

# Moravian messenger



February  
2013

*Sr. Gillian Taylor (PEC) writes about her*

## First Tanzanian Experience



It was a great privilege to be able to go to Tanzania in September 2012. This was my first visit, but since I had taken over responsibility for the oversight of the work we support in Western Tanzania, from Sr Morten, I thought that I should go to see for myself just what it was like. Whilst I was there I was able to see the conditions that the people there have to overcome and in general get a 'feel' for the work being done.

Like a true Girl Guide and under the motto 'Be Prepared' I did prepare myself with the usual medical kits etc. Also I e-mailed my sister, who had made several visits in her time, and asked if I should be aware of anything. The comment back was 'think of it as guide camp and enjoy'. What she did not say was it was guide camp as I had experienced as a girl. No running water or even hot water when it was on tap. However that was just a minor

problem which was not really a problem in the hot climate.

It was also good that I was able to travel with a sister from America. Sr Judy Ganz, the director of the North American Board of World Mission, was visiting their projects which meant we could confer and forge communication links for the future. So often the different agencies do not talk and this can cause problems with the aid being given.

The first week I was there was spent in Taboara visiting all the projects which we assist financially. During this week I visited Sikonge Hospital, Sikonge School and Bible College and the Bishop Kisanji Secondary school for Girls.

The hospital appeared to be running well and was continuing with its work with HIV/AIDS especially with pregnant women. They had sessions where they were even getting partners

to attend and be tested, which was a breakthrough in a country where such matters have generally been 'the women's problem'. However health education amongst the people seemed to be going well.



The hospital's greatest concern at the moment is that the government have decided to build another hospital in the same area. This means that the doctors, as they are paid by the government, will have to transfer initially. It is hoped that they will be

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## First Tanzanian Experience *continued*

able to keep going until new doctors come out of training but there is a call for assistance and they are hoping that they can get some European doctors to cover this period. The mission agencies are looking at this for them as they have a Danish doctor with them at the present time but he is due to return to Denmark.

The school in Sikonge is a co-ed boarding school but what struck me, but did not seem a problem to them, was that there were no female members of staff. All the teachers were male and there was no nurse for the girls to go to. It seems strange that this can happen but they live in a different world to us. Another thing I found difficult to adjust to was that they had classes of mixed ages. This is because school has to be paid for and families can only send their children when finances allow. This means that classes will inevitably have children of various ages, and in some cases young men and women, at the same level of education. There were even teachers younger than pupils. It is hard for us, who are used to all our children going to school at five and staying until they start work or go to University, to realise that this is not the case in the rest of the world. We should think how lucky we are. I know most of the children in Tanzania would be glad to go to school like our children and they value the education that they can receive.



gives the Provinces and the Mission Agencies a chance to meet together and report on the activities since their last meeting. At this meeting there is time for each of the provinces to meet with their various supporters and put in any requests for help. This then enables the various agencies to put together any assistance they can give without duplication. As you can imagine we come away with a list of requests and have to prioritise these as money is not always available.

There was one event which occurred during my visit which I had not known about until the Saturday we arrived at Dar Es Salaam. On the Sunday there was to be the consecration of the first Bishop of the Congo. This was Br Moise Tshimanga. We had to meet and process to the church in a convoy of cars. It was like a royal occasion which was celebrated in true Tanzanian style with flag waving all the way to the church. The service was held outside, of course, with three choirs contributing to the proceedings. It was a very colourful and joyous occasion. All the visitors had to give words of greeting and therefore the service lasted about three and half hours followed by lunch. It was an honour to be there as this was the first Bishop for the Congo and therefore a point to be marked in the history of the Unity.

Overall I had a wonderful trip to Tanzania and learned a lot about the country and its people. I am very grateful for all the kindness and attention that was given to my wellbeing by all those that I met particularly the Chairman of Western Tanzania, Br John Italazyo. The people are friendly and so eager to please and I look forward to visiting them again.

### A word from the Editor

## Jam tomorrow?

For the past 4 years I have commented upon the continuing annual negotiations by the parties of the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change with a growing sense of unease and frustration. The talks in Doha in 2012 focused on the Kyoto Protocol, which limits the emissions of a number of rich countries that have ratified it (and not dropped out), as well as on long-term mechanisms to combat climate change. In Durban in 2011, it was decided that a new climate deal would be agreed by 2015, to come into effect in 2020.

Achievements of the 2012 Doha conference included:

- An 8-year extension of the Kyoto Protocol
- One negotiating structure - the "Durban Platform" - on which all nations, developed and developing alike, will make legal commitments
- Rich nations may have an obligation to compensate poor nations which suffer damage from climate change, although no specific money is yet forthcoming
- A work Plan to 2015.

The 2012 Doha conference did not make huge strides forward, but ministers from the nearly 200 countries who attended were satisfied with the final deal known as the Doha climate gateway, which paves the way for discussions on a global treaty for all nations.

Should we be bothered by this frustratingly slow pace and apparent complacency? Certainly there are many alarmed by the pace of melting ice caps, rising sea levels and incidences of extreme weather events. The desired goal of keeping global warming below 2°C by cutting carbon dioxide emissions now requires emissions to fall steeply and to continue to do so for decades. Some authorities are warning that on current trends the climate will heat up by as much as 6 °C. This is not the sort of legacy we should be leaving the next generation to contend with. I still remain uneasy, but giving up on international efforts certainly won't solve anything; we all need to remain focused on these issues and play our part in their resolution. We need to pray and where possible make our voices heard. We are God's stewards, imperfect and fallible but His hands and voices on earth.

## YOUTH ZONE

Latest news from the Provincial Youth and Children's Office

### 18+ Weekend

Our 18+ weekend started in Belfast on the Friday night as we all began to arrive, our first order of business was constructing our new camp beds!! This was soon followed by pizza, catching up with each other and a couple games of Werewolf. As midnight rolled around we began to prepare to take part in Nightreach, where we serve tea, coffee and have a chat with people heading home after their night out, providing a friendly face to anyone who might need us.

On Saturday morning after a little lie in we enjoyed an Ulster Fry before settling into some great discussion through our bible study on seeking Truth and Freedom through our Church and Christian lives. Afterwards we wrapped up in our woolies and headed around to the Continental Market for lunch, before packing up and heading out to Hillsborough and Kilwarlin Moravian Church, where we would spend the night. After dinner we built a camp fire and shared a brilliant night of fellowship, finishing up a fantastic



weekend on Sunday morning with a church service.

The 18+ weekends always promise to be excellent events. Informal and fun, they are a chance to relax away from work and uni, catching up with old friends, strengthening links with each other and our congregations throughout the province. The next weekend will hopefully be in England in the New Year, I can't wait for it!

Roberta Hoey



### Summer Camp 2013

**What is it?** A chance for young Moravians to get together and spend a week having fun, learning together, growing in faith and making lifelong friends.

**Why come?** It is an opportunity to make friends or meet up with friends made in previous years, refresh your faith, be challenged, experience living with other young people from across the province, get to know a small group of adults and learn what it means to be a Moravian.

Booking forms and information will be posted out to all previous attendees or can be obtained from your minister or Joy Raynor [youth@moravian.org.uk](mailto:youth@moravian.org.uk) 01753 553549

**Where:** Fulneck School, Yorkshire

**When:** 27th July - 3rd August

**Who:** Any person age 10-17 on 31st August 2013.

**Cost:** £250 includes all food and activities

**Discounts:** £20 if you book before 31st March.



### MORYAC Weekend

**What is it?** A chance for children and youth leaders to get together, share good ideas and gain some knowledge while having fun and building friendships.

**Why come?** It is an opportunity to be inspired and reinvigorated for your work with children and young people, to feel that you are not alone or just a small number, and to build a support network for your work with children and young people. This is usually not a relaxing, lazy weekend but a period of thinking, reflecting and learning.

Booking forms and information from Joy Raynor [youth@moravian.org.uk](mailto:youth@moravian.org.uk) 01753 553549

**Where:** Guy Chester House, Muswell Hill

**When:** 17-19th May 2012

**Who:** Youth Leaders

**Cost:** £100 for whole weekend

£25 day fee for the Saturday only

# The Walk of Faith in Belfast

In November 2012 Cliftonville Moravian Church hosted two of the sessions of the latest Walk of Faith Project, which is taking place throughout schools and worship centres throughout North Belfast. Twelve primary schools are taking part in the learning programme of educational visits to faith venues and activities have been created to explore diversity. The schools are working with ten faith groups in the area, supported by four community partners. It is hoped that these events will galvanise the groups into a Walk of Faith Partnership and also develop a model of good practice for inter-faith education and cross community partnerships. If the Walk of Faith is successful what will be left behind should form a lasting legacy for good relations in the city of Belfast. The long term aim of the Walk of Faith Project is to unite education and faith communities in North Belfast in order to deliver a learning programme that increases knowledge of the rich diversity of faiths in the area.

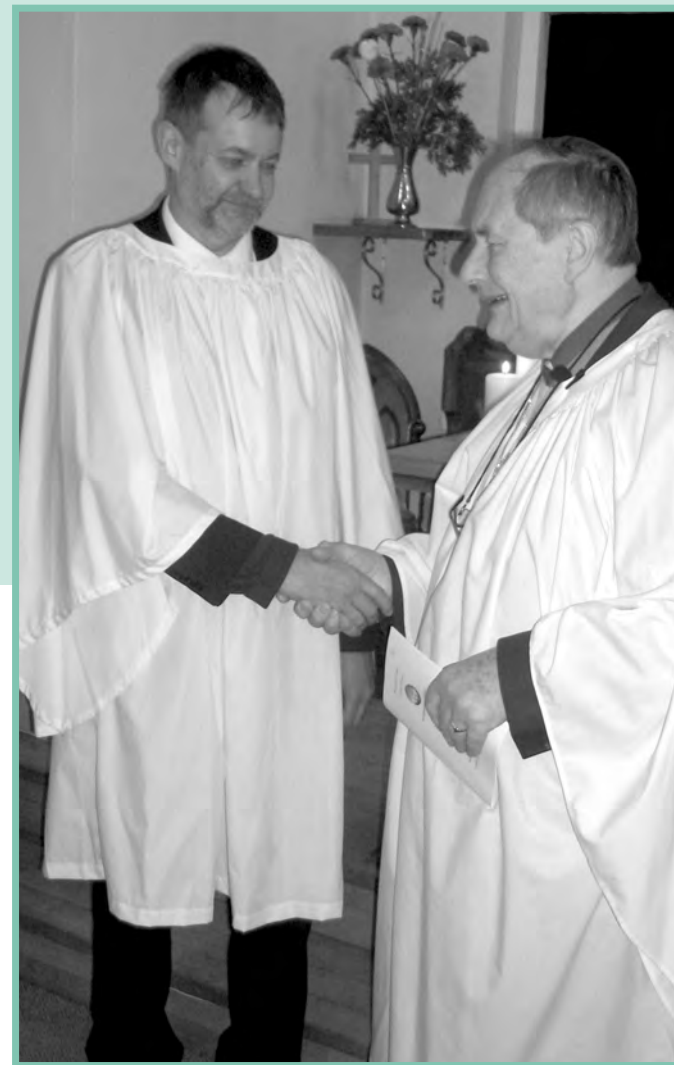
The Walk of Faith targets communities in North Belfast and the Greater Shankill, which suffer from acute multiple deprivation, including low incomes, economic inactivity, high levels of limiting long term illness and severe educational under-achievement. The need for action to tackle these issues is established by the inclusion of these areas in the worst 10% of wards in Northern Ireland as measured by the Noble Index of Deprivation. The Walk of Faith will bring pupils together from the various different communities of North Belfast from across the interfaces and divisions of that part of the city. The young people will take opportunities to visit and learn about places of worship in their area that wouldn't normally have access to or even know anything about. The opening of such places and the talks given by the various worship leaders help the pupils to find out about what goes on behind these usually closed

doors and add significantly to their general education.

As part of the overall project four schools sent classes to Cliftonville Moravian Church over two days, in two groups of about thirty pupils each. One group included children from a local Catholic primary school and all the pupils filled into the church to listen to what the minister had to tell them about the history of the Moravian Church in general and Cliftonville Moravian Church specifically. Unbelievably the talks ended up being about 50 minutes long and, to be fair on the young people, none of them fell asleep: it's amazing what an inflatable globe and 67 slides can achieve! All the children seemed to be interested and answered and asked questions merrily throughout the session. It is hoped that the pupils and the teachers that came with them went away knowing at least a little more about the Moravians in the middle of all their communities.

Now, the idea of taking schools into Christian churches (Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox), Hindu temples, Jewish Synagogues and other places of worship may seem old hat, but in North Belfast it has been a new idea and something of a revelation. Some of the problems of North Belfast stem from ignorance and people from different communities knowing nothing about each other or even meeting one another. The Walk of Faith, in its own small way, seeks to change things and to push back the frontiers of ignorance. The Moravian Church is at the heart of all this, trying to show the young people that turned up that there may be differences between churches and worship centres, but that we can still walk together respecting our beliefs and hopefully concentrating more on what we have in common rather than what divides us.

*Paul M Holdsworth*



In December, the Dukinfield congregation were honoured to be the hosts for the ordination of Br Peter Madsen Gubi. To our knowledge, this is the first time an ordination service has ever been held in Dukinfield, and we were so pleased and grateful that so many of our brothers and sisters braved the cold and frosty evening to share in the enjoyment of this very special occasion.

The service started with the singing of the hymn, "Come, let us all with gladness raise a joyous song of thanks and praise" and the procession of Ministers, led by our Bishop, Br John McOwat looked like the "heavenly host" had descended again! It was good to see that Br John is slowly recovering after his period of illness.

Prayers were said by Sr Beth Torkington and these were followed by scripture readings from Br Peter Gubi Senior, Rev Dr Janet Tollington of Westminster College, Cambridge and Br Philip Cooper.

Br Peter was then presented before the Bishop and a request was made that he be ordained to the Pastoral Office of Deacon of the Moravian Church. Once this request was granted, we stood to sing Br Peter's chosen hymn, "Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you".

Sr Elizabeth Obbard gave the address and spoke of the journey that Br Peter was embarking on and urged him to remember Jesus speaking to Peter and asking him if he loved Jesus. Peter answered three times that yes, he did love Jesus, and Jesus urged him to feed his lambs and his sheep. Sr Elizabeth added that we should all look to each

# The Ordination of Br. Peter Gubi

other for support and be eager to love and be loved and to forgive willingly and without reservation. She gave as an example a true story of a South African woman who, during the apartheid regime, had witnessed her son being shot dead by the Afrikaans's chief of police and then later had her husband taken away from her by the same police chief, and after two years of not knowing where he was, she was forcibly taken from her home to a place where she found her husband battered and bleeding, and tied to the top of a pile of wood. Petrol was thrown over him and she was made to watch as he burned to death. Her husband's dying words were "Father, forgive them." After the end of Apartheid and the perpetrators of evil were brought to justice, she was asked by the courts to retell her story and to point out the person who had killed her family. She was asked to tell what punishment she wanted for the police chief. She said that firstly, she would like him to take her to the place where her husband had died so that she may pick up any remnants of ashes and bone that may remain, so that she could give her husband a Christian burial. Secondly, she wanted the police chief to be taken to her home once a month so that she could show him the love of family that he had taken away from her and thirdly, she wanted to be taken across the courtroom so that she could embrace the police chief and tell him that she had forgiven him just as her husband had.

The very moving act of ordination and blessing was performed by Br John and the right hand of fellowship was extended.

After further prayer, Br Peter's father, Br Peter Gubi Senior presented a surplice from the Tytherton congregation. This act was reminiscent of the passing of the mantle from Elijah to Elisha. Sr Glenys Marshall presented a Bible from the Dukinfield congregation.

The singing of the recessional hymn "On our way rejoicing" brought to a close a wonderful time of fellowship and all present enjoyed a hearty supper,

On a personal note, It was good to see Dukinfield's longest serving member of our church, Sr Anne Bogie who at 94 years' old, had never witnessed an ordination in her own church and was determined not to miss it!

*Sue Selby*

# Around the District Conferences

## EASTERN DISTRICT

Br. Joachim Kreusel welcomed everyone to the Conference and led the opening devotions.

The following Brothers and Sisters were elected to serve the District:

Chairman	Br. Joachim Kreusel
Minute Secretary	Br. Edwin Quildan
Renewal Secretary	Sr. Elsie George
Social Resp. Secretary	Sr. Gloria David
Youth Representative	Br. Edwin Quildan
Prayer Watch Secretary	Br. Eric Moore

The Provincial Report was presented by Sr. Ruth Franklin.

It was agreed that a District Lay Training Taster Session would be held on Saturday 2nd March, 2013 at Church House. The topic discussed will be Moravian history. It was noted that a number of people in the District can and are able to take services although their names do not appear in the official list.

The Youth Committee Report was presented by Br. Edwin Quildan. A Sunday School teachers training day will be held at Hornsey in 2013. Summer Camp will again be held at Fulneck on 27th July - 3rd August 2013. The District also wants to hold a youth social event in March or April, a service in April and a sleep-over in June or August.

Sr. Gloria David circulated a Social Responsibility Report that focused on two case studies relating to how employers are treating employees especially with regards to signing new less favourable contracts.

Sr. Elsie George reported on congregation renewal activities within the District.

Congregation reports were then presented by various District representatives. At Queens Park (Bedford) the congregation continues to play an active part in the life of the Church by leading worship during the minister's absence. The Bible Study Group meets on Tuesday evening and a Prayer Meeting is held on Friday morning at 7:30 am.

At Harold Road, Br. Hopcroft takes the service twice a month. The other weeks are led by members or lay preachers. The MWA continue to meet monthly.

The Fetter Lane congregation recently completed a questionnaire "Marks of a Healthy Church" and have analysed the results. An action plan has been compiled and this is reviewed regularly by the church committee. Bible Study is held twice a month.

At Harlesden, services are being enhanced by the use of worship leaders and the praise team. Links with Amersham Free Church remain strong although their minister died during the year.

Hornsey received five new members; four by confirmation and one by adult baptism. Sunday worship is vibrant and varied.

The Stoke Newington Society meets monthly on the 2nd Sunday of the month. The Society is going through a difficult phase at present and discussions have begun to consider future aims.

The Spring Conference will be held at Harold Road on the 26th May 2013 at 3:00 pm. A presentation/discussion will be held on restructuring the Province.

*Edwin Quildan.*

## MIDLANDS DISTRICT

The Conference was held at Ockbrook on Saturday 20th October 2012. Br. David Howarth led the opening devotions.

The following Brothers and Sisters were elected:

Chairman	Br. D Howarth
Minute Secretary	Br. M Dixon
Treasurer	Sr. J Marson
Youth Representative	Br. M Dixon
Social Resp. Secretary	Br. F Linyard
Renewal Secretary	Br. D Howarth
Messenger Correspondent	Br. V Launder

The Treasurer's Report was given by Sr. Marson and she advised Conference that the account stood at £83 with no change in income or expenditure over the past year.

The Provincial Youth and Children's Report was presented by Br. M Dixon. Summer Camp was held at Fulneck in 2012 when 45 young people between the ages of 9 - 17 attended and was enjoyed by all who attended. Summer Camp will also be held at Fulneck in 2013 from July 27th to August 3rd.

One item on the agenda for discussion was the proposal

for restructuring of the Province.

The Provincial Board are currently preparing a paper as a follow up to the paper presented at Synod regarding the restructuring of the Church. It is hoped to have the paper ready for discussion at District Conferences in the Spring.

Congregation Reports were presented for Ockbrook and Leicester. At Ockbrook, Br. David Howarth has settled in very well and with having an aged congregation, much home and hospital visiting is required. A new electric organ is being bought for the church. The church and Settlement grounds are maintained by a small dedicated team who work hard to ensure that everything is in good order. One big concern is the lack of children. There are 60 church members mainly elderly and housebound.

At Leicester, the congregation has 43 members and continues to meet for worship in Wesley Hall Methodist Church. A Moravian and Methodist group meets every month for discussion and fellowship.

The Spring District Conference will be held at Sparkhill on March 2nd.

*Victor Launder*

# Care Home Chaplaincy

If you had told me in 2010 that I would be working fulltime as a Chaplain in two MHA Care Homes (Methodist Homes), I would have laughed; but one bout of ill-health, one redundancy and lots of waiting and praying finds me, as an Anglican Priest, right in that place.

It was when my father spent his final months in a Care Home that I realised what a fascinating, wonderful, and exciting group of people were living with him.

The Homes I work in are pleasant and comfortable; many residents having brought some of their own belongings with them. It sometimes takes a while for a person to settle in completely and it is important for them to have some familiar items around them. It is also important for people to visit them. Sometimes friends put off visiting because they feel they will not be recognised by the person they are visiting. This may be so and even if they are recognised the recognition may be brief. However I have seen the joy on a residents face when someone has visited and in the moment that happiness is very real.

People say to me that it must be sad working in a Care Home. This is not true and Care Homes are definitely not sad places. Many activities take place with residents in the Homes in which I work, ranging from playing dominoes to trips to the shops and recently we took a group of residents to Bognor Regis for the day. The weather was glorious and we had a fish and chips lunch on the front and some brave people had a paddle in the sea. Spontaneous singing by residents and staff alike can often be heard in the Homes and live musical performances are greatly valued by residents.

Worship services are held each week in the Homes. Some are led by members of local churches and some by me. We are sometimes joined by relatives and friends. Last Autumn, I held a Harvest Festival in one of my Homes. This was well attended by residents, relatives, friends and members of staff. We were joined by a local community choir and we all enjoyed singing the old Harvest hymns and eating the tea that was provided afterwards.

There are of course some sad times in the Homes. When a resident dies the loss is felt by us all, other residents, other relatives and the carers and other members of staff. We recently held Thanksgiving Services in both Homes to celebrate the lives of those who have died while with us.

Much of my work requires me to spend quiet time with people. Some people enjoy hearing prayers from the Book of Common Prayer or readings from the King James Bible. The old language used takes people back to a time when they would have heard the words regularly and they will often come from the depths of unconsciousness and join in with me. This is a truly wonderful time. Also it is a very moving experience to hear stories from their past and remember that the quiet, frail person in the bed was not always this way.

God moves in a mysterious way and none more so than in a Care Home. His ever present Spirit brings light and life to people in some of their darkest moments. It is a privilege to be able to accompany residents, relatives and members of staff on their journey in a Care Home.

*Pamela Baker*

# The Gift of Affirmation

Throughout our lives I'm sure we have all encountered people who have had a substantial and profound influence upon our future. Well, I had the great privilege of being taught and led, motivated and influenced by someone who to me had that special gift, The Gift of Affirmation.

We hear a lot about and we read in the Bible about the fruits of the Spirit, the Gifts of the Spirit, well alongside them all and as equally important in the leadership of people is the Gift of Affirmation.

In my early life when I needed that guidance and direction, paramount in all our lives, I met two such people, one in my secular life, one in my Church life.

In my secular life, I had the privilege of serving under an area manager who would manage and motivate by lifting the spirits of his sales people through praise and affirmation of a job well done, and even if there was criticism to be handed out it was always done in such a way so as to motivate the person to do better next time, very rarely was anyone left feeling low, always grateful for the constructive criticism they had received. We worked with Ron, not for him, to achieve our objectives

In my Church life, I had the great privilege of having a minister called Rev. F.H.Tysoe, he was called to serve the Wellhouse Congregation when I was about 8 years old, and he had that gift. He had the quality of leadership that I shall always admire, he led from the front, he was always there, it was never "there is a job to be done, but I can't be there", it was always, "I will be there at 10am can anyone come and help me."

Before Easter each year, we as the Christian Endeavour young people, met to clear the burial ground path ready

for the early morning Easter Service, and Br. Tysoe was there with us, whatever job was to be done, however menial, we worked to achieve it together.

I remember, along with my brother, walking miles with our little wooden cart, collecting newspaper to help raise money for the organ renovation fund, or the Church re-decoration fund, and always, without fail, we would receive a letter of thanks from Br. Tysoe, making what we had done, no matter how insignificant in the whole scheme of things, feel so important, he had that gift of affirming the worth of the individual and making them feel worthwhile.

He had that quality of leadership I shall always admire, a gift of leadership I have always strived to achieve in my secular life as a manager of people, I have always believed that people have worked with me to achieve an objective and a goal, more than they have for me, that way we have worked together as a team. That is the quality I have strived for within my Church life, always endeavouring to be leading from the front, always having the faith that people will follow and work with me, and for the most part I feel that has been achieved and in that way, I feel, we have been able to accomplish more.

I have indeed been lucky in my life to have had the privilege of the influence of two men who have portrayed the 'Gift of Affirmation' so perfectly, in the way they have lived their lives and in the way they have influenced and motivated others.

'They have affirmed the worth of the individual and made them feel worthwhile.'

*Kenneth G. Evans*

## LAMENTATIONS

After the death of King Solomon, the kingdom of Israel divided into a northern kingdom retaining the name Israel and a southern kingdom called Judah. The north was defeated by Assyria in 721 BC. The south was lost to Babylon in 586 BC. The Jews who could physically make the journey were taken into captivity in Babylon. It is known as the Exile. Reference is found in Psalm 137: "By the rivers of Babylon, where we sat down, yea, wept when we remembered Zion". Jeremiah was a major prophet in Judah for some forty years. When called by God, his first response was to plead his inadequacy, youth and lack of experience (Jeremiah I vv 1-10). The word of the Lord kept coming to Jeremiah. He passed on the message, condemning the idolatry of the nation, the false prophets and corrupt priests, neglect of God's covenant and laws. Without repentance and return, there would be judgement - later seen in the Exile.

In the English Bible, the book of Lamentations comes next to the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah's name does not appear in Lamentations but by Jewish tradition and Christian writers such as Origen and Jerome, Jeremiah has always been regarded as the author. There is also an additional note in the Septuagint (Greek Old

Testament) to this effect.

Lamentation ('lament') has been defined as "a passionate expression of grief or distress". Those of Jeremiah have been called songs or poems by different commentators. Except for a few narrative verses Lamentations is in poetic Hebrew. In a recent BBC broadcast, Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sachs referred to science and religion being concerned with truth and its communication. "Science is the prose, religion is the poetry". Remembering, of course, poetry can be founded on fact, as well as insight and vision. The Greek word for 'truth' (aleathia) can also mean 'reality'.

Another feature of Lamentations is its use of the Hebrew alphabet of 22 letters in an acrostic way. There are five chapters with 22 letters each, except chapter 3 which has 66 verses (3 x 22). Chapters 1, 2 and 4 have a stanza to each letter in alphabetical order similar to Psalm 119. Chapter 5 has the same number of verses but not in alphabetical order. The purpose of this design has been debated: as an aid to memory, liturgical order (Jews are meticulous in the observance of national and family anniversaries and festivals) or to give a sense of completeness to worship, that God will fulfill his divine purpose eventually.

### *Brief Summary:*

#### Lament One:

Vivid description of the ruined and deserted city. Sin and rebellion have separated God from His people.

#### Lament Two:

The Lord has covered with the cloud of His anger the Daughter of Zion. (A poetic term for Jerusalem: the word for city in Hebrew is feminine).

#### Lament Three:

In chapter three, we have the prophet's identification with people in their suffering and sorrow.

#### Lament Four:

This lament is concerned with the failure of the leaders of the people. It describes the miserable conditions of the people and laments the sins of the prophets and priests.

#### Lament Five:

This final lament acknowledges the righteousness of the anger of the Lord and proceeds on a note of repentance, confession, a prayer for mercy and forgiveness, hope for the future and, above all, a recognition and submission to the Sovereignty of God. "Our God reigns".

*Dennis Monger*

# Congregation News



## Brockweir

On the first Sunday of Advent we sang the Hosanna Anthem - it wasn't one of our best efforts, but what we lacked in harmony was made up for in enthusiasm! We lack a few male voices to really give enough depth to the performance. On the third Sunday in Advent, Br. Stapleton prepared a 'Festival of Carols' for us whereby he explained the origin and meaning of various Christmas carols which we then dutifully sang. Carols we'd sung for decades suddenly had a greater meaning and it was a very joyful service, but we couldn't bring ourselves to dance in a round!

Our Nativity Walk on December 21st proved to be very popular, with over 60 people and 2 donkeys in attendance. Thankfully this year it wasn't snowing and the monsoon rains had halted temporarily as we gathered on Underhill to begin the Christmas story. As we journeyed to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph we sang carols and listened to familiar Bible passages, encountering the Angel Gabriel, the wise men, king Herod and shepherds in their fields. After the birth in the stable, we journeyed to Egypt. Each year the walk evolves slightly differently and a visitor brought a guitar and sang for us in church. Mince pies and refreshments in the Sunday school proved to be very welcome to villagers and visitors alike.

On December 22nd the church was represented at a village entertainment called 'A Lighter Side of Christmas'. The Christingle Singers, a motley choir, decided to tell the history of Christingles through song. The words were

provided by Sr. Sue Groves and sung to the tune of 'The Holly and the Ivy'. It wasn't the sweetest sounding choir as we'd not rehearsed but the costumes added to the occasion. The item was repeated at the Christingle Service and was well received. Sr. Groves also led this service and the children were entranced as she read the nativity story and the illustrations were projected upon the wall. The children received their Christingles and processed around the church as usual, always the highlight of the service for young and old alike.

On Christmas Day we were fortunate to have Br. Stapleton with us and it was thankfully a dry day although the River Wye had flooded the lower burial ground and had stopped a few feet from the church. It was warm and dry inside the church and a real joy to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The celebration of Holy Communion also presaged Easter and the resurrection.



A Festival of Lessons and Carols was led by Sr. Carol Ostler on December 30th. We are grateful to Srs. Mary Harris and Joyce Drewell for decorating the church so beautifully and to Sr. Caroline Buffrey for playing the organ during this busy time. We are supporting three charities over the Christmas period and the Alzheimer's Society, Mary's Meals and the Queen Elizabeth Foundation for Disabled People will all benefit by £100 each.

*Judith Ashton*

## Hornsey

2012 was an eventful year for us here at Hornsey. Here are some highlights:

In April, a group visited Germany and the Czech Republic in order to trace our Moravian roots. Br Edwin Quildan's account of this trip featured in the July edition of the Messenger. We in turn were visited by a group from our twin congregation in Rotterdam, Holland.

In May, the building programme continued with the installation of new double-glazed windows in the church hall and the surrounding rooms. We also had a new fire alarm system, emergency lighting and new exterior lights fitted.

The Eastern District Fellowship day was held here on 20th May. The fellowship began after the morning service with a bring-and-share lunch. The guest speaker was Rev Azariah France-Williams from the Anglican Church and a band from Westbury Avenue Baptist Church provided live music.

We were pleased to have Br Devon Anglin from the Jamaican province preach on two occasions during the summer whilst he was on a sabbatical in London. And, of course, the summer brought Olympic fever. On the evening

of Wednesday 27th July, thousands of spectators lined the street outside the church to watch the Olympic torch pass on its way to Alexandra Palace. The atmosphere was just incredible! The weather was great - the brilliant sunshine boosted the excitement and the high spirits of the crowd. We offered refreshments on the roadside just in front of the church and the doors were left open to allow passers-by the opportunity to come inside and rest their weary feet or just to have a look around.

The following Saturday was the day of our garden party and so the celebrations continued. This was also the evening of the sleepover for the 8-15 year olds.

The next day, we gladly welcomed Br Colin and Sr Susan McIlwaine to our Sunday service which also had an Olympic theme.

On 15th December, we held a concert in aid of charity projects in Antigua and Jamaica. It was a very entertaining variety show which included singing, dancing and poetry recitals and successfully raised a good sum of money for the two charities.

*Claudette Anthony*

### CONGREGATION REGISTERS

#### BAPTISM

27th May	<b>Sonia Lambert</b>	<i>Hornsey</i>
27th May	<b>Riley Ree'Chay Reece Sanchez</b>	<i>Hornsey</i>
27th May	<b>Luke Capleton</b>	<i>Hornsey</i>
27th May	<b>Tiana Rose Henry</b>	<i>Hornsey</i>
12th Aug	<b>Gabriella Eva Williams</b>	<i>Hornsey</i>
18th Nov	<b>Elijah Marle</b>	<i>Hornsey</i>

#### WEDDING

29th Dec	<b>Fiona Cameron &amp; Jason Hawkins</b>	<i>Ockbrook</i>
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#### DEATH

25th Jun	<b>Samuel Prince</b>	<i>Hornsey</i>
23rd Dec	<b>Harold Willock</b>	<i>Hornsey</i>
24th Dec	<b>Joyce Richardson</b>	<i>Ockbrook</i>

## PRAYER NOTES

### 3rd February - Epiphany 4

Lord Jesus who taught that a prophet is not without honour except in his own country and a person's enemies might sometimes be found in his own home, we are sorry that your own people were slow to believe and even tried to kill you when your ministry was scarcely begun. Help us never be afraid of suffering, nor to suffer without cheerfulness in your service, confident that being yours none can pluck us out of your hand, and fearing you, none can make us afraid. To the glory of your name, Amen

### 10th February - Transfiguration Sunday

Holy God, from the dazzling cloud you revealed Jesus as your beloved Son and on the mountain top Peter, James and John glimpsed the majesty of your glory. In the mundane predictability of our life, may there be for us moments when the paths of earth become the road to heaven. Grant that we too may see your glory in the face of your Son and so transform us that all may see that we have been with Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen

### 13th February - Ash Wednesday

Heavenly Father who has given us gifts that our fathers neither knew nor dreamed of, help us not to be so occupied with material things that we forget the spiritual, gaining the whole world but losing our soul. Give us wisdom to store up our treasures in heaven and to set our hearts not on things which pass away but on those which last forever. Help us to seek the true riches - to know you and possess you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### 17th February - Lent 1

Lord Jesus who chose to live as we live and to suffer as we suffer, since you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save. You have warned us that without you we can do nothing and by your apostle taught us that in your strength we can do all things. Take and use us so that our weakness might be transformed by your power, that we are no longer our own but yours and it is no longer we who live, but you who lives in us. In all things may we be more than conquerors, to the glory of your name, Amen

### 24th February - Lent 2

Lord Jesus, who wept over the rebellious city because it did not recognise the one who stood before it, come into our city, bringing hope and a reason for joy. Challenge it with the purity of your life and the power of your presence. Cleanse it of all that is not in accordance with your will. Ride into the hopelessness and fear in which so many people still live their lives. As you entered the rebellious city of Jerusalem, enter our sinful hearts and make them wholly subject to you. Amen

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