

Moravian messenger



July 2013

Kirchentag

Claudette Anthony of the Hornsey congregation reflects on this international and yet very German festival of faith

The word 'Kirchentag' is probably unfamiliar to many people as it was to me until two years ago when I first heard about the one in Dresden, Germany.

Kirchentag (which means church gathering or assembly) is a German Christian festival that takes place in a different city every two years. This year, the 34th Protestant Kirchentag was held in Hamburg from Wednesday 1st of May (International Labour Day) to Sunday 5th May.

This event is as old as the Federal Republic of Germany having been founded in 1949. The initiators of the Kirchentag sought to create a movement of Christian faith and responsibility for the world, bringing all those asking questions about our faith together and equipping them for witness and service. Hence, all nations and all religions are welcomed. People from the grassroots, church leaders and representatives of the establishment all meet at the Kirchentag.

Brother Joachim and three members of the Hornsey congregation, including myself, set off for Hamburg with a certain amount of excitement and anticipation, not really knowing what to expect.

We had been warned, however, that there would be a great deal of walking involved and that is exactly how it turned out for us. The Kirchentag seemed to have taken over the entire city! The numerous and diverse events - Bible studies, worship, concerts, debates and so on - were held at various locations around the city.

At the heart of the event was the exhibition. The venue was enormous! It seemed as though we walked a mile to get from one end to the other, and it was spread over two floors! I don't think we even saw a third of it.

We had each received a welcome pack a few weeks beforehand so there was time to look through the timetable of events in order to choose which ones we would like to attend. It really did make sense to plan in advance.

The event opened on the Wednesday afternoon with an act of

remembrance. It has been a tradition since the beginning to remember the victims of the Nazi regime.

This was followed by the opening service. The theme of this year's Kirchentag was "As much as you need". Taken from Exodus 16:18, this was the focus of the service.

The schedules for each day thereafter consisted of three categories of programmes: spiritual, cultural and thematic. One of the thematic events we attended was a seminar entitled "And God saw that it was good". The Federal Chancellor, Dr Angela Merkel, and a former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Helen Clark, led a debate about the value of creation in a globalised world. They encouraged their listeners to think globally and act locally, again bearing in mind the Kirchentag theme:

Do we have more than we need?

What about our neighbours?

Do they have enough?

We were challenged to consider what the right balance is and to think about justice and solidarity.

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Kirchentag continued

This debate was conducted in both English and German with headphones being provided for interpretation. This was the case for many of the events in the international programme which were dual-language, German/Dutch, German/Polish, German/Swahili and so on.

Other events we attended included concerts with spiritual and cultural themes. One evening concert ended with the vast audience receiving Holy Communion and greeting each other with the right hand of fellowship. From there, we went on to an open air service. This half-hour service took place at 10 p.m. in the town hall square, by candlelight. We were each given a candle and a hymn sheet so that we could follow the service and sing along to the German in this atmospheric setting. The evening air was rather cool but at least it was dry. We went back the following evening to participate in the service again!

At the exhibition centre, we made a bee-line for the Moravian stand. This was easy to spot among all the other stands thanks to the familiar sight of the Advent star being proudly displayed. Here, we met Elona from Albania who was actually taking part in the Kirchentag and had just finished a session. I found her to be an inspirational young woman: she told us about the work she does with the young people in Tirana. She explained how difficult it can be but she is determined to continue because she firmly believes in what she's doing.

Although there was so much going on, we made a little time for some sight-seeing, travelling on a tour bus to see as much of Hamburg's city centre as we could and visiting the famous St Michael's Church where we climbed the 453 steps to the top! That took some doing, but it was worth it just to see the views over the city.

On the last day, we set off early for the final event - the

closing ceremony. Walking from the train station to the park where the ceremony would take place and seeing the vast crowds of people streaming into the park from different directions, all heading for the same place, with the same purpose, caused me to picture a scene from Exodus. It was an amazing experience to be in such a large crowd of like-minded people.

We later learned that 100,000 visitors were there that day; and half of those were under 30! Throughout the trip, I had noticed the strong presence of young people who were always extremely active at all events, which is very promising for the future of the church.

Around 5,000 international visitors from 85 different countries attended the closing ceremony. I was aware of an overwhelming sense of peace and harmony in spite of the large numbers - that feeling was just incredible.

The service was conducted in German with a few familiar English songs included. Bishop Nicholas Baines from Bradford gave the sermon in German. I enjoyed the service with contributions from a brass

band and a choir.

They served Communion to all those people: 1,500 volunteers were on hand to distribute the bread and wine as the crowds quietly parted so the servers were able to weave in and out with ease.

The whole festival was very well organised considering the scale of it. I would highly recommend a visit to the next one in Stuttgart from 3rd to 7th June 2015. There is a lot of walking involved but a great deal of provision is made for people with disabilities, so no-one should feel excluded. It helps if you have a basic understanding of German, but many locals speak English.



Moravian stand, Kirchentag 2013

A word from the Editor

As this edition of the Messenger goes to press, we are preparing for the G8 summit, the meeting of the Leaders of the richest countries in the world, in County Fermanagh on 17-18 June 2013.

The G8 Leaders will meet among the soft lands of lakes and low hills that make Fermanagh famous for its beauty. They are some of the world's most powerful politicians, from the richest countries, such as the United Kingdom, this year's host. They are not likely to encounter protestors, for the Lough Erne-side venue is not easily accessible to unscheduled visitors, and security will be tight.

In this agricultural county, the G8 Leaders will enjoy the best of local produce. Elsewhere in this same world one in eight people will go to bed hungry

Many Christians will have attended the rallies in Hyde Park and in Belfast to draw attention to the serious, and related, matters of world hunger, the tax avoidance which cripples development countries, and the need for a more transparent economic order. The IF Campaign, promoted by Christian Aid and other development charities, has highlighted the consequences of greedy and irresponsible economic activity.

In the Bible, justice is intimately connected with economics. Keeping the Sabbath is an economic ethic as well as a spiritual one. We are called, according to a paper

provided by an Inter-Church Committee in Ireland, to avoid both over-consumption and letting people have too little. We have our manna for the day; and we are called to ask only "Give us this day our daily bread". We are called too to take time to rest, and not continually to produce and consume.

We're also told to circulate our wealth - and this means considering how we buy. It may mean not buying the cheapest, perhaps produced in appalling conditions for our fellow-human-beings, or the animals we eat, or the crops that lay waste to the land. We have to value to producers and their just needs. We need to consider the cost, for our climate, for future generations. We need to reflect on whether what we want is taking away from what others need.

We all have some influence, as voters and as consumers. We have more as people of faith. Praying for the world, choosing our suppliers carefully and letting the companies we don't use know why we avoid them, may be a way of speaking our faith. And perhaps we might take a Sabbath, a regular day when we don't buy and only do essential work.

Whatever happens as a result of the G8 summit, it seems the Bible is never out of date.

Rosemary Power

The IF Campaign

One in eight people on this planet lives with the pain of hunger, yet our planet provides enough food for everyone. It's unfair, it's unjust, and it's totally preventable.

The world produces enough food for everyone. IF we all act together, we can make world leaders change the future by tackling four big IFs:

Tax

IF we stop big companies dodging taxes in poor countries, so that millions of people can free themselves from hunger.

Too many unscrupulous businesses and individuals manage to avoid paying the taxes they owe in developing countries. They're dodging millions of pounds every day.

Yet taxes are the most important, sustainable and predictable source of finance. The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) estimates that developing countries lose three times

more to tax havens than they receive in aid each year.

That money could help millions of people to escape from hunger. We can help stop this tax dodging if our government steps up to close the international tax loopholes.

Aid

IF we make the right investments to stop people dying from hunger, and help the poorest people feed themselves.

The U.K. government has committed to spending 0.7% of its national income on aid. We must make sure they keep this promise.

Land

IF we stop poor farmers being forced off their land, and use crops to feed people, not fuel cars.

The poorest farmers are losing their land to giant corporations. These companies don't care that the land is already being used by local people to grow food.

Stopping them would help millions of people get enough to eat.

Transparency

IF we force governments and big corporations to be honest and open about their actions that stop people getting enough food.

Transparency and accountability are vital in the global food system. Decisions that can affect millions of people are made behind closed doors, without the participation of those affected. Corporate businesses and governments must be more transparent about their affairs so that citizens can hold to account powerful players in the food system.

These are big IFs, but if we press our leaders to make these happen, and IF they do, there really will be enough food for everyone.

IF only we could end world hunger...

Source: Christian Aid website, www.christianaid.org.uk



Last chance for Summer Camp



Feedback from those at camp in 2012 - 'Amazing experience', 'Brilliant, I want to do it again', 'It's the people that make the experience extraordinary', 'The most amazing experience of my whole life - It's made me more confident and happy with life'. 2013 will be just as good, if not better, with a packed programme, friendly leaders, amazing campers, and we hope YOU!

Bookings to Edwin Quildan asap - forms on line at <http://moravians.co.uk/index.php/youth-and-children-zone/summer-camp>

Many Hats!



The training weekend at Guy Chester House was cancelled due to lack of interest so the 'Many Hats!' training will be going on the road in the autumn as a one day training, with time for fellowship and fun as well as learning together. Your local PYCC representative will let you know when it is in your District.

News from the Provincial Youth and Children's Officer

Following a line management meeting and the Provincial Youth and Children's Committee meeting it has been decided that I will look to focus my attention on the Eastern District to work with the congregations in a closer way and encourage new initiatives with the children and young people for the next year.

I will still be training around the province when invited, producing the newsletter and leading the safeguarding as well as giving support as requested elsewhere. I can still be contacted on 01753 553549 or 07713853184 or youth@moravian.org.uk if you want any help or advice.

District PYCC representatives

Just so you know who they are:

Eastern	Edwin Quildan
Western	Sue Groves
Midlands	Mark Dixon
Lancashire	Ben Cooper
Irish	Paul Holdsworth
Yorkshire	Eleanor Hollindrake

There is more about each one of them on the website.





SPOTLIGHT ON Hornsey Moravian Church

Hornsey Moravian Church is the proud daughter of the Fetter Lane Moravian Church. Born 24th September 1908, with an almost fully Caucasian congregation, it soon had between 250 - 400 people attending its morning and evening services. In the pre-television and pre-radio era, there were about 154 Sunday School children with 16 teachers. Now after 16 ministers, and in our 105 years history of migration, immigration, deaths and new births, the church has an Afro-Caribbean congregation with 110 members and has about 25 Sunday School children.

The Church congregation has such a wide cultural background because its brothers, sisters and visitors were born and bred in countries that include Antigua, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana, South Africa, Tanzania, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

There are seven groups within the Church. Everyone who has a desire to serve the Lord in other ways as well as through the regular Sunday services, is free to choose a group so they can share their time, talent, abilities or just fellowship with others. Each group of members open their arms and hearts, welcoming others to join them.

At a person's request, we try to promote them within their chosen group on our web site, so that family and friends can see the joy an individual brings to the Church. We say:

Whether you can sing, dance, pray, recite, serve or

whatever your blessing may be, we need you, and wholeheartedly appeal for your participation.

If you are tired of running around to find out how amazingly wonderful God's love is, please do come and worship with us. We are not the perfect Church. Yet, we could help you to learn and know more about God's word. Come and sit wherever you like because there are no reserved seats in the House of God.

Our minister, Rev. Joachim Kreusel, encourages the sharing of God's wisdom and knowledge within the Church body. So, the preachers we hear through pulpit exchanges give us a splendid variety of topics and views.

There are many members who just love to congregate after the service to tell news, give encouragement to others and offer help with situations causing anxiety. We accept everyone as part of our family.

When we stay away from church, it also means missing the benefits of our community's experience, and a loving hug. In times of need, we try our best to support each other.

We also extend our joys to meetings of the luncheon club, and to parties for our birthdays and wedding anniversaries. Nothing stays the same, and we are always delighted to experience the changes with newcomers. We say: There is so much going on at Hornsey Moravian Church, can you afford not to be here?

Stanton Roberts

Art and Faith

*Poems by
Margaret Connor
Fulneck*

Choices

Choices
that we make
help shape our ends
and yet the way we take,
one thing
dependant on another,
is often not
what we'd foreseen.

A fettered freedom
is the most
that we can hope to know,
and so
within the bonds
of that constraint
may all our choices
then be wise,
with no complaint
if cherished schemes
are sometimes
cut to size.

*Submissions of poems and short stories
are welcome - please send to Editor.*

Take me as I am

Take me as I am -
that 'me' beneath an outer shell
so carefully contrived
for common use.

Take me as I am -
strip down these trimly fit veneers
conforming on my daily round
to what the world thinks
I should be.

Take me as I am -
and when you reach my core,
knowing then how far I'm short
of what I ought to be -
still take me.

A tenuous joy

I walk on air
cloud-stepping heaven's shining span
and yet with care -
lest all my dreams should vanish in
despair.

When shall I know
the substance of these fragile hopes
which ebb and flow
yet lure me on forever with
their glow?

Oh - hold me fast
an all my giddy skyward ways
that first and last
your touch will prove my vertigo
Has passed.

An Evening at the Musicals



Dukinfield Moravian concert - organisers and contributors

I'm sure we are all aware of the poverty and hunger in Third World countries. However, we often forget about such issues much closer to home.

Last year, as part of their Outreach Programme, the church congregation at Dukinfield donated towards the provision of a few food hampers for local families in need. Whilst they were genuinely touched by how such a small amount of food could have such a big impact on a poor family, they were just as shocked when they realised the scale of this problem on their own doorstep.

Thanks to their friends in Social Services, and via the staff at the Children's Centre behind their church, the Dukinfield Moravians were able to make the lives of a few families a little merrier last Christmas. Unlike conventional food-banks, their recipients are selected and hampers are tailored to suit their needs. One of the most important aspects is that the families do not have to collect the food themselves, preventing embarrassment from highlighting their situation.

Congregation member, Jayne Clark said: "Because of the obvious need, and positive feedback we received for this project, the Dukinfield Moravians decided to continue providing hampers throughout the year, and hope not just to be able to give out seasonal packages, but to be able to respond to emergency cases as well".

To try to fund this ongoing endeavour, in April the Dukinfield Moravian church hosted "An Evening at the Musicals" - a night of song and dance featuring local artists who voluntarily gave their time and talents.

"We were completely overwhelmed by everyone's generosity" said the events' organiser Christine Storey. "In the end we raised £1310.00 and everyone had a wonderful evening into the bargain. I cannot begin to thank all the people who helped to make this such a success".

The money was generated from ticket sales, quiz sheets and a raffle, as well as kind donations from the public and local businesses. This will go straight back into the community providing common necessities that we take for granted, to families who will appreciate them.

£100,000 to Give Away!

Well not quite!

However, the Provincial Board, in consultation with the Finance Committee, have set aside £100,000 from a sizable bequest received by the Province for NEW WORK.

This is not to be confused with the 'Pass it on' grants nor with coffee mornings and luncheon clubs, as important as those are. It is hoped that the money can be used for some completely new work within the Province and the opportunity to serve the communities of which we are a part.

It could be used for new church planting, for the setting up of a town centre coffee bar or drop-in centre and any

number of new and fresh ideas. I feel sure that you will have plenty of ideas too.

You will need to provide the Provincial Board with a comprehensive plan of how you see the project operating and functioning and send it to me at Church House.

We hope that this might inspire your congregation to seek opportunities and see what we can as a church to reach out rather than looking inwards. And I look forward, with anticipation, to receiving your suggestions.

*Yours in Christ, Robert Hopcroft
On behalf of the Provincial Board*

Open Book

JUDE

Like the second and third letters of John, which consist of only one chapter, the letter of Jude is one of the shortest in the New Testament. According to tradition, it was written by Judas, the brother of Jesus and also of James. A list of these brothers is found in Matthew 13, 55 and Mark 6, 3.

Neither James nor Jude claim to be the brother of Jesus but describe themselves as his servant. Neither of them were Apostles. Some early church authorities do not include this letter in their list of scriptures, but others do.

There are some passages and illustrations in Jude which are similar to those found in the Second Letter of Peter. This has led some commentators to conclude that one has copied from the other, but which one did the copying is open to debate. Another possibility is that both were speaking a language and using illustrations that were generally known and used in the early church. These illustrations are not all found in the Bible but come also from the apocryphal Book of Enoch and The Assumption of Moses.

According to verse three, this is not the book that Jude originally set out to write, but such serious news about what was happening in some congregations had reached him, that he felt compelled to address that situation instead. The original book was to have been about 'our common salvation' (verse 3). It is possible that he wrote this eventually, and that it has not survived to our own time.

While, at first sight, the language and illustrations in 2 Peter, chapter 2 to chapter 3, verse 4 and the letter of Jude appear to be similar, it is worth noting that the author of 2 Peter writes about what is going to happen and is warning people about what to look

out for. Jude writes about what is actually happening and his words of condemnation, against the offenders, are much more severe.

To give a few examples, Jude, in verse 4, writes 'For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation.' The equivalent passage in 2 Peter, chapter 2, verse 1, states that 'false prophets also arose among the people just as there will be false prophets among you.' Jude refers in the same verse to 'ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality

'Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.'

and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.' The author of 2 Peter, verse 1, continues, 'who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing on themselves swift destruction.' In Jude, verse 16, we read 'These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud mouthed boasters, showing favouritism to gain advantage.' In 2 Peter verse 3, we read, 'and in their greed they will exploit you with false words.'

Another interesting observation is that there appears to be a more sympathetic side to the writer of 2 Peter than to Jude. Although both

writers use as illustrations the disobedience of God's people in days gone by, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the transgression of Balaam, in the case of 2 Peter, Noah's escape is mentioned by the writer, but not by Jude. The escape of Lot in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is mentioned in 2 Peter but not by Jude, who concentrates on the sins committed there, while in 2 Peter, Balaam's silliness is rebuked by his donkey, while Jude mentions Balaam's error and appears to include him among people like Cain, the murderer, and Korah, the rebel, who, along with his family, was swallowed up by the earth as punishment (Numbers 16,31).

At first sight, the letter of Jude may seem to be little more than a string of harsh and even vindictive judgements on those who were disturbing the peace of the early church; yet underneath the surface it is possible to detect also the great concern that a pastor has for his congregation. The letter is addressed to 'those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.' In verse 3 the word 'beloved' is used again as he addresses those to whom this letter is written.

It would be difficult to surpass the beautiful words of the closing doxology, which has been incorporated into many a form of worship. 'Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.'

All quotations are from the English Standard version.

Peter Gubi

MWA Central Committee Meeting and Rally 2013

The MWA Central committee met at Sparkhill United Church, Birmingham on Friday 12th April. It was a very full day, with reports from the President; Secretary; Treasurer; Devotional, Home and Overseas leaders; and District leaders.

Sr Glenys Marshall was elected as the quarterly Secretary. Sr Diana Thornton was elected Devotional leader from September. Sr Hilary Smith is the Treasurer to serve one year only, so if there is anyone who feels they could become the treasurer in the future please come forward.

We are very grateful to these and all of the sisters who give of their time to the MWA, both at executive level and in the Circles. There would not be a MWA without them.

Discussions took place to determine which good causes will benefit from donations from the funds raised during the year in addition to those already earmarked from last year's meeting. There will be more about these in forthcoming MWA papers.

The theme for the devotional papers for the coming year will be "A little help from my friends".

As there has been no invitation from any Circle to host the rally and committee meetings for next year, it is

suggested that the meeting and rally could be on different days. What do members think? Could your Circle help? Please get in touch with Sr Cooper if you can. Please keep these suggestions in your prayers.

This year's rally was held on the Saturday, and it was a time of renewed friendships and wonderful Moravian fellowship. The "singspiration" was at its best, and the morning service was a time to prepare for the day's events. Roll call and collection of the project money followed and the amount of £7.443.19p was raised. The address was given by Rev Victoria Bravette, a Methodist Minister.

The workshops were varied and interesting: jewellery making, Zumba dancing, and flower arranging to name but three.

The Communion service in the afternoon was led by Sr Kathryn Woolford.

The atmosphere was very warm and special, and we were all lifted up by the service.

The food was amazing; a huge thank you to the ladies of Sparkhill for feeding us and looking after us so well.

Marjorie Marchant

Unity Women's Desk

Dear Sisters,

Following the resolution of Synod 2009, a Unity Women's Desk has been set up and Sr Patricia Garner, from Winston Salem, is acting as coordinator. The Advisory Board (consisting of one woman from each of the four Regions of the Unity) will serve as the decision-making body for the UWD, setting policies and allocating funding for scholarships, projects, loans, etc. We will also need one woman in each Region of the Moravian Unity to serve as a Sub-Desk Coordinator (three from Africa, two from the Caribbean, one from Europe, and one from America) to collect information for the Coordinator and Advisory Board to help them to make wise decisions about the working of the UWD. Each region of the Moravian Church has nominated one representative as a Sub Desk Co-ordinator, and the European Region is represented by Sr Erdmute Frank. What is now needed is at least one Sister, possibly two, one from England and one from

Ireland to be willing to be the representative(s) for the British Province.

The priorities of the Unity Women's Desk (UWD) are education, employment and overcoming poverty, health issues of women and children, violence against women, and Biblical imperatives for justice for women. You may find more information about this work at the website www.unitywomensdesk.org. The British Province representatives are asked to be willing to receive information from Sr Patricia Garner and send it around the Province and also to collect information about the work of women in the Province to be shared with the Women's Desk. Almost all of the communication for the Provincial representatives is by e-mail and does not involve meetings.

If you are interested please have a word with your minister or call Br Hopcroft at Church House 0208 883 3409 for more information.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sr. Editor,

As I am so concerned about the seeming lack of appreciation of the scale of child poverty in our country in the 21st century, I would urge people to read The Lies We Tell Ourselves, which has been put together by the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church, and circulated by the PEC to all congregations.

It is an excellent piece of work and seeks to dispel many of the myths about poverty in our country, such as the statement that "all poor people are lazy and don't want to work". The Christians who put this document together concluded with a quote from Isaiah 59:14, which states: "Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands at a distance; for truth stumbles in the public square, and uprightness cannot enter."

Yours in Christ's never ending and serious work,

Br. Alan Holdsworth

This report can be found on the website: <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Truth-And-Lies-Report-smaller.pdf>

See the back page (p. 84) of this edition. Editor.

Around the District Conferences

IRISH DISTRICT

On Saturday 16th March delegates gathered at Gracehill. Br Holdsworth presented the PEC report and delegates inquired about the progress of Br. Dereck Purnell and the health of Sr. Beth Torkington.

National

There was a discussion about the talks between the Church of Ireland and the Moravians in Ireland. It seems that mutual recognition of ministry is possible in the not-too- distant future.

Br. Woods continues to represent us, and the Woods and the Holdsworths will attend the Irish Council of Churches in Londonderry. Sr. Kitson reported on Women's Link, including the annual event in Portadown.

All five congregations are involved in ecumenical groups and special joint services.

Ballinderry is involved in collecting food and clothes for charity, and Cliftonville is active with a local ecumenical youth project in North Belfast.

International

Br. Bob Hopcroft is now the

President of Unity Board

Five sisters were booked to attend the Women's Conference in Albania from 30th May.

Youth work

The Provincial Youth Fund, which is kept separately from Summer Camp funds, gained £400 from a sponsored slim and this money was to be split between District and Provincial Youth Funds

Sr. Roberta Hoey and Br. Andrew Kitson will be taking part in the Moravian European Heritage Trail this summer with young people from all around the world.

The European Youth Leader meeting was held at Lorne Guide Center near Hollywood and was attended by delegates from England, Germany, The Netherlands and Northern Ireland. Sr. Deborah Groves-Jones gave some personal reflections of her involvement in youth work at Gracehill, in the Irish District and the Province as a whole. Br. Broadbent reminded conference that the rules for Access NI were changing and that an umbrella body would have to be found soon.

Social responsibility

Sr. Eunice Hoey gave an excellent report on suicide, cases of which have increased in Northern Ireland by 100% in the last fifteen years. The ramifications, the increase in cases of self harm, and the role of the church was discussed.

The Sing for Life Choir, a community choir for cancer patients, meets at University Road.

General

Br. Charles Costley was elected as District Renewal Secretary and it is hoped that he will be able to progress renewal matters for us in our district in future.

Br. Broadbent gave the treasurer's report.

All in all there is a lot going on in the Irish District.

A minute's silence was also observed for the one sister and four brothers who had been called home from the province over the last few months

Sr. Joan Brown

YORKSHIRE DISTRICT

The spring meeting of the Yorkshire District Conference was held at Horton, in Bradford, in February. Br.Derrick Purnell led the opening devotions. Br.Kenneth Evans took the chair.

Br. Paul Greenhough reported that a lay training day was to take place in April.

Br. Simon Dunn gave a report on the progress of the Moravian Singers. Six new members had been recruited with an average of 25 singers attending rehearsals. The singers Choral Festival at Horton on the Sunday before Advent had been well received. He thanked all

the singers " for praising God through music and fellowship."

Br. Bob Hopcroft was unable to attend but sent a report from the Provincial Board. Br. Peter Gubi had been ordained as a deacon in December in Dukinfield, where he is serving as a non- stipendiary minister. Br. Graham Kent had accepted a further 12-month extension of his contract, serving at Fairfield.

All officials to the conference were re-elected. The Chairman is Br. Ken Evans, and Br. Michael Newman the vice Chairman. Sr. Diane Thornton is

Minute Secretary and Sr. Margaret Shaw the Social Responsibility Secretary. Sr. Eleanor Hollindrake is Youth Secretary and Br. Les Machell the Treasurer. Br. Evans is the Renewal Secretary, Br. Paul Greenhough is Mission Secretary and Br. Dick Porter remains the Messenger Correspondent.

Perhaps the most important item to emerge from the conference was the announcement that a series of presentations and consultations will be held around the Province in the coming months.

Dick Porter

Eastern District Conference - Fellowship Day

EDC came together on the afternoon of Sunday 26th May 2013 at Harold Road Moravian Church.

Sr Gillian Taylor gave a presentation on her recent Provincial visit to Tanzania. The following point were noted:

The British Province supports the work in Western Tanzania with a block grant each year

The Hospital in Sikonge is supported

The congregations visited were very hospitable. Five Churches were

visited in one afternoon in Tabora

A number of schools were visited

There were different age groups in the same class. There is an eagerness to learn. There is a belief that education will give a future

The tree that was planned by Br Richard Ingham during his time in Tanzania was viewed

The MWA and YMPA will supply funds to assist the building of a school block.

Feedback from District taster session for Lay Training was given by Br Joachim. The ministers will consider a date for the autumn 2013, to run the first session of the 'Lay Training Course'.

An invitation was extended to everyone to attend the Provencial Presentation on the re-structuring of the Church on 15 June. Other June events were a quiet day, and the welcome service for Br Purnell.



Congregation News

University Road, Belfast

The annual Christingle service was held on 16th December 2012. The children and young people led the service and performed a delightful nativity. On 23rd December, the service of nine lessons and carols was followed by a Christmas party. The final service of 2012 took the form of a Cup of Covenant service and was led by four of our lay preachers: Br Charles Costley, Sr Carol Ackah, Br Mark Kernohan and Sr Eunice Hoey. It is hoped to repeat this service again in 2013.



The Sunday school children and teachers decorated the Easter cross with flowers on Palm Sunday. The flowers were left to wither in the church during Holy week and were replaced on Easter Sunday morning.



Despite heavy snow, Holy Week services continued as planned, with the exception of the joint Maundy Thursday service. This was relocated to University Road because of snowdrifts at Cliftonville.

So far this year we have enjoyed a Beetle Drive and a Whist Drive: the money raised will be used to buy much-needed items for the women of Albania.

Helen McVeigh

Brockweir

Ascension Day is our Gift Day and we always hold a service at 7:00 p.m. This year we combined it with a service for Christian Unity - well January is always bitterly cold! Local ministers from England and Wales and representatives of their congregations joined us for a delightful service, which included a Lovefeast. The service also included the dedication of an electric organ kindly donated by Mr. and Mrs. Simcock in memory of Beryl's brother Ivor Ostler.

On May 19th we celebrated our 180th Anniversary with a special service. As this was also Pentecost, Br. Thom Stapleton devised an imaginative service to link the various strands. We were joined by St. Briavel's People's Choir, who performed a piece by Brahms and three spirituals. In the year 1833, Brahms died, slavery was abolished in the U.K. and Brockweir Moravian Church opened with over 600 people in attendance. Our attendance this year was more modest, approximately 75, but it was good to see representatives from other churches, and villagers from near and far celebrating the past but also looking forward to the future.

The church was founded because of the concerns of a local doctor in Tintern about the moral and spiritual well-being of the villagers in Brockweir. He contacted a Moravian Minister in Bristol because of the Church's reputation for

missionary zeal. The village had seven pubs as well as a number of "bawdy houses". The church was eventually built on the site of a cockpit, where gambling was rife. (Today, we have one pub and hopefully the villagers are of better repute!) Over the years the church in Brockweir saw many highs and lows, but perhaps the worst point came in the late 1950s and early 1960s when a resolution was passed at Synod to close the congregation.

Brockweir stands on the bank of the River Wye, the border between England and Wales and there is resilience in the character of the people that refuses to bow to the inevitable. In 1961, Rev. Dennis Monger, a Baptist Minister, began an association with Brockweir that was to last a lifetime, when he agreed to oversee the work of the Moravian Church in the village.

After the service we lingered for refreshments and, of course, cake without which no Moravian gathering is complete. It was impossible not to think about the contribution of hundreds of men and women who have laboured over the years to keep God's presence shining forth in this corner of Britain. We hope and pray that the beacon will continue to shine.

Judith Ashton

Fairfield

March was a mighty busy time. As well as all the usual activities we had a Daffodil Tea, and an evening being entertained by the Greater Manchester Police Choir on 16th.

Food Banks are in more demand as people find themselves in all kinds of financial difficulties. Br Mark Stonehewer was concerned enough to look into the possibility of our congregation getting involved in this valuable work. After some research on the subject, he approached the congregation with his proposal (supported by the Church Committee) that we organise weekly food collections. Each Sunday a large container is placed in the church vestibule and another in the Sunday School entrance where members and friends leave their donations. The food is then taken to a locally-run food bank, where it is very warmly received. So far the collections have received good support and we shall continue as long as we are able.

Many of us abhor the necessity of such food banks. We must however do what we can to alleviate hunger wherever we are able and to this end I commend the scheme to any other congregation who may feel able to get involved in

this valuable work.

On the first Sunday in May we celebrated Sister's Sunday, and as ever this was a lovely day. This year we had a theme of "Prayer" and quite a thought-provoking afternoon. We closed the celebrations by releasing balloons to which we had each attached the names of someone we wished to pray for. As there were over 60 sisters present, it really was a lovely sight!

We are opening the College Museum to visitors again each Saturday afternoon from May through to August. Some of the exhibits cause great amusement, for example trying to explain to a young child how a manual roller worked on a washing machine. It wasn't so funny when my mum used to ask for help doing it!

Memories of Whit Walks are something that many of us have. At Fairfield we still hold a walk and this year it was followed by a "Pentecostal Picnic" of coffee and home made cakes. You just can't go wrong if you have tea/coffee and cake can you!

Sr Margery Sutcliffe

Bath (Weston)

These last two years our congregation has lost many members to the Heavenly Kingdom, including recently, Sr. Kath Robson, Sr. Jean Sumner, Sr. Gwen Nahmad, Sr. Phyllis Sheppard and Br. Peter Gardner. They are loved and missed by so many.

Our Christingle Service was very well attended. The children acted the Nativity, looking so proud of their achievement.

Our Cafe church services are continuing to be enjoyed by all who come along and join in the more relaxed surroundings.

Sunday 10th March was our 60th Anniversary. Sr. Jan Mullin reminded us that we, and not the buildings, were the church, living stones being built into a spiritual house. We had a bring- and- share lunch, plus a special birthday cake with candles.

For the Easter Day service we brought bars of chocolate

instead of eggs and these were taken to the Food Bank.

Wednesday Lunch Club is going strong. Love Café, which is held in our hall and open from 9am - 3pm every Friday, is very popular. Over reasonably priced lunches and snacks, people catch up on the village gossip, and do their knitting or sewing. It's somewhere for people to relax with their friends, or make new ones. It is run by people from our own church, including our minister Bishop Beth, and from other churches.

In February, the Boys Brigade held a 14-hour sleep-over and games marathon, to raise money for the Dorothy House Hospice.

In April it was Sr. Gwen Boddy's 90th birthday. After the Sunday morning service there was a surprise party for her in the church hall, which she enjoyed immensely.

Carole Young

CONGREGATION REGISTERS

MEMBERSHIP		
17 March	John Coutts Eric Mitchell	Salem Salem
CONFIRMATION		
24 March	Vivienne Marle	Hornsey
24 March	Lorraine Henry	Hornsey
21 April	Annette Woolford	Salem
WEDDINGS		
23 March	Jamie Williams & Selina Kent	Hornsey
18 May	Roger Skepple & Cheryl Esdaile	Hornsey
DEATHS		
11 April	Geraldine Donowa	Hornsey
23 April	Beryl Dickens	Hornsey

Lower Wyke invites you to a
Hog Roast
on 20 July
Watch the pig cut fresh
from the spit to your plate
7 pm onwards
(last orders 8 pm)
£9 adults.

FROM CHURCH HOUSE

THE LIES WE TELL OURSELVES

Ending comfortable myths about Poverty

On 17th April The Provincial Board sent each congregation, via the ministers and congregation secretaries, a copy of the report of the Joint Issues Public Team entitled 'The Lies We Tell Ourselves'. The Provincial Board believe it is a very useful non-political balanced report on poverty and would urge all to read the report. The Provincial Board have made enquiries about the Moravian Church becoming part of the Joint Public Issues Team as a way to engage in the current concerns about poverty and other social issues affecting our society.

The following letter to the press was signed by representatives of the major denominations in Britain and Ireland, including the Moravian Church.

Dear Sir

April saw some of the most controversial and wide ranging changes to the benefit system in a generation. Policies affecting the lives of millions of the most vulnerable people in our society were introduced. In a letter to the Prime Minister, we have highlighted three demonstrably untrue claims made by politicians in support of these reforms.

This is not the first time that Churches have highlighted the Government's misrepresentation of the poor. We signatories, representing Christians from all corners of the United Kingdom and Ireland, view the timing and the pattern of these untrue claims to be particularity concerning. Such misrepresentations can never be acceptable, no matter how noble one's objectives nor how pressing the economic imperatives. Good policy should be justifiable without misrepresentation.

The signatories of this letter hold no common view on Welfare Reform. However, we do hold the common view that that those in receipt of benefits are loved and valuable, and that these misrepresentations deny people the respect and dignity which they are due. We are calling on the Prime Minister to ensure that these untruths are corrected, and that similar statements are no longer allowed to pollute the public debate.

Dates to Remember

Until



Unity
Prayer
Watch



Martyrdom
of Jan Hus in
Constance,
1415



Sea Sunday.

We pray for seafarers, their families and those who support them.
<http://www.seasunday.org/>

Provincial Diary for July

- | | | |
|-------|--|---------|
| 9 | Serving Ministers and Students Provincial Consultation at Church House | The PEC |
| 16/17 | BMB and Estates property Meeting. | The PEC |
| 27 | Summer Camp begins at Fulneck. | |

PRAYER NOTES

Sunday 7th - Trinity 6 [Luke 10:1-11&16-20]

Lord Jesus, we rejoice not only that our names are written in heaven but that you have made us your representatives here on earth and workers in your harvest. As you sent out your first disciples to proclaim your kingdom and teach your commandments, give to us, your disciples today, such an understanding of your truth that we are able to serve you first, others next and ourselves last of all. Measured always by your standard and compared with your image, help us to long and strive after your likeness, that it might be clear to all we meet that we have been in your presence and able to teach others what we have been taught by you; that even through our labours, the kingdom of God may come near. Amen

Sunday 14th - Trinity 7 [Luke 10:25 - 37]

Divine Neighbour, who not only comes but stops at the side of our road to soothe the wounds of our suffering, bind up our weakness and lift us up. When all other help fails and passes swiftly by, you come directly to us just as we are, and satisfy our every need. Bless those today who in your name go out to do the same, searching life's roads and ditches for the fallen, the weary, the wounded, the sick and the poor. Grant that your Church may always be the inn of hope to travellers along life's dusty road, where good Samaritans and neighbours may still be found, and the eyes and heart and hands of Christ still be seen. Amen

Sunday 21st - Trinity 8 [Luke 10:38 - 42]

Lord of all pots and pans and things since I've no time to be
A saint by doing lovely things or watching late with Thee
Or dreaming in the dawn light or storming Heaven's gates,
Make me a saint by getting meals and washing up the plates.

Although I must have Martha's hands, I have a Mary mind,
And when I clean the boots and shoes, thy sandals, Lord, I find.
O Thou who loved to give men food, in room or by the sea,
Accept this service that I do - I do it unto Thee. [Klara Munkres]

Sunday 28th - Trinity 9 [Luke 11:1-13]

Lord, teach us how to pray and send the Holy Spirit to give life to our words so that asking we may receive, seeking may find, and knocking may have the door to your presence opened to us.

Lord teach us how to pray aright, with reverence and with fear;

Though dust and ashes in thy sight, we may, we must, draw near.

O thou, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way!

The path of prayer thyself hast trod; Lord teach us how to pray! [J.Montgomery]

That out of the fullness of our hearts our mouths may speak your praise.

Amen.

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