

Moravian messenger



June 2013

"I was hungry..."

Patsy Holdsworth writes about one charity that combats food poverty.

The Trussell Trust



Recently, Br Henry Wilson became aware of a Church in Lisburn who gave food to people who had been to the Citizens' Advice Bureau. They were obviously living below the poverty line and were given food vouchers to take to the church, where they were given basic food essentials to feed their families.

Some of us have cupboards full of food and we can buy anything we want from the supermarkets. Others live hand to mouth, struggling in winter to heat their homes, and all year round finding it hard to feed and clothe their children and give them gifts at Christmas.

The world's first food bank was established in the United States in 1967, and since then many thousands have been set up all over the world.

Many churches across Britain have joined 'The Trussell Trust', which is a Christian charity that does not affiliate itself with any political party and receives no government funding. It aims to be non-judgemental and inclusive, providing assistance to people of all backgrounds and all faiths or none who are in genuine need.

Their mission verse is, "for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me..." Matthew 25:35-36

Four point seven (4.7) million people in the United Kingdom are living in food poverty. In all, thirteen million people live below the poverty line and every day people here go hungry, for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Research by Kellogg's shows families spending more but eating less as food bills rise.



Hundreds of referrals are being made each day to the Trussell Trust by people on the front line of Britain's growing poverty crisis. In 2011-12 food banks supported 128,687 people nationwide, while in 2012-13 it is anticipated that this number will rise to over 290,000. The charity's network has been giving out more emergency food packages than ever. And there are other, unaffiliated food banks doing the same kind of work as well.

"Lots of people living on the breadline are getting by most of the time, but then some kind of crisis hits," says Molly Hodson of the Trussell Trust. "Say you're off work for a week and you end up on statutory sick pay, or your car breaks down and you don't get to work and lose your job. Then the crisis spirals into a disaster. Even something as simple as cold weather: a lot of people on low incomes are on meters for electricity and gas. Whenever there's a

continues inside

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

YouthZone
Young leaders training day
Joy Raynor

From the Irish district
Paul M Holdsworth

Faith in Action
Cynthia Dize

Renewal Weekend
Sr Elisabeth Hollindrake

The Spirit's coming
Margaret Connor

Unpacking a picture

Spotlight on Fetter Lane
Edwin Quildan

Social Responsibility
An update

Open Book JONAH
Peter Gubi

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES

• Your Letters • News from Congregations • Church House News Update •

The Trussell Trust

continued

bout of very cold weather, people are making the decision between heating and eating."

Food banks are not somewhere people can go if they fancy saving a few pennies on the weekly shop - they are crisis centres. To be given the standard three-day food package, you have to be referred by a front-line professional: a social worker, nurse, doctor, debt counsellor or even a police officer. Trussell Trust food banks provide a minimum of three days of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable emergency food for people experiencing crisis.

Rising costs of food and fuel combined with static income, high unemployment and changes to benefits are causing more and more people to come to food banks for help.

For some, these are desperate times. 'We had to borrow a tin of soup from next door to stop our 18-month-old daughter from going to bed hungry,' stated Ann-Marie, Salisbury. 'If there was no food bank I'd have to steal something to feed my family,' adds Jamie, Andover Food bank client.

Redundancy, illness, benefit delay, domestic violence, debt, family breakdown and paying for the additional costs of heating during winter are just some of the reasons why people go hungry. Food banks help prevent crime, housing

loss, family breakdown and mental health problems. A simple box of food makes a big difference.

Food banks rely on the support of local communities. All food is donated by the public and sorted by volunteers.

The Trussell Trust partners with churches and communities to open new food banks nationwide. With over 325 food banks currently launched, the goal is for every town to have one.

As congregations, it is up to us to support the needy in our communities. If there's no food bank near you why not find out more about starting one?

Ballinderry Moravian Church is already involved in a local Trussell Trust Scheme, through Railway St Presbyterian Church in Lisburn. Cliftonville is just about to join one in North Belfast. The Bradford food bank is at Jubilee Centre, Jermyn Street, Bradford, BD1 4EJ. 01274 409562 info@bradford.foodbank.org.uk

Consider if your congregation can help this amazing charity. The national contact is: The Trussell Trust, Unit 9 Ashfield Trading Estate, Ashfield Rd, Salisbury, SP2 7HL. 01722 580180. Or try their website:

<http://www.trusselltrust.org>

Sr. Patsy Holdsworth

A word from the Editor



In mid-April, I sat looking at an empty screen and wondering how twelve pages were to be filled by early May, and printed for the start of June. The thought of editing the Moravian Messenger was intimidating for itself, but what was to go in it?

I was at the time on the Hebridean Isle of Iona, where the richness of liturgy and the discussion on every kind of issue, together with a lot of laughter among guests and staff, made prayer seem normal and talking about God a part of daily life. I had to wait and trust that all would be well with the Messenger.

Since then, text has been flowing in from all quarters, more than enough to fill this edition. There are even pieces waiting for next month.

Firstly, a big thanks to Sr Judith Ashton for her committed work in keeping the Messenger as a means by which we can be informed, kept in touch, entertained, and stretched to understand our Christian commitment more deeply. The scale of the task she took on was huge, and I ask for your prayers that I might be graced

to continue the work as we explore our faith together.

Please keep sending material! Brother Richard Ingham has agreed to continue the Prayer Notes, and Brother Peter Gubi will write the Open Book series. A history page will appear regularly, to remind us of the rich resources of the past; and a social responsibility section to help us work with the many issues of justice in our journey with Christ. Similarly, it is good to hear something of how others live out the Good News, so I hope there will be a regular Faith in Action section.

Our overseas connections are an important part of our identity, and news and reflections are always welcome. Meanwhile, life in the west of Ireland has reminded me how important art, literature and poetry are to our spiritual growth, as they help us to see the world around us with fresh eyes. I've been asked as well to include some theology: 'loving God with the mind', and am looking for contributions.

Congregational and District news helps to bind us together, and the work of the Correspondents is vital. Ideas on other matters that should be covered are always welcome.

I look forward to receiving contributions that reflect the richness of a living church, and to working with readers as we seek to contribute to the life and work of the Moravian Church.

YOUTH ZONE

Latest news from the Provincial Youth and Children's Office



Young leaders training day - Yorkshire

Five young leaders gave up a day of their Easter Holidays, and valuable revision time, to attend a day of training and fun. The aim was to increase skills when working with children and other young people in a church context.

Topics covered were the qualities a leader needs, team working, what is expected of young leaders. There was a discussion of child development, with tasks that included a team challenge, and the writing of adverts for children's workers.

Lunch soon disappeared, and as the sun was shining the group went on a prayer walk. This was followed by a Safeguarding training specific for young leaders and an

opportunity to talk about resources for games; look at some books; and try a craft while resourcing a kit box. The day finished with a short reflection.

This was the first of these trainings. Any District seeking to equip and encourage their young leaders can request a similar day direct from Joy Raynor, or through the District PYCC representative.

Any young person with a weekend job can still attend, as the day could run on a Saturday, or over consecutive half days.

Joy Raynor

Dates for the Diary...



Summer camp

27th July-3rd August - cost £250 for young people ages 10-17

... it is not too late to book! Forms are available from your minister, Joy Raynor or from...

www.moravians.co.uk/index.php/youth-and-children-zone/summer-camp

Prayers

Loving Lord Jesus, we pray for all the children and young people within the Moravian Church, especially those known to us..... Give them your peace and cover them with your love. Bless those who have the care of our children and young people that they will teach them your ways and help to build their faith. Be with those who are considering their school options or careers for the future. Be with those who are struggling with the generation gap, give understanding. We pray for those who will be attending summer camp this year, may the experience build their character and draw the young people closer to you. These prayers we ask in Jesus' name. Amen .

From the Irish district

On 16 April young people and 6 leaders gathered at Cennick Hall in Gracehill for a 24 hour Summer Camp Taster Event. The idea was that those attending would experience as much of Summer Camp as could be crammed into a short time, which is even more of a challenge than it sounds! We managed to cover, amongst other things, King Ball, Simpsons Bible Study and the inevitable Torch Game. It is hoped that this has tweaked the interest of some of our young people and that they will be keen to sign up for this year's Summer Camp at Fulneck.



Members of Irish District Youth also took part in the Belfast Marathon Fun Run on May Day in order to raise funds for the ID Youth Fund. They met up with some members of Gracehill who had been running in aid of Cancer Research and a good and hopefully fruitful day was had by all who took part.

Paul M Holdsworth



Renewal Weekend

Held 5th to 7th April 2013



As I drove my passengers from Yorkshire to Shallowford on the fifth of April, we didn't realise that we were going to be spending our weekend with so many others from our District. We were welcomed with a cup of tea and then unpacked in our very comfortable bedrooms. As the second car arrived from Hornsey our group was complete and we enjoyed the first of many delicious, home cooked meals together.

During the first session we introduced ourselves, saying hello to old friends and meeting new ones. The weekend was titled "Everyone" (as in A Church for Everyone) and each of the sessions we were asked to focus on inclusion.

I found the time spent discussing how to make our church more welcoming very useful, we came up with lots of ideas to take back to our congregation.

In another session it was fun to be given a poorly planned Bible study to criticise and redevelop; at one stage in this process Sr. Maureen had us all laughing as she tried to persuade Br. Kenneth that a hot air balloon

carrying aliens had just landed in the garden!

The sessions on Healing and Prayer were a little more intellectually challenging and it was useful to be able to split into smaller discussion groups to listen to the views of others and explore our own ideas. This may sound onerous but we were given notes and questions to base our discussion on.

It is always sad when Sunday afternoon arrives and we have to make our way home. I always miss the space in my busy life to concentrate for such a long time on my faith.

The aim of the renewal weekend is to offer, "Fellowship, Spiritual Renewal, Inspiration, Encouragement and Excitement". The aim was met this year and in many ways exceeded. If you haven't been to a Renewal event PLEASE come and join us, I know you won't regret it!

Sr Elisabeth Hollindrake



Faith in Action 17 April 2013

Today I went to a funeral. Not THE (Mrs Thatcher's) funeral but of a member of the older people's charity that I lead. She was 87 and had led a full life to the end, volunteering in many capacities including for West London Churches Homeless Concern and, judging from the turnout, she was also a good friend, a good neighbour and a much loved aunt. It was calming to sit in the Methodist Church, thinking about Ethel of course, but also grateful for the chance to reflect, pray, sing some hymns and just be quiet in the middle of a busy working week.

Quiet time is rare in my week and as the days rush by from weekend to weekend, I reproach myself for not calling enough on faith. But there are moments, particularly in stressful situations, (getting to be the norm in public services), when I'm faced with a choice of ways to behave

and when the not-so-kind side of me wants to let rip and perhaps not be very considered and considerate. It's a dog-eat-dog world after all, isn't it? Competition is king. But I do aim to be better, and recently I even managed to stand up to a bully - I took some flak but managed to win people around by not giving like-for-like, and I even convinced some very angry colleagues that points are often better won by seeking consensus - honey rather than vinegar as my mother used to say. One of my colleagues, disappointed that I'd steered her away from a high-octane fight, told the rest, "hmmph, she's a Christian you know." And no one acted surprised, even though most of my colleagues were not people of any faith. I'm grateful for these moments and happy that every now and then (not often enough, I know) something about my faith shows.

Cynthia Dize, Fetter Lane

The Spirit's coming

Not with a role of drums
nor trumpet's blare
but clothed in silence comes
love down the stair.

After the flames' quick roar,
the whirlwind storm,
with still and stronger core
love fills our form.

Then in the noise and spin
of our small days,
quiet amid the din,
love moulds our ways.

Margaret Connor

Unpacking a picture

On 12 May in Kilrush, a west of Ireland town that was particularly badly hit, we commemorated Ireland's Great Famine of 1845-9. People from the President and diplomats to local actors and small children, and people all faith traditions, contributed.

A screen displayed the sketch from the 1849 Illustrated London News in which a child of seven distributes clothing to the skeletal poor.

The artist from England knew what he was doing. The child, referred to as 'Miss Kennedy' is the person the original audience could relate to. She is dressed as extensively as only a Victorian could be, with just her face showing. This is the child of a comfortable middle-class background, warm and cared-for, helped by adults. She conformed as well to the childhood ideal of the little angel, who knew her duty. The artist was saying that if she could contribute, so could the adults who read this London paper.

She contrasts with the skinny children around her, but even more with the grown women. They are

naked to above the knee, exposing unflashed limbs at a time when decency dictated that a woman's stockings ankle was only seen by accident. They are wearing the rags used for work-wear or underclothing, normally hidden by decent clothes in public. But everything possible has



been sold for food. They are caring parents, and biblically respectable women, for even the one clothed in nothing but a blanket has her head covered in public.

The accompanying article explained that the clothes distribution was the child's decision, backed by

parents. Her father was Poor Law Inspector for Kilrush, a man who knew the daily reality of famine. He would have known too that his child was exposed to death by famine fever.

Patronising at first sight, this is a powerful picture. It seems to have encouraged conscience donations, even if the more radical political and economic solutions were not forthcoming. We have no idea how many people were saved by charity, by individuals doing the right thing by strangers.

Today, press photographs have the same role, and can shock us into the understanding the reality across the world. They often have the same message - people need to care enough to contribute from their means, however small, and to insist on structural justice.

Today, as then, there is enough food in the world for everyone.

The Famine commemoration this year coincided with the start of Christian Aid Week.

Rosemary Power



SPOTLIGHT ON Fetter Lane

On the 1st May 1738 the Fetter Lane Society was founded by John Wesley who was an Anglican at the time, with Peter Bohler (a Moravian) in attendance. The group was in essence an Anglican group formed in the Moravian style. A number of the members of the Fetter Lane Society visited the Moravian congregations on the Continent. The Fetter Lane Society was eager to adopt many of the features of life in Herrnhut. Count von Zinzendorf visited Fetter Lane in April 1739. Colin Podmore makes reference to the year after the founding (1739).

'This sudden effusion of the Holy Ghost, as another member called it, marked the beginning of a year in which the Revival would overflow the confines of this Fetter Lane Society and spread throughout England.'

In July 1740, John Wesley and a large number of followers withdrew from the Fetter Lane Society after a severe disagreement with the Moravians about theology and understanding. This left the Fetter Lane Society very weak and splintered. The remaining members appealed to the Moravian leadership on the continent to take direct control of the Society. August Gottlieb Spangenberg was eventually sent on 26th March 1741. Colin Podmore notes in his book:

'The situation in London was very different. Here was just a Chapel in a crowded City, the society members living among the population.'

On 15th May 1742 the Fetter Lane society was formed into the first Moravian congregation in England. In June 1742 we see the Fetter Lane Congregation send labourers to Yorkshire to take over the leadership of Benjamin Ingham's societies. In London, James Hutton registered the Fetter Lane Chapel under the Toleration Act of 7th September 1742. William Holland (a layperson) was selected and commissioned by the laying on of hands, as the spiritual leader of the congregation. Holy Communion was celebrated by the ordained Moravian Brothers.

John Gambold an Anglican Priest, was received into the Fetter Lane Congregation in November 1742 and was recognised as the first congregation minister. The original home of the Fetter Lane Congregation was Fetter Lane near Fleet Street

Zinzendorf, brought Lindsey House and leased the surrounding grounds. The aim was to build a settlement in Chelsea called 'Sharon'. Moravian Close in Chelsea belonged to the Moravians and was purchased from the Unity in 1774. The Chapel there had no heating, and was originally used as a burial chapel.

The Moravians continued in London, and Colin Podmore

notes that in March 1907 the Fetter Lane Congregation had 180 members, but most lived in the suburbs in the north of London, so it was decided to establish the Hornsey congregation, which was opened and dedicated on 24th September 1908.

In the early hours of Sunday 11th May 1941 the entire Moravian complex at Fetter Lane was destroyed in an air raid during the Second World War. The effect was minimal as members by then were moving out of the City. Around 30 Moravians from Fetter Lane stayed together then met in Kingsgate Baptist Chapel in Eagle Street, Holborn, where services were held 3 - 4 times per year before moving to Moravian Close Chelsea from March 1957.

The Fetter Lane congregation welcomed Caribbean Brothers and Sisters in the 1960s who settled in and around south London. On Easter Day 1965, the Easter morning service was held in God's acre (burial ground) Chelsea and was attended by 60 Moravians from the London congregations. This service continues to this day.

The Fetter Lane Congregation today

On the 7th April 2013 the Fetter Lane congregation is thankful to God for all His blessing throughout the past 270 years as a worshipping congregation. As you have read, the beginning of the society, the congregation, the area of Fetter Lane was very different to the Church of the today. We have a membership of 25 and a number of adherents. We have two housebound members and some very loyal members.

The church is a gathered congregation with many people travelling miles to attend worship. The attendance at Holy Communion is good, with fifteen to twenty people.

The services at Fetter Lane can be described as varied, from traditional to modern, and always lively. Yet we ask the question what will the Church or congregation be like in another five, ten or fifteen years? Yet we know that God will not leave His Church without witnesses.

Can the Fetter Lane Congregation still start new life or revival in the world today? I believe we can. From small acorn large oaks grow.

Edwin Quildan

Some references have been taken from the book written by Colin Podmore; The Fetter Lane Moravian Congregation London 1742 - 1992. Thanks are therefore extended to Colin Podmore.

Social Responsibility: an update

The Spring meeting of the Social Responsibility Committee took place in Dukinfield on April 20th.

A full agenda included the following items:

1. The Report from the Joint Public Issues team of the Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Churches and the Church of Scotland, *Truth and Lies about Poverty*. Since this Report was only available to most members of the Committee at this meeting, it will be looked at in detail at the next meeting. In the meantime, we noted that this is a carefully researched paper, dealing with the “convenient myths” that we tell ourselves about poverty; myths, the Report says, that hide the true nature of poverty in the UK and allow society to blame the poor and unemployed for their situation.

The Report’s conclusion says: “...poverty is an injustice crying out for correction and cannot be explained away as the problem of individual families. Responding with charity can help to break down the barriers in society and is a partial solution, but we all have a moral responsibility to build a more just and more understanding society. As Christians, we believe that the infinitely loving creator, shared by us all, demands no less of us.”

The full Report, together with a one page “pocket guide” can be read and considered on-line at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandliesaboutpoverty

2. We also noted the growing number of food banks and heard how some of our churches are working with these banks. One member spoke of a particular approach used by one group that offer hampers to needy families reported to them, sometimes by social services, rather than waiting for clients to come to them.

3. Over 150 organisations concerned about world hunger, including Oxfam, Christian Aid and Save the Children have joined the “Enough Food If...” campaign. Social Responsibility Committee would encourage all our congregations to be involved and in case some congregations had not already received information about this, we agreed that details should be sent to all churches.

The meeting of the G8 leaders in Northern Ireland in June gives a great opportunity to press world leaders to take action to deal with the problem of world hunger. The Campaign centres around 4 big IFS.

Enough Food for Everyone IF we give enough aid to stop children from dying from hunger and help the poorest families feed themselves; IF governments stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries; IF small farmers are not forced off the land they need to grow food; IF governments and big companies are honest about actions that stop people getting enough food.

Rallies in support of the Campaign will be held in London (Hyde Park) on June 8th and in Belfast on June 15th. Look out for other events in your area and perhaps you could write to your MP!

4. Other items included the “Bedroom Tax” and a proposal recently made public that safe houses should be provided for drug users. Committee members expressed concern about these issues but felt we needed more information. This will be followed up in preparation for further discussion at the next meeting.

G8: Join us in Belfast on June 15

Join Christian Aid and thousands of IF campaigners in Belfast on Saturday 15 June for an amazing day of campaigning ahead of the G8 summit. This summer the G8 world leaders are meeting in Northern Ireland. Come and influence some of the world's most powerful politicians and demand that they take action to tackle the root causes of global hunger.



Open Book

JONAH

Listed among the twelve minor prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures, the Book of Jonah can be read in just a few minutes. It is not a book of prophecies but the account of an incident in the life of a prophet.

There has long been a dispute as to whether or not the book is about a historical fact, or whether it is an allegory or a parable. Doubts as to its historical accuracy tend to centre round the sea monster large enough to swallow a man and also as to whether or not a human being can survive for three days inside such a creature without being at least partially digested.

To speculate on these matters is to miss the point of the written account.

The book claims to be about Jonah, the son of Abitai, an Israelite prophet, who was called by God to go and preach in Nineveh, a heathen city, and to warn the people there of imminent destruction because of their behaviour. Nineveh also posed a threat to the people of Israel, although this is not mentioned in the Book.

Jonah doesn't like the idea and tries to get away from his mission by boarding a boat that is heading for Tarshish, believed to be in Spain, and in the opposite direction from the one in which he was commanded to go. A storm arises and the crew cast lots to discover who is responsible for their dangerous situation.

Jonah is believed to be the cause and when the crew enquire as to what should be done, Jonah himself suggests that the only way to still the storm is to throw him into the

sea. After trying unsuccessfully to row the boat to land, the sailors reluctantly agree, and throw Jonah overboard. Consequently the storm is stilled. They then offer sacrifices to God and ask that they should not be held guilty for Jonah's death.

But Jonah is swallowed by a sea monster or great fish. The traditional whale is not mentioned. After three days, he is eventually deposited on the beach in the vicinity of Nineveh and proceeds to carry out his mission.

It is not a book of prophecies but the account of an incident in the life of a prophet.

He is rather disappointed by the fact that the people listen to him and repent. The king decrees a time of fasting, during which everyone, and even some animals, are to be dressed in sackcloth and ashes, the traditional symbols of repentance or mourning.

Jonah sits and waits to see what will happen and a bush is provided by God to shield him from the sun and wind. Next day the bush is dead and Jonah wishes he could die also, and accuses God of injustice in killing the plant.

God points out that if Jonah can feel sorry for a plant, should he not feel sorry for the people of Nineveh?

'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

The book is designed to demonstrate God's concern for foreign people as well as for the Jews, and to encourage his chosen people to undertake the work of making the truth about God known in the heathen world about them.

Another possible purpose is to show that, in spite of what people believed at the time, no one can escape from God simply by leaving the country.

The merciful side of God's nature is also demonstrated, even his concern for animals, at a time when he was believed to be more concerned about retribution.

The Book of Jonah, in spite of its difficult passages, is a remarkable revelation about the nature of God, and about the nature of everyone that he has created, at a time when the nation of Israel tended to look on him as their exclusive deity, who was not interested in the fate or the religious development of the surrounding peoples. In chapter one, verse 4, the crew of the ship pray to their gods according to their lights and after Jonah is thrown overboard, they pray to Jonah's God who has proved to be so powerful. (verse 14). The people of Nineveh, enemies of the people of Israel, repent and entrust their future to the God of Israel. It is this insight into God's

nature, and the importance of people who believe and act differently, which makes this short book so important in the Scriptures.

Jonah, the son of Abittai, is mentioned in the second Book of Kings, chapter 14, verse 25, as a prophet in Israel who lived in Gath-hepher in the time of Jereboam II and who predicted the restoration of the ancient boundaries of Israel during the reign of that king. Unlike many of the other prophets, he seems to have been a popular figure.

He is also mentioned by Jesus in the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 12, verses 39 to 41, where the scribes and Pharisees asked him for a sign. Jesus replied, 'An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was for three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgement with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah.'

With different words, the incident is recorded also in Matthew chapter 16, verse 4 and in Luke, chapter 11, verses 29 to 32.

Jesus, and the people to whom he spoke, were familiar with this story, but otherwise there is no further mention of it in the New Testament.

The name Jonah means a dove. Israel is called a dove by the prophet Hosea.

Quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version.

Peter Gubi

Congregation News

Kingswood

On 16 June we have our Western District pulpit exchange, welcoming Rev Adam Stevenson from Holy Family Church (Black Bird Leys), while 28 July sees our annual Pig Roast on the church lawns, weather permitting.

Our lower church hall has just had a new roof installed new improved low energy lighting, new wheelchair-friendly glazed doors and improved natural daylight sun vents. We rely so much on the revenue created by holding our own Coffee Mornings monthly Lunch Clubs and hiring out the room to various organizations. On the 26th May after our morning service we left the church and retired to our newly redecorated hall which our minister Brother Thom Stapleton officially opened. Our next project is to raise money for the organ.

Our Piggy Bank, given to each member of our church is a round box 4" X 3". We ask them to put their small change in it and bring it to church on the 4th Sunday in every January, April, July, October. We find this a very good way of raising funds.

Kay Huggins

University Road

The University Road congregation outing to Delamont Country Park is on Saturday 15th June, meeting in the car park at 12.30pm. Programme to be confirmed nearer the time.

The congregation welcomed a student from Belfast Bible College on placement for the academic year 2012/13. Elizabeth McWatters, a Methodist from south Belfast, attended services regularly and gave invaluable help with Parents and Toddlers, and Nightreach.

Dublin Fellowship

In February a new venue was tried, offered in north Dublin by Philip McKinley who has a pioneering role with the Methodist Church on a new estate. A Start of Lent service in the school attracted some thirty people, including, Moravians of African extraction, who shared worship and fellowship.

Baildon

In November 2012 we had a Moravian Market with lots of people supporting and enjoying the event.

In December we had a Brass Band Concert; while at the Presentation Service the Uniformed Organisations performed seasonal items. The Christingle Service was well attended.

The Prayer Group meets each Monday and prays for the people and concerns named at the back of Church. The Together Group meet in each other's homes to discuss various topics. The MWA discuss Bible-based issues and raise money for the MWA Project. The Big Breakfast takes place before the morning service on the 1st Sunday and the Saturday Bacon Butty and Book Stall are organised to coincide with the Baildon Market. The Social Committee organise various evening activities.

Women's World Day of Prayer was held at St Hughes on

01 March. This was a very informative service with hymns, readings with excellent food and fellowship afterwards!

March also brought Lent, the Holy Week Readings and the annual Baildon Council of Churches Good Friday walk following the cross around the village, stopping for relevant readings and hymns. On Easter morning some brave people made the early service despite snow and the clocks going forward!

After the 10.30am service the Easter Egg Hunt went ahead, much to the enjoyment of the children.

The MWA Rally in April was hosted by Birmingham. Four of our members attended and enjoyed the various services, activities, fellowship and hospitality.

Jen Baldwin

Horton, Bradford

The snow cancelled some of our planned meetings during winter but we did manage to hold our Mothering Sunday service. As Br. Derrick Purnell was about to relate the parable of the 'Prodigal Son', Sr. Elizabeth shouted out "What about the Mother?" Br. Purnell then concentrated on the motherly aspects of the story, what she would be thinking and doing as events unfold. This fitted in well with Mothering Sunday.

We were also blessed with good weather for our 175th Anniversary service which was held on March. The Yorkshire Singers performed beautifully for us. Br. Hopcroft, former minister and guest preacher, said that we as a congregation had shined well and hoped that we would continue to shine in the years ahead.

We must thank all those who were involved with the planning for the day. Br. and Sr. McOwat said that they had enjoyed and still enjoy the warm fellowship of our congregation where they were married 55 years ago.

We are an ageing congregation but have recently been joined by refugees from the Belgian Congo. There are 9, including children, so our Sunday school has received a boost. We welcome them warmly, and although they speak little English they recognise the Moravian Liturgy instantly.

At our 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday we had a good attendance as friends and families swelled the ranks.

Jamie Spencer

Lower Wyke

Saturday 15 June

Proms in the Paddock presents Clifton and Lightcliffe Band.

Bring your own food/ drink/chairs etc from 6 pm onwards. The concert starts at 7.15 pm, features a guest soloist and ends with the flag waving finale. Adults £6 and children free. Inside if wet

Saturday 6 July

Strawberry Fair 2 pm onwards. Stalls, games, afternoon teas and strawberries and cream. In the paddock and beautiful church grounds

CONGREGATION REGISTERS

BAPTISM		
24th March	Bran Edward Renshaw	<i>Baildon</i>
CONFIRMATIONS		
24th March	Stephanie Radford	<i>Ockbrook</i>
Palm Sunday	Vanessa Radford	
	Sophie Rittig	
MARRIAGE		
6th April	Mollie Robins & Stuart Potter	<i>Kingswood</i>
WELCOMED INTO MEMBERSHIP		
5th May	Florence Smith	<i>Ockbrook</i>
DEATHS		
19th March	Sr Freda Parker, aged 97	<i>Horton</i>
? April	Sr Elsie Busfield, Aged 95	

Dates to Remember

17 June Beginning of the building of Herrnhut 1722

26 June **9 July** Unity Prayer Watch, Great Britain and South Asia

17 June **23 June** Refugee Week. This year celebrating the contribution made by refugees over the centuries. www.refugeeweek.org.uk

FROM CHURCH HOUSE

Provincial Diary for June

June

- 11/12 PEC BMB and Estates property Meeting. The PEC
- 12 CTBI meeting Br Cooper
- 15 EDC District Provincial Presentation, Hornsey 10.30am Br Hopcroft, Sr Taylor
- 22 Provincial Men's Fellowship Day, Fulneck Br Hopcroft
- 24 Ockbrook School Governors Br Hopcroft, Sr Taylor

July

- 9 Serving Ministers and Students Provincial Consultation at Church House The PEC

The Provincial Board are pleased to announce that Sr Gloria David has received and accepted a call to serve the Baidon and Horton Congregations and that Br Purnell has received and accepted a call to serve the Bedford Queens park and Harold Road Congregations. They will take up their respective duties on June 15th 2013.

In addition Br David Newman, on written medical advice, has been relieved of his responsibilities of the Tytherton Moravian Church, effective from April 1st. and will continue to serve the Swindon Congregation.

Please keep Sr Gloria, Br Derrick and family in your prayers as they answer the call of the Church to take up new responsibilities and begin a new chapter in their lives. Also, with a reduced workload that Br David's health will improve and he will be able to continue serving the Lord with the Swindon Congregation.

PRAYER NOTES *Richard Ingham*

2nd June [Trinity 1] Luke 7:1-10

Lord Jesus who marvelled at the faith of the centurion, healing his servant from a distance with only a word: we are not worthy to have you come under our roof and yet you have promised to be with us, even to the end of the world. Increase our faith and deepen our trust; only say the word that your servants may be healed. Teach us to understand, and with glad heart to obey, your will for us; knowing that without you there can be no success, and with you no failure. Amen.

9th June [Trinity 2] Luke 7:11-17

Lord of Life, disrupting every funeral you attended when here on earth, bringing life to the dead and indescribable joy to the bereaved; we are compelled to join in glorifying God as we consider all you did for the widow of Nain and her dead son. Following you now we do not honour a dead hero but worship a Living Lord. Your vacant cross and empty tomb announce your victory to all who believe. Raise us and lift us up now to a state of grace and later to a state of glory where with the Father and Holy Spirit you live and reign forever and ever. Amen

16th June [Trinity 3] Luke 7:36-8:3

Merciful Saviour, to whom alone the greatest sinner may come with hope of mercy; invited to the Pharisee's home, yet never fully welcomed in. May our religious views never keep you at a distance nor our hearts and lives be so full they occupy your rightful place. Prevent us using religion as a mask or being so conscious of others' faults that we never see our own. As we lay our sins and thankfulness at your feet in faith, may we love much, be forgiven much and grant us your peace. Amen

23rd June [Trinity 4] Luke 8:26-39

Son of the Most High God, who alone possessed power to destroy all the demons in the life of poor tormented Legion, leaving him clothed and in his right mind. Drive out from our lives all that would ruin us if left untamed; everything contrary to your will and purpose. Even when those closest to us reject you, give us your strength to return home and show through transformed lives what great things the Lord has done. Amen

30th June [Trinity 5] Luke 9:51-62

We thank you Lord Jesus for all who declare their readiness to follow you wherever you lead, as we hear your call to proclaim the Kingdom of God. Give us strength and faith in the hour of testing that we might be truly fit for your service and not turn back. For the love you have shown to us may we choose the good and refuse the evil, swerving neither to the left or right because of any hurt or insult. Set our face towards the New Jerusalem where your reign knows no end. May your triumphs and glories so shine in our hearts and minds that we more clearly understand your sufferings and more courageously pass through our own. Amen

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