance that this faith will indeed be vindicated.

***Serve Him in His sufficing strength: heart, mind and soul employ;  
And He shall crown thy days at length with everlasting joy.***

The beautifully flowing tune, "St. Botolph", by Gordon Slater [sometime organist at Leicester and later Lincoln Cathedrals] is also a product of the 1930s, and words and music here enhance each other perfectly. Although dropped from the latest edition of the Moravian Hymnbook, I hope this has helped you to a fuller appreciation of this enriching hymn - one that I myself will always treasure among my favourites.



# The Power of Memory

## - The Decade of Commemorations

You probably didn't hear it across the water in England but a collective sigh of relief was heard in Northern Ireland on Sunday 29th September. The Covenant Commemoration Parade in Belfast on the previous day had passed without too much incident.

The days leading up to it were all filled with discussion and grandstanding as discussions were held with the Parades Commission and the Orange Lodges were given permission to talk to community groups about their marches. This news had followed on from an apology issued by the Royal Black Institution to the Parish Priest and parishioners of St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church.

Confused?? Well you are not alone. It is just over a year since Chris and I moved to Northern Ireland to serve the Gracehill Congregation. So much of life here in Northern Ireland is the same as in Yorkshire or any other part of the United Kingdom and we love living here. However, there is a significant part that is very different and that is the history of the island of Ireland as a whole and recent experience of people in Northern Ireland in particular. It has made me realise how very little of this beautiful place is known or understood in England.

So this is an attempt to explain something of the history and issues of Northern Ireland, through the eyes of a newcomer. There are many different ways of reading history here, depending on whether one is a republican or loyalist, protestant or catholic, middle class or working class or from any other group. Within the Moravian Church in Northern Ireland too, there are many different views of the past and the rights and wrongs of the present.

In Northern Ireland we have just started what has become known as the Decade of Commemorations. Over this year and the following nine years the people across Ireland, North and South will be marking the hundredth anniversary of events that have shaped the modern states of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. The Decade of Commemorations started with the hundredth anniversary of the resistance to Home Rule for Ireland, led by Sir Edward Carson and this culminated in the signing of the Covenant on 28th September 1912. This Covenant, and Declaration

for the womenfolk, scuppered any chance of bringing in Home Rule. It was celebrated exactly one hundred years later, on Saturday 28th September 2012 by a march of 30,000 people through Belfast. The fact that this march passed off peacefully is so important for the marking of other one hundredth anniversaries in the coming decade.

In July 2014 there will be the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of the First World War. The 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising at the Post Office in Dublin will be marked at Easter in 2016 and that will have great significance in the republican communities. The fiftieth anniversary of this was marked by unrest in 1966. In July 2016 there will be the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of the Somme and that battle has great importance in the memory of loyalist communities here; in November 2018 there will be the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. Also in 2018 we will celebrate universal male suffrage and limited voting rights for women.

In 2019 people will be remembering the start of the Irish War of Independence starting in 1919, and in 2020 it will be the 100th anniversary of the partition of Ireland into North and South. In 2022 there will be the 100th Anniversary of the Irish Civil War and in 2023 it will be the anniversary of its ending.

So the way these anniversaries are commemorated or celebrated are of great importance for all here in both parts of Ireland, in the UK and in the Republic of Ireland. Sufficient time will, hopefully, have elapsed to allow for a proper review of the past and an understanding of the stories and perspectives of all the communities here.

The Scottish poet Iain Crichton wrote in 'The Legend'

*"the anthology of memories of the other is a book I hadn't reckoned on..."*

Now is the time for us all to hear those memories from our side and, what we perceive to be, the other side and to look at our history honestly. There are so many memories in this place and we all need to lift them and the events that caused them to God and ask for his healing and grace.

*Sarah Groves (PEC)*

*Next month, Sr. Groves writes about the Ulster Covenant*

# Spotlight on Royton

The Moravian Church work at Westwood began in 1865, due to the initiative of two men. The two men were the Rev. T.H. Hines, the Moravian minister at Salem, and Jos Lees Esq. of Hey, who was a member of the Salem congregation. Jos Lees made a grant of £60 per year for 2 years towards the support of a married minister to be stationed at Salem. "The Directing Board of our Church" agreed to supplement this generous proposal with £55 per year for 2 years. A house was furnished by friends from Fairfield and on the 26th July 1864, the Rev. Bennet Harvey Jnr. arrived with his family. A plot of land was purchased, and in 1865, a building was erected to use as both a chapel and a school.

The local area was heavily populated with workers in the many cotton mills. At the end of its first year the Sunday school had over 200 scholars. Many children could not read or write, and the church was hired by day schoolteachers for the purpose of holding private tuition. The children also received instruction from the minister in evening classes.

By 1869 the building was replaced by a larger one, and in 1874 the congregation formally asked Provincial Synod that it might be "settled". The request was accepted, and on 16th August Br. England declared that Westwood was a "regular and settled" congregation of the Brethren's Church".

As the years passed, Westwood, like many churches, became a focal point for social activity in the area. A cricket club was formed in 1883 and a dramatic society in 1897. Over the years, other activities were started. Dancing at socials was allowed for the first time in 1921. The rule was "that not more than 6 dances shall be allowed in any one night". As a consequence, 2 members of the Church Committee resigned! The custom of holding a united Whit Sing began in 1917. This is still upheld today with the united Whit Walks in Royton.

In 1924 a Memorial Screen was installed in remembrance of the 1914/1918 war. Part of this screen is now in the Moravian Church at Royton, along with the Communion Table and the Font from Westwood. During the 1939/1945 war years I have memories of the Lancashire District Youth Rallies, especially one held at Salem, when the scouts, guides, brownies and cubs marched in uniform, with drums and bugles, all the way from Westwood to Salem (about 3 miles, such enthusiasm!) after the war affected Westwood Moravian Church like many other churches. There were changes and the congregation had to adapt to them. By the 1980s the area and population around Westwood was changing considerably, and in 2003 it became apparent that a choice had to be made between the congregation closing or relocating. It was a hard choice, but in 2004 the decision was taken to relocate.

In 2005 the church and manse at Westwood were sold. For almost 2 years, St. Luke's C of E Church very kindly allowed the congregation to use its church building, whilst the congregation purchased and renovated its new home. The Salvation Army in Royton had closed and the congregation bought their vacant building. One interesting fact that I came across in Br Packer's history of the Westwood congregation was that in 1881 it was recommended that Royton be chosen as a site for a new Moravian congregation to be started.

Although for many the choice to relocate was heartbreaking at the time, it is a choice that has not been regretted. The first service at Royton took place on 1st April 2007, and the Re-dedication Service took place on Saturday 14th July. At the Re-dedication Service, Br. John McOwat led us in an Act of Re-dedication and Br. Fred Linyard, a Westwood boy, gave the address. It was a truly memorable day.

Since the relocation, the congregation has become an active member of Royton Churches Together, and has close ties with its neighbouring church, Trinity Methodist. The congregation has 42 members and adherents, and 13 young people in its Sunday school. We hold a weekly Coffee Morning on Wednesdays and a monthly Coffee Morning on the first Saturday in each month. We also have a MWA Circle and a Bible study group. We also hold regular social events, organised by our Social Events Committee. Our church building is also used by a local housing association for meetings, a mediation service working with families, and individuals for family celebrations, etc.

We are now firmly established in Royton and are always looking for new ways to serve the community and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. Recently, we have experienced an increase in the number of infant baptisms, and we recently had our second wedding in the church. The first baby to be baptised at Westwood was Joseph Hall, on 1st July 1866. Our most recent baby to be baptised at Royton was Gracie Emily Gibson, on 29th July 2012.

Recently, at a Congregation Council Meeting, the congregation took the decision to buy 70 copies of the new Moravian Hymn Book and 70 copies of the new Moravian Liturgy Book. We also agreed to install in the church a laptop projector system. Hopefully the books and projector system will enhance our worship. In 1912, the congregation needed a few more hymn books than it does today. It bought 150 hymnbooks, but we are still active and since we came to Royton our membership has increased. of the history of Westwood Moravian Church, I am indebted to the late Rev. Ivor Packer, who wrote an excellent history of the church when he was the residing minister.



# Open Book

## Second Epistle of JOHN

For many years, scholars have spent time and print debating the authorship of the Johannine literature of the New Testament: the Gospel, three letters and the Book of Revelation. The jury is still out, because there is no unanimous agreement. A strong case can be made for the conservative view, on the basis of etymology, style and substance, the author is John the Apostle. This was the view of those who historically were almost contemporary with the author.

The first epistle of John (Open Book, July 2012) is the longest of the three letters. It includes the heart of the Gospel (1 John 1 vv 5-9), faith, fellowship, assurance and a warning concerning false teaching. The Christian Church which began in Jerusalem was half a century old. It was spreading far and wide. Before His ascension, Jesus said to his disciples, "Go into all the world, preach the Gospel, make disciples of all nations, be My witnesses." The response of the hearers, then and throughout church history, is the same as the people of Athens when Paul preached to them: total rejection with mockery by some, hesitation by others, but also acceptance by a few. (Acts 17 v 17-23.)

The second epistle is the shortest; more like a notelet, conveying a tone of urgency and concern. Its main purpose is to warn the faithful of peripatetic teachers, who are propagating false doctrine. The author hopes to be able to visit his readers personally, but meanwhile feels compelled to write this letter without delay. (verse 12)

From its beginning as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, the Church has suffered persecution. This second epistle is concerned about a more serious and insidious threat, the rise of heresy. It came in the form of Gnosticism: a claim by some to possessing esoteric, philosophic doctrines, contrary to the orthodox beliefs of the Church. One example, they denied the truth of the incarnation, because the physical,

material world is totally evil, and the Word could not become "flesh and dwell amongst us." (1 John 1v 14) By the second century, Gnosticism had divided into various schools of thought, attempting to confine the Christian Gospel "to the measure of man's mind," (a phrase from F.W. Faber's lovely hymn.)

There are no personal names in this epistle. In those days, the writer would usually put his name at the beginning, but here he refers to himself as "the Elder." (Gr. presbuteros.) This word could mean simply a matter of age, as in Luke 15 v 25. (In a Christian context, it would identify a senior member/ leader of a church congregation, one of whom would be an overseer. (episcopos) With

**"Do not be deceived and led astray, losing the blessings you have already received."**

the definite article as a prefix and the tone of the letter, it indicates a person with responsibility and authority.

The letter is addressed to "the elect lady and her children." The Greek word 'eklektos' means literally "called out" chosen by God for His service. The word, in different grammatical form, is found in the first and last verses of this epistle. Who is this elect lady and her children? Out of several, one conjecture based on the fact the early church assemblies were house-churches is; it refers to a widow in whose house the church meets with her children. A suggestion which can be acknowledged, but not necessarily accepted! A more appropriate idea comes from the fact, the church (ekklesia) is declined as feminine in Scripture and hymns: "the bride of Christ," (Revelation 19 v 7: 22 v 2; 22 v 17; Eph. 5 v 23-29.) "Yet she on earth have union with God, the three in one."

(Hymn) "From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride." It would appear, John is addressing a local congregation as Christians and individuals. At the end of the letter, he gives a greeting from a "sister" congregation.

This second letter from John emphasises the vital importance of four key-words, also found in the Gospel which bears his name.

Truth: factual, experiential and eternal: verses 1 and 2.

LOVE: rooted in obedience to the Lord's commands. verses 3-6

Essential for unity and effective evangelism. "By this shall all people, know you are my disciples, if you have love one to another. (John's Gospel 13 v 35)

Loyalty: verses 7-11. The writer is obviously concerned what damage false doctrine can do to the vulnerable infant church. "Do not be deceived and led astray, losing the blessings you have already received."

Joy: the by-product of truth, love and loyalty.

2 John is a short letter with a large message concerning the faith and witness of the Church, a theology founded on truth rather than novelty and fashion. Ways of presentation and communication can change, but the truth of the Gospel message is the same yesterday, today and forever. How it is communicated is also important: not forceful or arrogant, but with grace and love (v v 3-6). Christian love, however, is not weak, but strong in its resistance to error and perceptive of evil influences detrimental to the unity and spiritual well-being of the Church. Concern is expressed for the whole Church of God, composed of small and growing units of assemblies. This letter begins and ends with greetings near and far: keeping in touch by correspondence, but looking forward to meeting face to face, in time or in eternity. It sounds quite Moravian.

*Dennis Monger*



# News From Elim Home

I greet you with the word from 1 Corinthians 13 v 13, "Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love." If we had love, this world would be a better place for all of us. We would respect others because we love them.

Our vision is to enhance the potential of children with severe and profound intellectual and physical disability by providing holistic development of the individual's potential.

We currently have 50 residents and one child is currently with us for respite care. Sr. Engel retired on the 31st December 2011 and we wish her well in her retirement. One of our staff completed her training as an enrolled nurse and graduated in March 2012. Five of our carers are still busy with ancillary health training and in service training is also done 3-4 times a month. Elim Home was nominated as one of the institutions in the Western Cape to partake in the Youth Employment Programme of the Department of Social Development. The programme lasted for five months and helped to ease the pressure on our staff. We also appointed three general assistants which enabled us to add a general assistant for night duty on each shift at the beginning of May. This was done to improve the nursing

care and lighten the workload of the night staff. Shortage of staff is a great challenge for us.

We thank everybody involved in our adoption plan. We would like to extend this scheme to ensure a regular income. We would urge individuals, families, groups and congregations to support us in our efforts. Three individuals and two congregations have joined our programme in the past three months, for which we are very grateful.

Homebased care is continuing and Sr. L. Fischer has been appointed as Nursing Co-ordinator for this programme. Staff from Elim Home and volunteers are also responsible for an outreach programme in Gansbay and Stanford. We also make use of the medical team in Gansby to ensure that clients attend their follow-up appointments and receive regular specialised care. We would like to thank our donors for their support in making this aspect of our work so successful. At present we have 25 clients in our programme.

Elim Home is indeed blessed by the love of our brothers, sisters and friends all over the world. We thank each and every one for their continued support and prayers.

*Lesinda Cunningham*

*If you would like further information about this church-run home for handicapped young people contact: Mrs Maureen Vincent, 161 Lower Wyke Lane, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD12 94A, email: [Maureen.vincent@moravian.org.uk](mailto:Maureen.vincent@moravian.org.uk)*

## Notice Board

### 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. Sales at the Provincial Fellowship Day were good and Sr. Colbert would like to thank everyone who purchased them and gave a donation. There are still a number left and if you'd like to give them as Christmas gifts the calendars cost £6 each plus £2 p&p. *You can obtain them from Sr. Colbert at: 213, Smith House Lane, Lightcliffe, Halifax, HX3 8UP. Cheques made payable to Maureen Colbert.*

### Moravian Settlements - 2013 Calendar

Fairfield congregation have produced a calendar featuring Moravian Settlements in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. There are three photographs from each of the four settlements at Gracehill, Fulneck, Ockbrook and Fairfield. The congregation wanted to include them in the calendar as many Moravians have not had the opportunity to visit all of these beautiful and historic sites.

*The calendars cost £5.99 each (plus £2.20 p&p). Please contact: Mrs Janet Warr, 10 Fairfield Sq., Droylsden M43 6AD. Tel. 0161 370 0132 e-mail: [janet@janetwarr8.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:janet@janetwarr8.wanadoo.co.uk) Karel Lees Tel. 0161 339 1137 e-mail: [smudg59@aol.com](mailto:smudg59@aol.com)*



### [Unitas] Moravian College Pennsylvania named among Princeton Review's list of Best Colleges for undergraduate education

Moravian College is one of the country's best institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review. The education services company features the school in the new 2013 edition of its annual college guide, "The Best 377 Colleges" (Random House / Princeton Review). Only about 15 percent of America's 2,500 four-year colleges and three colleges outside the United States are profiled in the book, which is The Princeton Review's flagship college guide. Robert Franek, Princeton Review's senior vice president and publisher and author of "The Best 377 Colleges," said "We commend Moravian College for its outstanding academics, which is the primary criteria for our selection of schools for the book. Our choices are based on institutional data we collect about schools, our visits to schools over the years, feedback we gather from

students attending the schools, and the opinions of our staff and our 30-member National College Counselor Advisory Board. We also work to keep a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character." In its profile on Moravian College, The Princeton Review praises the school for its "strong faculty and academic programs" and quotes extensively from Moravian students the Company surveyed for the book. Among their comments about their campus experiences there. "A second year student says, "I love the atmosphere of the campus," and another student adds, "I love the kindness and genuine concern that people have for others."

*More details on the College's Web site at [www.moravian.edu](http://www.moravian.edu).*

# Congregation News



## Wellhouse, Bradford

### An ABUN - 'DANCE' of TALENT.

On Sunday 23rd September, Wellhouse Moravian Church was host to an abun-DANCE of talent, as following a short service led by Br. Kenneth Evans, the Katie Philpott School of Dance were presented with an award for the most improved dancer of 2012 and awards for improvement in all the individual classes of dance were presented by Katie and her teachers.

It is the first such awards service but it is planned to be repeated annually. It was the brainchild of Br. Evans, who along with the Church Committee at Wellhouse, felt that the awarding of a trophy would be a positive way of showing support for the dance school by encouraging and rewarding progress and achievement.

Katie and her teachers then had the un-enviable task of choosing from the 300+ pupils whom they felt deserved the awards for 2012, because due very much to their credit the overall standard, talent and enthusiasm of the school is indeed very high.

Katie commenced the awards along with teachers Rachel Clayton and Sophie Bowes and the recipients who had all shown tremendous improvement over the past year were:

**Junior Ballet** - Mia Harrison. **Senior Ballet** - Cara Greenhough. **Junior Modern** - Hannah Smaling. **Senior Modern** - Emma Jones. **Junior Tap** - Ella Riding. **Senior Tap** - Becky Rogers. **Junior Street Dance** - Aimee Parry. **Senior Street Dance** - Laura Fox. **Boys Street Dance** - Joe Townend. **Jazz** - Lucy Ashton. **Junior Freestyle** - Orla Sullivan. **Senior Freestyle** - Holly Summers. **Junior Musical Theatre** - Hannah Brown. **Senior Musical Theatre** - Francesca Barron.

Following these awards Katie then presented the Teachers Cup to Lucy Auty as the pupil they felt had made the most progress in a variety of classes throughout the year. Then came the presentation to the overall winner of the most improved dancer for 2012, this was presented on behalf of the Wellhouse Moravian Church by Br. Evans to Lucy Rimmer for her overall achievement.

The Wellhouse Moravian Church are proud to support these awards and to host this presentation service, it was a real pleasure to see these young people supported by their families attend this thanksgiving service and receive their awards and it was pleasing and to their credit that all recipients for the awards were present.

*Kenneth Evans*

# Fairfield, Droylsden

## Past

As all Moravians are, we at Fairfield are very proud of our Moravian history. We also have the honour of being custodians of a site of great historical beauty and interest at Fairfield settlement.

As for the past 7 years, we opened our doors for the Heritage Weekend on 8th & 9th September. This gave visitors opportunity to have a guided tour round the settlement and go into the restored college building; many older members will remember this as the Theology College where Moravian ministers underwent their training (one of the last cohorts included Rev Richard Ingham). Some visited our museum and of course went into church; where members were on hand to welcome them and answer any questions they had.

Many of our visitors were here for the first time, but we also get old girls from the High School who love to reminisce about their time here and often bring their children and grandchildren to see the place they spent their formative years. Indeed we get many old girls from the school that come to Fairfield for weddings and baptisms, all keeping strong links which we try to nurture.

## Present

As with all old buildings the cost of upkeep and repair are a constant worry, never more so than at the present when we are all feeling the results of a financial recession. How to make sure the buildings are sound and fit to house the next generation of worshipers is something of which we are ever mindful. Yet again our prayers for help are answered; on this occasion Sr Margaret Geddes has donated a generous amount in memory of her elder sister Connie Mills who died on 29th November 2011 aged 91. Many of you will remember Connie; she was a lifelong member of the Wheeler St congregation. In fact Connie and Margaret's father, Henry Whitehead, had been the organist at Wheeler St from the age of 14 to going away to fight in the First World War and eventually ended up as the organist here at Fairfield. Connie herself was the Wheeler St organist for many years up to 1991, and even after that she would still play when called upon. During her time at Wheeler Street Connie attended Sunday School, was a member of the choir and was involved in the brownies, guides and rangers and a great supporter of her husband Bill's work there. She knew a lot about the Moravian Church and its history and traditions and thanks to this gift, we can press forward with much needed renovations and improvements to the facilities at the back of church; all of which will make our church a more inviting place for regular worshippers and visitors alike.

## Future

Thanks to donations like the one mentioned above, and the continued generosity of members and friends alike, Fairfield will be passed on to future generations in a fit state or repair. But what does the future really hold, after all a waterproof and warm church is of no use without people to fill the pews? The church has always kept strong ties with the Girls High School (state run academy) in the Square and never more so than currently. The church has made a commitment to the school to provide a facility for learning. Their pupils will use the rich history of our buildings, our beliefs, our practises and our traditions as part of their quest to find out what effect religion has in the 21st century, on all manner of topics such as; the part they play in the environment, relationships, human rites, violence in the world and the role of women.

We pray that we learn from them too and that this may be one step forward to filling our churches to capacity with those who love Christ.

*Margery Sutcliffe*

# Horton, Bradford

On Saturday 26th May, Br. Philip Hollindrake took part in a sponsored walk from Lightcliffe to Fulneck. It was to mark the 270th Anniversary of the first Moravian Settlement in Yorkshire. The money raised was used to help buy a generator for the school in Kathmandu and the rest was divided between the Yorkshire congregations.

On 2nd June the MWA had a coffee morning at the home of Br. and Sr. Woods. The MWA Circle was also involved with the Rally held at Lower Wyke on April 21st.

The 16th June was our Gift Day and Sr. Linda Haggas was in the chair and our hosts were scheduled to be Br. and Sr. Purnell. Anita, unfortunately was unwell but our minister entertained us by showing us a selection of family pictures including a number of animal photographs. Then Br. Purnell surprised us by leaving the room only to re-emerge dressed as Frank Spencer. He was exceedingly funny and entertained us royally and a good sum was raised for the church.

Like other congregations we took part in the Prayer Watch and our responsibility was from midday to midnight on July 8th. Also in July we joined with other denominations to hold an outdoor service. We moved from one point to another around the area, singing hymns to music and various ministers gave talks themed around the Olympics.

We have also welcomed back Sr. Maureen Colbert from service abroad in India and Nepal. We look forward to hearing about some of her experiences in due course. She has had a special calendar produced using photographs taken in Nepal to raise money for the International Kindergarten in Kathmandu.

(Details of how to purchase the calendar are available on the Notice Board in the Messenger - Ed.)



In September Sunday School resumed, as has Bible-study where we are studying the Book of Proverbs. On the 16th September we welcomed Br. Phillip Cooper (PEC) to lead our Harvest Festival. We really did think about all the good gifts we were surrounded with and thanked God for them. We thank Br. Cooper for his inspirational address and we enjoyed singing the well known traditional Harvest hymns!

*Jamie Spencer*

## CONGREGATION REGISTERS

### BAPTISM

23rd Sep. **Isabelle Rebecca Flint-Bush** *Ockbrook*

### MEMBERSHIP

23rd Sep. **Heather Armstrong** *Brockweir*

23rd Sep. **Betty Hoskins** *Brockweir*

23rd Oct. **Christine Hoskins** *Brockweir*

23rd Oct. **Pauline Richards** *Brockweir*

### WEDDINGS

23rd Jun. **Jill-Marie Craven & Shaun David Shepherd** *Baildon*

30th Jun. **Rachel Marie Snowden & Christopher David Dillingham** *Baildon*

### DEATH

26th Aug. **Lorna Newbold** Age 90 *St. Luke's*

5th Sep. **Joan Archard** *Tytherton*



## Provincial Diary for November

### November

3	Social Responsibility Committee, Ockbrook	Sr Taylor
7	Renewal Committee, Lower Wyke	Sr Groves
13/14	PEC, BMB, Unitas Estates Meetings	The PEC
26/30	MCF Annual Meetings,	Br Hopcroft

### December

3	Ockbrook School Governors' meeting	Br Hopcroft
13/14	PEC, BMB, Unitas Estates Meetings	The PEC
21	Church House Office closes for Christmas	

## PRAYER NOTES

1st November - All Saints Day (Christian)  
2nd November - All Souls Day (Catholic Christian)  
11th - 15th November - Diwali/Deepavali (Hindu/Jain/Sikh)  
13th November - Realisation of the Headship of Christ (Moravian)  
24th November - Ashura (Islam)  
25th November - Christ the King  
30th November - St. Andrew's Day (Christian)

### Anglican Collect for All Saints Day

Almighty God,  
who hast knit together thine elect  
in one communion and fellowship  
in the mystical body of Your Son, Christ our Lord:  
Give us grace so to follow Your blessed saints  
in all virtuous and godly living,  
that we may come  
to those ineffable joys  
that thou hast prepared for those  
who unfeignedly love thee;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth,  
one God, in glory everlasting. Amen

*Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

### Realisation of the Headship of Christ

Lord Jesus, we thank you that, in the middle of the eighteenth century, our brothers and sisters realised that you are the head of not only our denomination but the head of the whole Christian Church. Help us, Lord, to remember this in the lives that we live, the worship that we bring and the service that we offer. We pray that we avoid all striving for power, status and position and that we instead submit ourselves to your leadership, your will and your way. Give us the discernment to understand what you want us to do so that we can follow you as our leader, guide, companion and friend. In the name of Jesus, the head of the Church here on earth, Amen

### Divine Office Psalm Prayer for Christ the King

Lord God  
You gave the peoples of the world  
as the inheritance of your only Son;  
you crowned him as King of Zion, your holy city,  
and gave him your Church to be his Bride.  
As he proclaims the law of your eternal kingdom,  
may we serve him faithfully,  
and so share his royal power forever.  
Psalm Cycle, Sunday Week One

### Benedictine Collect for All Souls Day

We supplicants, O Lord,  
pour forth our prayers  
for the souls of Thy servants and handmaids,  
that Thou wouldst mercifully pardon  
whatsoever they have committed  
through human frailty  
and graciously bring their sufferings to an end.  
Through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

*From the Benedictine Diurnal*

### World Prayer for Peace

Lord, lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth.  
Lord, lead me from despair to hope from fear to trust.  
Lord, lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.  
Lord, let there be peace. Amen

### A Prayer for St. Andrew's Day

God, our loving Father,  
St Andrew introduced Peter,  
the Greek visitors,  
& the little boy with loaves & fishes,  
to your Son, Jesus Christ.  
May we be like him  
in sharing friendship and hospitality,  
and in faithfulness to Jesus  
and his Kingdom of justice,  
love & peace.  
May our country be a community  
in which everyone matters,  
everyone has an honoured place,  
and the dignity of each is assured  
by our faith in you as Father of us all.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
AMEN

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