

JULY 2016

Moravian messenger



On the edge of Europe

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were....any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind...

John Donne (1572-1631)

The United Kingdom has made the decision to leave the European Union. Writing this just after the declaration of the results of the referendum, after 43 years of membership, the future is uncertain. We have had a massive impact on the rest of Europe - and we have to live with our neighbours. Did we act in the way most loving towards our neighbour?

It was not an edifying political event: the debate was often nasty and personality-driven, and underneath was too often a seething hostility to people from other lands. Then, a week before the vote came the murder of a Member of Parliament, a mother of young children. An elderly man was injured trying to protect her (it later emerged he had been on the Mines Rescue team that tried to save lives in Britain's last colliery disaster); others raced to assist with towels and called the emergency services; while others took pictures on their phones. We saw the best and worst in this rare tragedy which led to a beneficial toning down of the rancour.

The part that the EU and its predecessors had in maintaining peace in mainland Europe for seventy years was not much discussed. The European Convention on Human Rights had had little mention. The role of the EU on climate change

was raised only by a minority. The improvement of labour laws and much that goes with it was on the side-lines. How can we support all that is fruitful in these areas?

The debate was dominated by questions about the economic advantages of staying or leaving; and on the question of immigration. The former is in the wrong order, for economics means 'housekeeping', the underpinning how we will spend the common income for the things that are important, not an end in itself. Many people voted because of disaffection with the political establishment which has caused much suffering through austerity; and, conversely, the immediate impact was financial instability. Immigration has been played out against the massive refugee crisis that currently faces Europe, a moral issue that continues anyway. There were strong emotional choices made as well as those based on sincere belief. How can we best love the people who voted the other way?

The majority of Scottish voters wished to remain. In Ireland, the Border will regain significance, and the peace process, put together through so much pain, and guaranteed by the European Union, is less secure. Looking further afield, other countries, might also consider

leaving. As I write on the morning of 24 June, we have not yet heard from our European neighbours.

Another poet, the German Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), said that a nation that does not reach out to others will fall apart.

Is the referendum vote something we should have debated in our churches, opening the doors to others, not telling people how to vote but offering a discussion based on the ethical living out of the commandment to love our neighbour? If we didn't what stopped us? Was it the debate on economics with conflicting claims that made us feel we have nothing to offer, that people would be too bored to come, or was it a fear of conflicting views within our church? Were we onlookers when the debate got ugly? Should we say: 'A church that does not reach out to others will fall apart'?

Conflict is natural to the life of the body of Christ, as we can see from the Acts of the Apostles, and the Letters of Saint Paul. Our values are seen in how we deal with conflict, how we retain peace, respect for those who differ, seek new ways of looking at an issue, of responding to it. Jesus did not expect his followers to be passive in the world, but to seek to bring joy to as many people as possible, something first done by improving their

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Youth Weekend

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Rev. Scott Peddie
new Minister at
Cliftonville

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On the edge of Europe *continued*

physical circumstances, healing the sick, caring for the immigrant Greek widows in Jerusalem, sending famine relief to those in need; and showing how Christians love each other across the boundaries of race and language, class and creed.

Even if we did nothing to debate the ethical base from which Christians are called to make their public decisions, have we a role to play now? How we treat each other, those who are suffering, those who have less power, those who are poor, shows where our values are.

However we voted, may God have guided our hands.

A peace activist and Quaker called Helen Steven died last month. Her cheerful disposition carried her through work among refugees in Vietnam to peace camps in Scotland, and even to prison rather than pay fines for non-violent protest. She was admired by unknown people and by military top brass; and addressed the United Nations. At her memorial service someone quoted her: 'A Christian should be always brave, always joyful and always in trouble.'

Perhaps if we were more courageous the world would see us as having something unique to say. About the Prince of Peace, who came to bring justice with mercy.

Rosemary Power

A word from the Editor

This is my final edition of the Moravian Messenger, as the last of a line of independent editors stretching back over 150 years. I am also only the second woman to hold this post, after Sr Judith Ashton!

This issue includes the congregation reports that have been flocking in during the last month! I hope that you enjoy them, and find seeds of growth and ideas you can copy in your own church.

Here are some thoughts on the last three years. What has stood out? Has the paper shown where this province of the Moravian church may be going? It is falling in numbers: is it growing in faith? Are there sparks of energy among individuals and is this supported by the prayer commitment of others? We have seen a lot of articles on throwing things away, food waste, plastics and so on: are there important matters we throw away? Are we believers seeking the Christ who picks us up where we fall, and helps us move on to the next task? Are we contributing to the understanding of the love of God among the wider population? Are we serving without hope of return with the gentleness and the persistence that will attract others? Have we confronted injustice within ourselves, our church and society? How can we do things better? All questions we are constantly asking as we journey with Christ through the scriptures.

It has been a privilege and responsibility to serve in this way, though the province's paper, which as its ideal holds constructive tension between the loving of God and each other within church and serving those beyond. It is the right and duty of a Christian to reflect on the word of the scriptures in our daily life; to consider each new matter on its merit; to challenge claims that go against God's laws; and if conflict comes not to cower before it. It is the privilege of an editor to place the issues before the reader.

Prayer from the Christian Conference of Asia

*Give us, O Lord, churches
That will be more courageous than cautious;
That will not comfort the afflicted but afflict the comfortable;
That will not only love the world but judge the world;
That will not only pursue peace but also demand justice;
That will not remain silent when people are calling for a voice;
That will not pass by on the other side
when wounded humanity is waiting to be healed;
that will not only call us to witness but also send us out to witness;
that will follow Christ even when the way leads to the cross.*

Special occasions

Dutifully we fill the pews, hushed by the organ's lull, then animatedly exchange our news before the visiting preacher's entry; they say he comes from Hull.

We sit on committees; champion lost causes; serve endless coffees; collect for Christian Aid - and in the pauses - hope to manage a sick call or two before the supper's made.

We chase the dust from nooks and crannies, 'do' the flowers, toll the bell, welcome strangers, transport the grannies; then usually read a lesson or prayer beside Brownies and Rangers on special occasions.

Special Occasions?
Is it one today?
With this and that then so much more we had forgotten that flames might leap up overhead and whirlwinds lift us off the floor!

Margaret Connor

Refugees

- a prayer from Christian Aid Ireland

Merciful God, we pray for all whose desperation leads them to the sea, to undertake perilous voyages, often following dangerous journeys over land: those escaping brutal wars, those fleeing religious persecution, those looking for hope in a hopeless situation. May we look beyond our own fears and concerns to the needs of those who have nothing, risk everything and depend on the kindness of strangers. May our hearts be opened, our leaders be challenged and our self-interest be called out, in Jesus' name. Amen.

YOUTH ZONE

Youth weekend



It is about thirty years since youth weekend was held at Swindon Moravian Church and I set off from London wondering just how things were going to turn out.

On the Friday evening fourteen young people turned up, from Bath, Bristol and Swindon and set up their beds in various parts of the church and small hall, before getting stuck into getting to know you games, worship preparation and the inevitable Simpson's Bible Study.

The rest of the weekend included various activities such as swimming and a session in a local trampoline centre, which went down, or even up and down well, with the young people. We also organised two services over the weekend, including a local ecumenical Pentecost praise service and the Sunday morning Pentecost Holy Communion service, both of which

the young people took part in.

The weekend closed with a meal shared with members of the Swindon congregation, which they had prepared for us all. This was a lovely way to end the Western District Youth Weekend and I think I speak for everyone who attended the weekend as I express gratitude to the good folk of Swindon for their hospitality and for looking after us so well.

I am looking forward to the next Western District Youth Weekend, and I hope that it won't be another 30 years!

Roberta Hoey

A Joyful Noise (Based on Psalm 95)

*Sing to our God, extol and praise His holy name;
Come raise a joyful sound; His power proclaim;
awed by God's presence, offer our thanksgiving;
His praise in hymns and psalms and anthems sing.
The Lord is great! So let our acclamation
re-echo through the heights and depths of earth.
He is our Rock, the God of our salvation -
Creation's Author and the power that gave it birth.*

*So let us worship Him, and low before Him bow,
Come kneel before the Lord our Maker now,
whose Shepherd-care surrounds and keeps us day by day,
and feeds our souls, and guides us on life's way.
The Lord is great! So let our acclamation
re-echo through the heights and depths of earth.
He is our Rock, the God of our salvation -
with all Creation, praise and glorify His worth.*

Music: "Londonderry Air" (Irish melody).

Words: Paul Gubi, 2011

*We attempted the find a way back
Through the ice and the fear and the black,
But I was so rude as to say to poor Judas:
'The Sentries of Light don't grow slack'.*

*He answered: 'I fear it is true
That things look bad for me and for you,
Yet I felt his sad pity that night in the city,
.. and he has said he'll make all things new.'*

*We came to the Circle of Fire,
And I felt my last courage expire.
I told my new friend: 'It is pain without end'.
He replied: 'True, things look pretty dire.*

*But though all the demons deride us
And Good People cannot abide us,
As we stagger through hell, almost too good to tell
I think there is someone beside us.'*

Godfrey Meynell



Peace Academy

In May, I went on a trip to take part in Peace Academy, a multi-faith event held every few years, looking at the overarching topic of Peace by way of a focused theme. This year's theme was 'Reformer' or, more clearly, the idea of change; how we all of us impact the world by the things we do and the changes we make. These changes can enhance our personal peace and also develop a wider sense of peace in our local and global environments.

One of the things I enjoyed most was visiting a community garden, which was conceived to provide space, in a busy city, for people to come together and 'get back to nature' through growing fruit, vegetables and beautiful flowers. The result was a garden that was bursting with variety and colour of produce and plants grown by people of a variety of ages and backgrounds. The person who began this garden commented upon how he enjoyed working most with children as they really understand what it is to be with nature, inferring that adults lost or left behind this quality or skill too readily. He didn't elaborate but this comment made me think: what is it about being an adult that meant, in his eyes at least, that we lose our naturalness of being with nature?

Partly influenced by these thoughts, one of the workshops I attended was about wilderness. The person who took this workshop was an intriguing fellow: his dress sense and essence was very much that of an explorer of the wilderness. He commented memorably that he sleeps one night every month outdoors, without a tent, to reconnect himself with nature. Like the gardener, he seemed aware of how easily adults lose their connection.

He invited us to go with him to learn more about wilderness, so we left the classroom and wandered to a field area surrounded by trees. It wasn't exactly what I would describe as 'wilderness' but it was outdoors and away from the town centre. Once there, he divided us into pairs and asked one person to lead whilst the other individual was blindfolded. The leader was to take the blindfolded person to feel different parts of nature; to experience it through touch.

I was the blindfolded person in our pairing and found the experience of touching grass, water, rough bark, soil and many other parts of nature both entertaining but strangely restful. As I was blindfolded I quickly lost any self-consciousness as I gently

hugged a tree, feeling the striking patterns that the bark created. Instead my overwhelming feeling became one of stillness and wonder. Without sight, anything that may have seemed remotely 'wild', fitting of the description of wilderness, seemed different, more ordered and necessary. Perhaps this was because everything was felt as an individual item, for example a leaf, as part of a bigger picture of nature. Nothing seemed ugly or out of place.

I discovered that there is something very spiritual about physically feeling the world God created and is still creating. It highlights its sense of design. For example, I found that the intricacy of how petals all fit together to form a flower seems even more amazing and intricate when felt rather than seen. Perhaps this is what the gardener meant when he said that children understand what it is to be with nature. Often, children are eager to touch plants, soil, insects; they understand that God's design is too amazing to limit oneself to merely viewing, it has to be felt too! Furthermore, moving from simply observing nature to feeling it was like moving into partnership 'with' nature.

The time in Germany highlighted how much I connect with God in nature, on levels that I cannot find from even the best formal worship. It also reminded me how important it is to protect and care for this planet, that we live with, not in. I reflected how therefore, for me, peace, is also reliant on a level of 'loudness'. If I and others are to continue to reconnect with God and his peace, via nature, then it may be reliant upon me, and others, being louder about issues regarding protecting and caring for our environment, earth and wilderness.

As I reflected upon Germany, a prayer, that I associate with Iona, kept coming back to me:

*'Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.'*

Nature's peace has often been connected with God's peace; perhaps I just needed to be reminded of this.

Laura Wood

Media work - a modern ministry

'Ah, the lady from the radio', the doctor's receptionist greeted me, the day after I had done my first ever 'Thought for the day' on the local station.

The press, at national level, can be frightening, and the desire for circulation, and therefore power and money, makes it sometimes seem that the media is awash with corruption. It can take effort to remember that the world in which the Christian message first spread had similar problems over standards in public life.

Yet local press has a limited circulation, survives through local advertising, and has no reason to alienate its local constituency. It also provides, as does local radio, the most likely opening for ministry through the media.

One approach is through time-honoured routes. When a minister in the west of Ireland I found that we had established routes to national media that spanned the border. There is a televised Sunday service, and a similar radio service on the national Irish broadcaster, and both often come from churches in the North. We were lucky to be accepted to present one of these radio services towards the end of my time. But before that we had the powerful experience of being asked to make iWitness programmes, one-minute face-to-camera films about faith, broadcast late at night on RTÉ national television. When the offer came, I suggested to the programme-makers that we did it as a congregation, and they agreed. So after prayer and preparation together, they made the films. Recession cuts meant that these were then broadcast repeatedly. A Zimbabwean woman who worked as a kitchen cleaner in a care home spoke of her faith journey, as she came to a strange land and eventually completed a local preacher certificate in a language not her own. As a result of the film, she was often called to pray with the dying. A young businessman spoke of how his faith helped him through three successive robberies. Two students spoke of faith and failing exams. The impact went far beyond the initial intention and stretched across the world.

In Britain, it is often easier to access to local media. There seem to me two key points to keep in mind:

- Getting into the media is a privilege, not a right;
- We are the storytellers, not the story. The story is Jesus.

It is the modern equivalent of preaching in the open air. Contributors to radio or TV programmes and writers of articles can offer some people the word they thirst for, and others their first introduction to serious Christianity. What is said needs to make sense in their context of their lives, and it also needs to observe the discipline of fitting in with the media's existing schedules.

The privilege is one church people may need to work on. No one has right of access to the media, but if it seems to ignore us, it may be because we weren't there, or didn't respond. On that first morning on Radio Derby, the producer said: 'I can hold the 'God-slot' open if people offer themselves and prepare decent texts. If they don't, it will go.' Sometimes the doors are wide open and when they are not, it may be because church people have not been consistent in the past.

My own experience has been mainly in local media, print and radio.

I got some training in essentials and have learnt these skills.

- This is not the place for a three-point sermon. The 'congregation' will be shaving, feeding children, driving, dying in hospital. It is your God-given chance to speak of God in a way that relates to them at the present moment.
- Keep to the time-slot or word limit. Otherwise, your punch-line will vanish as the radio schedule heads for the weather forecast, or the newspaper column runs out of space;
- The editors need to trust that you can deliver, on time, in the right format. They can't print a blank column, or broadcast silence;
- Being in the media is not the prerogative of ministers - there may be

plenty of church-goers more skilled;

- Be open to follow-ons like radio interviews (often on ethical issues). Use the contacts to send ready-to-use press releases about local activities. Local media value interesting, local, well-written, free content.

Some media professionals are believers, and others are sympathetic. Respect is more supportive than suspicion.

One particularly helpful role was working, in Swindon, as editor for a team, receiving and editing newspaper pieces by others before sending them in - and sometimes filling the gaps unexpectedly. We bounced ideas off others; and it allowed us to ensure that grammar and spelling were correct (a must for press-work); and that church-speak, unintelligible to the general reader, was avoided.

Local journalists, whatever their personal beliefs, are there to cover local news. Sometimes, for example in criminal cases, it is not what we wish, but it is not automatically sensationalised.

As newspapers lose money with the dominance of the internet, they employ fewer staff, so the openings for churches to deliver regular input may be increasing.

The media are not our enemies, nor, more significantly, the enemy of the Gospel. But we need to write to their criteria, keep a local flavour, make what we offer deep enough to feed those who need it, and simple enough for the increasing number of those, even in Ireland, who are not sure what Christianity is about. It is also useful to have a website where people can find out more.

Younger people can navigate better around Facebook, Twitter and whatever the next few years develop. While our understanding of ministry and preparation for it changes very slowly, the world is changing fast, and we need to ensure that we communicate the Gospel to people to whom the notion of entering a church is alien. To do so is indeed a privilege, and often a joy.

Rosemary Power

From the PrayerList for the Unity Women's Desk

Pray for our sisters and brothers in Alaska

Province. They are very grateful to have a new bishop, Br. Lincoln Enoch. Sr. Mary Gregory writes that they had "an early Kuakokwim breakup this year. The river is now free of ice. We had our first fresh goose soup last night. Yupik soups are like a stew with the cut up goose with rice and some vegetables. Yum-Yum." She also reminds us to "keep praying, it is the most powerful thing on earth" and sends us the greeting, "Puurra," and asks us to "keep on keeping on."

Pray for our sisters and brothers in Nicaragua where they also celebrated Mother's Day in May. Our sisters there had a UMMON District Assembly in their capital to elect a new District Board, and they will have a similar assembly in June in the Rio Coco District. They ask for prayers for these board members "because during the accompaniment, we have seen many spiritual weaknesses of our women. Let us pray that members of the board of directors [will] lead women in the work of God."

Pray for our sisters Alay Gonzalez and Tania Fonseca who will be ordained as pastors in the Cuba Mission Area in late August. Pray for the continuing ministry in the name of the Lord in Cuba and for these two very special sisters as they follow the Lord's calling in their lives.

Pray for other sisters who are discerning Christ's call to ordained ministry. May they find acceptance for their calls from their Provincial boards, the resources to pursue the education to fulfill their calls, and acceptance in the churches so that they may do the Lord's will.

Pray for sisters who do not have a safe place to call home and who need food to feed their hungry children. Pray that those who have the resources to help will reach out to these women to help them know the Lord's abundant grace for them.

Pray for sisters who are victims of domestic violence. May our churches find ways to serve these women with "safe

houses," with counseling services, and with a renewed dedication to making it known that "Domestic Abuse Is Never Acceptable (DANA)" no matter what the culture of a country may say. Our Lord's admonition to love one another is always a priority.

Pray for the districts of the Northern Province in America. Pray that synods around the world will elect capable sisters to lead in their Provinces.

Pray for the Unity Synod delegates who are preparing for the Unity Synod to be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, August 12-20. Pray that the Unity Board and the Unity Synod will act favorably on the resolutions which were sent from the Unity Women's Consultation and the Unity Women's Desk.

Give thanks and praise for the wonderful ministry being done by Sr. Melania Mrema in the Southern Province of Tanzania with people who are living with HIV/AIDS. May God continue to bless this ministry and the humble servant who persists in this ministry which has helped so many in Tanzania. .

Pray for those who are suffering from chronic illnesses that can easily be treated, such as diabetes, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. Pray that we may find better ways of getting needed medications to those who need them so we can prevent unnecessary health crises and deaths.

Pray for the children of the world. Pray for those who are without living parents and must fend for themselves. Pray for those who are tempted each day by drugs and other activities which will not end well. Pray for parents to be wise and dedicated to the task of raising these precious children.

Pray for our sisters and brothers in Nepal as they continue to recover from the devastating earthquake of last year. Pray not only for the recovery of buildings and everyday life activities but also for peace of mind and the sure knowledge that the Lord is looking out for their welfare.

Please continue to pray for the Unity Women's Desk: www.unitywomensdesk.org

To receive the PrayerLists via email, please contact us at Unitywomen2011@gmail.com

Western District

Conference met at Kingswood on 27 February

The District's Summer Rally held at Brockweir at the end of August 2015, raised £128.70 and the money was sent to Church House for the Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

The elections, which followed brought very few changes other than the resignation of Sr Sue Groves who stood down as Provincial Youth Representative. This position remains vacant. Sr Pennington (Swindon) spoke on the conference at Ockbrook on 31 October 2015 and queried whether the District should hold a special event to unify projects that congregations are already

involved with. It was decided that a working group should be established to progress this. It was also suggested that the Moravian Covenant for Living should be brought to the attention of congregations.

Sr Holdsworth reported upon Youth Work and it is encouraging that new ideas are being tried. Br Holdsworth is involved with the Boys Brigade at Bath Weston as well as the Girls Brigade at Coronation Avenue.

At Tytherton a lunch club has been set up for retired people. The shoe box scheme remains busy at Swindon with

4,000 boxes being checked and dispatched just before Christmas. Sr Holdsworth is hoping to start a Youth Club at Kingswood. Blackbird Leys is facing unprecedented change as plans are being drawn up to develop the site of the church to provide a new environmentally friendly church, church hall as well as housing. Bath Weston needs to raise large sums of money to develop the church building. At Brockweir the soup lunches remain popular and raise money for various charities.

Judith Ashton

Eastern District Conference



Sunday 12 June 2016 was special for a number of reasons. It was the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations in central London, Society Sunday, European football and Eastern District Conference (EDC) fellowship day at Harlesden. The congregations held their morning services as normal and then set off for Harlesden, where a picnic lunch was appreciated by all.

Our programme commenced with a

welcome and introduction by Br Edward Sanniez. Br Edwin Quildan led the opening worship and we sung, 'It is a thing most wonderful' followed by a bible reading from Romans chapter 12 vv 1 - 13. Our thoughts were focused at verse 9 (love must be sincere...) and 10 (be devoted to one another in brotherly love).

We then sang 'Peace is flowing like a river' as we shared the right hand of fellowship and a time of prayer.

Br David Howarth gave a presentation on the visit he recently made to Nepal following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake. We were reminded that 3.3 million people needed emergency food aid. The presentation

reminded us of the devastation cause and the improvements made to date.

Brother Edward Sanniez gave us a flavour of his sabbatical in St Kitts and Nevis which has five Moravian Churches. It was noted that a number of Moravians are represented within the Government of the country. The social care programme called 'Martha's Kitchen' was noted; where church members take lunch time hot meals to the needy in the community.

Sr Rose Calder gave a short reflection of the EDC fellowship days past and present; noting that they have all been varied and enjoyable.

EDC fellowship day was concluded by sing 'Lord make me a mountain', prayers and the grace.

Edwin Quildan



Notices

New address for Sr Hilary Smith:

Flat 1, 28 Fulneck, Pudsey LS28 8NT

Tel: 01132 571765

email address remains the same.

Br Ian Haggas'

new contact details are: Flat 3, 28 Fulneck, Pudsey, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS28 8NT

Tel: 07810144791

ian.haggas@aol.co.uk

A cd, 'A joyful noise' has been produced by the Labrador Moravians.



Rosemary's new book, Grove Books Pastoral Series P145

is one of a number on addressing aspects of conflict in churches. It can be obtained from www.grovebooks.co.uk Price £3.95.

Congregation News

Ockbrook

After weeks of cold wet miserable weather the day of our garden party was amazingly dry sunny and warm. We had prepared the grounds and church with all kinds of stalls - fancy dress, cake competition, raffle, ice creams, hot dogs, wonderful teas, and it was well worth the hard work - the crowds came to enjoy a great day out and meet up with old friends. Many folk remarked 'you Moravians always manage to pick a good day'. Opened by Joachim, who had been told that ladies who opened garden parties always wore a hat, he caused much amusement by wearing a hat! He encouraged everyone to enjoy themselves and spend their money - which they certainly did. We raised a good amount for church funds. As usual everyone helped to clear away afterwards - the many hands made light work and we soon had a tidy church and grounds again.



It was with sadness that we announced the passing of Angela Thorp and of Bill Fletcher and many attended the services of thanksgiving for their lives.

We continue to hold monthly services at Briar Close which are much appreciated. The residents love to sing the hymns they remember from their childhood and chat with us before we leave.

We continue to hold services in church each morning and every other week in the evening after which we enjoy refreshments together.

From time to time we hold concerts in church often featuring The Settlement Singers which are very popular with local people and we work well together with the other local churches.

Marie Rose

Wellhouse

Over the last few months we have spent time trying to get up to date with all the bureaucratic requirements of the Church, Fire Risk Assessment, Safe Space for Children and Vulnerable Adults, Insurance etc. as well as dealing with maintenance issues such as re-building a boundary wall alongside the burial ground which we were only partly responsible for. Our eco - friendly central heating system is working well and should soon be saving us money. The necessary tree surgery has been done and paid for. Pastoral care is now a Church Committee agenda item with confidentiality being paramount, so that no one knows the sufferer's illnesses.

Br Woolford's ordination was a splendid occasion with our Church being completely full of family and friends, also members from other Moravian Churches, all wishing James well. Excellent sandwiches, cakes and refreshments were provided by Lower Wyke and Wellhouse Church members and friends.

An annual bonfire was again a great success with almost 200 people watching the fireworks display and eating us completely out of food and raising £333.72 for Church funds.

Our newly named Christmas Fair brought us a profit of £1445.73, and we supported the West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council collection of clothes for refugees.

Br James's invitation by the P.Y.C.C. to attend the N.I. Summer Camp as a staff member was agreed by committee and the

Quiz Night which was hosted by Br. Woolford was very successful.

The recently launched Golden Oldies Film Club which we hold each month using our new multi-media system is proving a real treat.

The usual Easter Services were enhanced this year by having the Maundy Thursday joint service here at Wellhouse including the faith supper.

On Sunday 08 May some Brothers and sisters from Dukinfield joined us for the service to enable them to view our digital hymnal and our new heating system.

On 15 May we hosted the Churches Together in Mirfield & District United Pentecost Praise Service, it was a good time of fellowship, but not as well supported as might have been hoped.

Sr. C. Evans organised a Choice Charity Lunch for Christian Aid, This has now moved into Church from her own home due to the numbers attending, 33 this year, and it raises over £300 each year, a much more enjoyable event than door to door envelope collections.

On the 11 June a Street Party was organised for the Queens 90th Birthday, as a time of fellowship and fun, with a Dance Class Presentation, games, and food.

Alan Holdsworth

Brockweir

Like many churches we are facing large bills for the repair of our church buildings and occasionally it feels as if we are trying to spin plates in the air, running from one to another, to stop the whole edifice from crashing down around us. We do have good days however, when the generosity of friends and strangers leaves us feeling truly blessed and determined to try all the harder. As such we will be staffing a tea and cake stall in Brockweir, as the owners of Barn House open their beautiful garden, as part of the Open Gardens Scheme during the summer. They have many knowledgeable garden visitors and it allows us to talk about the church as the inevitable question is asked: 'Who are the Moravians?' As well as all the usual fund raising efforts such as coffee mornings and plant sales we are trying crowd funding at www.gofundme.com/9yh3fvb8 This is an innovation for those of us who are wary of technology!

During Lent some of the congregation met each week to watch DVDs and discuss John Vanier's 'The Heart of God' looking at

O God,
make us children of quietness,
and heirs of peace.

the Gospel of John in the Holy Land. Each session produced lively discussion and it was a real joy to share this time of prayer and fellowship together. The Book Group has also been inspired by the works of John Vanier, so much so that one member has already visited the community at Trosly-Breuil in France and another is going in August. The Holy Week readings were well attended and Sr Holdsworth led the readings from Monday to Friday. It was also nice to have Br Christian Hermann in attendance during his brief placement in England. We thank Sr Sue Groves for taking the service on Easter Sunday and Sr Caroline Buffrey for playing the organ during the week. The flowers as always were stunning and welcomed visitors and members to the church. After the service Easter eggs were provided for everyone, courtesy of our Mystery Moravian from the Lancashire District and we repaired to the Sunday School for a hearty breakfast.

Judith Ashton

Royton

This year seems to be passing so quickly, it seems no time at all since Christmas. The Services were as always, enjoyed and quite well attended, especially the Christingle service which is loved by so many. We raised £1440 at the Christmas Fair, but without the help of family and friends we would not have achieved this, we are always so grateful for their help. The Passion Week Readings were held and Maundy Thursday was a united service with Salem, we shared with other Royton churches in an Act of Worship on Good Friday and there was a well attended service on Easter Sunday.

It would be so good to say that we never have any vandalism, but unfortunately we do... tiles on the roof have been vandalised and also the boiler decided to break down and had to be repaired. Our Social Events Committee tries to think of different ways to raise money to help with these problems, not an easy task trying to make them interesting, enjoyable and profitable. We held a



party (and it was free) to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday; it was one of the happiest events we have held for a long time, there was so much fun for young and old, we also wished a belated Happy Birthday to Sr Evelyn Hipwell who recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

Sr Jane Dixon's Ordination Service, which was held at Salem, was very special. It was inspiring to hear S. Dixon take her vows and when you have a church full of Moravians the singing and atmosphere is wonderful. We congratulate Salem on all their excellent work and organisation.

We are looking forward to joining with the other Royton Churches on Whit Sunday in the annual Walk of Witness and also to May 11th when our Sisters from Salem and Dukinfield are coming to Royton where we are holding a joint M.W.A. meeting. We have been saddened by the passing of three dear sisters, Sr. Joan Wood, Sr. Kathleen Brooks and Sr. Annie Mills; we are thankful for all the love and fellowship we shared with these Sisters; they will be very much missed.

Annie Geary

Kingswood

At the United Church in Kingswood we organised a flower festival for two days in June. The theme was 'favourite Bible stories'. Seventeen displays were arranged by members & friends of our congregation, all illustrating a story with a combination of flowers and artefacts. The stories were:

Psalms 23 The Lord is my Shepherd, Joseph and the Coat of Many Colours, The Christmas Story, The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree, The Parting of the Red Sea, The Lord's Supper, Jesus the Light of the World, The Resurrection, The Wedding at Cana, Noah and the Ark, Jonah and the Big Fish, The Creation of all the Animals, Feeding the 5000, Treasures in Heaven, The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus on the Cross, Moses in the bulrushes.

Visitors commented on the high standard of the displays which was especially pleasing as none of us are professional florists. It was also good to see that many people took the time to read the explanation on each display.

This event gave us all the opportunity to appreciate the many talents that exist within the congregation, plus the chance to meet with old friends & make new ones who came from the local area, Bath and Brockweir. It also boosted our Church funds by £430 which came from donations and the sale of refreshments/plants.

Lorraine Cross, photos by Stephen Turner

Cliftonville, Belfast

We record our thanks to the Church Committee and our secretary Sr Marianne Maginnes, to Br Derick Woods who organises the district preaching plan, and to all the lay preachers and retired ministers in the district who enabled the services to be kept when Cliftonville was without a minister this past year. Rev. Scott Peddie, who also conducted a number of services, was accepted as a non-stipendiary minister and received and accepted a call to Cliftonville where he took up his duties on 20 March and presides at two services each month, to which he is accompanied by his young sons Matthew and Christopher. He was officially welcomed by representatives from the district at a service on 15 May. The sermon was by Br Peddie. Tea followed in the church hall. We hope Br Peddie will be happy in his ministry in Cliftonville.



District welcome to Br.Scott Peddie 15h May.



Br. Scott Peddie and sons Matthew and Christopher.

A group of members celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a 'Stew and view' afternoon in the church hall, donations for church funds amounted to £145. The Irish stew was kindly provided by Br John White, and was followed by a showing of 'The sound of Music'. We met for the Easter Readings during Holy week and on Easter Sunday Br Leonard Broadbent was the preacher and we were welcomed by lovely floral arrangements and the floral Easter Cross that was afterwards placed outside the church.



Easter Cross outside Cliftonville church

Fetter Lane

Our MWA Anniversary Service at Fetter Lane was enhanced this year by the presence of the sisters from Harlesden who joined us, returning the visit we made to them just a year ago. Our Circle Leader, Sr Norah Proctor, led the service, with Harlesden Circle Leader, Sr Audrey Kendall delivering the address linked to the theme, 'Messages from the Mountains'. Sr Kendall urged us to think about our own mountain experiences, whether real or metaphorical and to remember the moments when we felt the presence of God through the Holy Spirit. At the end of the service we welcomed all to a light lunch, the centrepiece of which was an amazing cake, decorated for the occasion. Next on the agenda is our annual church barbeque on 02 July with music, food and children's activities in our otherwise quiet corner of Chelsea.

Cynthia Dize



Hornsey

Since last September, it has been a time of adjustment and uncertainty for the congregation.. However, we are coping well and have had much support from various Moravian ministers and those from other denominations in the local area. We've had some celebrations and some sad times due to bereavements affecting various members of the congregation.

In September, Br George and Sr Ivona Edwards celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and requested the hymn 'Through It All' to be sung during the service.

On 15th November, Br Stedroy and Sr Aurora Skepple marked their 80th birthdays with a thanksgiving service. This meant the welcome return of Bishop Kreusel who was specially invited to deliver the sermon during the morning service and then to officiate later over the service of thanksgiving for Br and Sr Skepple. A reception at a venue nearby followed the afternoon service. It was a great gathering with good food, music and speeches; it was a truly joyous occasion.

On Sunday 28 December, Br Bill Stennett celebrated his 85th birthday during the morning service and was supported by three

of his nieces who gave an a capella rendition of The Lord's Prayer.

Back in April, we were saddened to hear of the death of our organist, Orville Braithwaite. Orville was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist church but had been our organist for a number of years and was very much a part of our church family. He worked closely with our choir even travelling with them to perform for our twin congregation in Rotterdam, Holland. Orville was a larger-than-life character and is already sorely missed.

For the third consecutive year, we participated in the local night shelter project for the homeless which was again organised by the charity 'All People, All Places'. We accommodated the 'guests' every Sunday evening through to Monday morning for two months until mid March.

We have had two fund raising events which were well attended: a Christmas dinner on Sunday 13 December and a concert on Saturday 30 January.

Claudette Anthony

Gomersal

On Sunday 15 May, Junior Church held their yearly outing as part of their anniversary celebrations. This year they chose to go to Tramp2lean, a local trampoline centre. A great time was had by everyone, including one dad who joined in very enthusiastically, with a few other parents vowing to take it up as a fitness regime. following Sunday, 22 May, a very well attended special service and lunch was held to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Sunday School/ Junior Church.

Extracts from the archives described the start of the Sunday School, in 1816, through to the 100th anniversary in 1916.

Many memories and laughs were then shared amongst scholars, both past and present, prompted by photographs from the 1950's up to the present day, shown on the overhead projector.

Birthday candles were lit and we all sang Happy Birthday to



Junior Church and a group photograph was taken of all pupils attending the service. Lunch was served to round off a wonderful occasion.

We have to share the news of the death of Sr Betty Pickering on the 8th May. She was our oldest member and contributed much to our Church. She will always be remembered for her cakes and especially her sherry trifles. Our thoughts and prayers are with her two daughters and their families.

Norma Machel

Horton

Lent studies were held and taken by Sr Lorraine Shorten who is on placement with us from college, following the theme of Chocolate. Mothering Sunday service was led by Sr Libby Mitchell and her friend Sr Sara Clarke. Holy Communion services continue to be led by Sr Lorraine Shorten and Sr Kathryn Woolford.

Palm Sunday service was led by Br Ian Haggas and the Maundy Thursday service was joint with Baildon and conducted by Rev Kathryn Woolford. Good Friday service was led by Sr Lorraine. This all led up to Easter Sunday services which were at 8.30 and 10.30 and both were led by Sr Lorraine.

We held our first Confirmation service for some time on Sunday 17 April. The congregation celebrated with Sr Amelia Rankin as she confirmed her faith. The service was led by Sr Lorraine Shorten and Bishop John McOwat. We all wish Amelia a blessed time on her journey of faith. May He fill your heart with faith and love.

Br Jamie Spencer has had to give up lay preaching owing to illness that affected his speech. He thanks everyone for their kind thoughts and good wishes and he is going to look for other ways to serve his risen Saviour. Horton are very grateful to all the services Br Spencer has led. The congregation will miss his services, we really appreciated his words and, of course, his sense of humour.

Sr Lorraine's first funeral was the daughter of one of our long standing members, Sr Icilda Wright. Sr Icilda's daughter, Barbara, died after battling cancer at the age of 52. The church was packed for this service. Our thoughts and love go out to Icilda and all her family at this sad time.

On Thursday 31 March a party from Gracehill Congregation, Northern Ireland came to Horton as part of a Yorkshire tour of Moravian churches and a sightseeing tour of our city. No doubt enjoying one of the many curries that Bradford has to offer. Our Sister Elisabeth Hollindrake welcomed the party and gave a talk on what goes on at the 'Faith Forum' in our area where Elisabeth is our delegate working together with other faiths in our city and gaining some insight into what inner city churches and other faiths have to offer in our area of Bradford.

On Saturday 12 March a good sum was raised at our 'Bacon Butty and Book Bonanza'. This was arranged and led by our Social Committee.

Sunday 13 March was our Congregation Council Meeting.

We thank all who arranged and all who attended these events.

Jamie Spencer

Congregational Register

Baptisms

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 21 Feb | Nia Eleanor Adewunmi | Hornsey |
| | AJ King Yombo | Hornsey |
| 24 April | Mason Bayley Yates-Durrands | Fairfield |
| 29 May | Jack Robert Taylor-Eastman | Fairfield |

Weddings

07 May Robert Wynne & Kathleen Bagshaw Fairfield

Deaths

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 17 December 2015 | Carlotta Forde | Hornsey |
| 25 April | Edith Fisher | Fairfield |
| 07 May | Margaret Joan Kelshaw | Fairfield |

Dates to remember

3
July

Disability Sunday

www.churchesforall.org.uk/whatson/disability-sunday/

6
July

Martyrdom of Jan Hus 1415

10
July

Sea Sunday

www.seasunday.org

8 July 11 July

Synod - Swanwick

From Church House

26 - 27 July

PEC, BMB and Estates Property meetings - Church House

Prayer Notes *Richard Ingham*

Sunday 3rd [Trinity 6] Luke 10:1 -11, 16-20

Christ our Lord, who has set before us the great hope of your kingdom; help to recognise the signs of its dawning and boldly proclaim it. You have called us to work in your vineyard: keep us faithful in your service, knowing that the harvest is yours which you will reap in your appointed time. Give us the faith of the apostles so that loving you above all things, we may be what you would have us be, and do what you would have us do. May the Kingdom of God be in us now, and ours for ever. Our pride be that we are yours. Our praise be not from people but from you and our memorial that our names are written in heaven. Enlarge your kingdom, and deliver the world from Satan's tyranny. Hasten the time when all nations shall worship you and glorify your Name. Amen

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

Teacher, who taught that love is the fulfilling of the law. You have shown us the way of love and the true meaning of neighbourliness and told us to go and do the same. Help us to love you with all our heart and soul and mind and strength and our neighbour as ourselves. Grant that we may recognize our neighbour in every fellow human being who needs our help, serving them with a love that is costly and unselfish, like your love for us. Pour into our hearts that gift that is best of all, with such a sincere love that we may be children of our Father in heaven, and your true disciples. Amen

Sunday 17th [Trinity 8] Luke 10:38-42

Lord who knows even our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking: make us content with what you have given us. Confirm our faith that as we seek your kingdom, you will not allow us to lack any good thing. Teach us to be anxious for nothing, and when we have done what you have given us to do, help us to leave the outcome to your wisdom. Take from us all doubt and mistrust as we sit at your feet and hear your word; for all things are possible to us through you, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen

Sunday 24th [Trinity 9] Luke 11:1-13

Jesus, giver of all good gifts; always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve. You told your disciples that whatever they ask in your name, you will do. Help us to ask correctly. Teach us to bring our requests into harmony with your will so that both our prayers and our lives may be acceptable in your sight. Forgive all that makes our consciences afraid, and give those good things which we are not worthy to ask. Grant us the Holy Spirit, as a sure pledge of your heavenly kingdom - Giver of light and life, to impart to us thoughts higher than our own thoughts, powers beyond our own powers and prayers better than our own prayers. Amen

Sunday 31st [Trinity 10] Luke 12:13-21

Lord of all, who has taught us that we cannot serve both God and money: deliver us from the love of material things and give us grace to use wisely and faithfully all such possessions as you have entrusted to us, for the spread of your kingdom, the relief of the suffering and the supply of our own needs. Teach us to lay up our treasures not on earth, but in heaven; to set our hearts not on things which pass away, but on those which last for ever. As you called Matthew from the tax collector's booth to be an Apostle and Evangelist: give us grace to forsake all covetous desires and excessive love of wealth, and humbly follow you our Lord. Amen.

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