



New Provincial Board Member Elected at Synod

Hi, I'm Zoe Ferdinand and I must start off by thanking Synod for putting their trust in me and electing me serve part time on the Provincial Board for the next four years.

I must also thank Sr Sarah Groves for all her hard work in the role over the past four years, and I'm sure that you will join me in wishing Sr Groves God's blessing as she continues her ministry at Gracehill and Ballinderry.

So, to a little introduction about me. I have been part of the Moravian tradition all my life and am a member of the Hall Green United Community Church, Birmingham. The church is an ecumenical partnership between the Moravian, Methodist and United Reformed Church and many of you will be more familiar with our former name - Sparkhill United Church.

Over the years I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to serve the church in many different ways. Locally

I have been a church elder, a member of the fund raising committee, a district representative and a Sunday school leader. Nationally, I have served on the Provincial Youth and Children's committee, been part of the Summer Camp team for eight years and organised youth trips both home and abroad for the 18-30 community. Throughout all of these roles I have really enjoyed seeing the spirit of God alive and thriving in so many different guises across the whole of our Province and wider unity.

When I have time off from church service you will find me on a plane, train or automobile either working as a Learning and Development professional: helping people to achieve their career goals and targets. Or escaping the country for my next adventure, learning more about the world we live in and the landscapes and people that shape it.



Now you know a little more about me I just have one thing left to say. One of the things I enjoy most about the Moravian Church is the genuine love, fellowship and support towards one and all. Without the church family I wouldn't be who I am today. I feel very blessed and I look forward to sharing in Christ's love and work around the province as I carry out this role over the next four years.

Sr Zoe Ferdinand

Provincial Board Member



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What Happens in Vegas Stays in Vegas

'What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas' goes the old saying. Dating I think back to the Rat Pack days, but sadly that is also often true of what happens at our Synods. Every two years we have a great time of fellowship and we go through reports, debate procedures, policies and matters of public affairs and we are fired up for a week or two. Of course reports are written by Deputies and presented to the sending congregations and people discuss things for a week or so. Then we settle back into the usual routines and the pressures of what has to be done in the immediate pushes longer term concerns into the background and the Synod resolutions and the enthusiasm can get, if not completely forgotten, moved sideways.

Thankfully this did not happen after the Synod of 2014. At that Synod, in informal break-out sessions, Ministers and Deputies were challenged to think of their visions for the Church in the future. They reflected on what they felt held them and our Church back from sharing our faith and growing and asked to commit to going home and working to bring about change and growth.

At this year's Synod, time was allocated to hearing back from the Congregations about what they had done in the intersynodal period. The report backs, called Mission and Vision, were fascinating and had some wonderful ideas showing much good work

from our congregations. Sadly Synod had to close before all the reports could be heard so it was agreed that we collect them all in written reports so that they could be shared with all of the province. So we will include short Mission and Vision notes in the Messenger so that everyone can read and be challenged by this work.

So much of what was discussed at Synod needs to be shared and discussed at Congregation level so I hope you find the Synod report and photos interesting and helpful. Most pressing for me was the call for renewal, revival and growth in one of the Synod resolutions. We have a wonderful heritage, deeply committed congregations, a sense of fellowship that is tangible and most importantly our Lord Jesus Christ who calls us to follow him into the future. Let us be confident in Him and be prepared to make Him our first priority in our personal and congregation lives and seek 'renewal, revival and growth', not for just for its own sake but because it brings more and more people to the love of God through Jesus the Lamb of God.

Don't let the call for 'renewal, revival and growth' be a secret that stays in Synod and is not spoken of until we report back at Synod 2018!



Sr Sarah Groves

Minister of Gracehill and Ballinderry Moravian Churches

Mission boxes reincarnated

Many of us will have grown up with a Moravian Mission Box somewhere in the house, into which we were encouraged to drop our loose coins. However, for a number of years now, these have not been available and consequently an income stream for the work of the Moravian Church overseas has been lost.

During discussions at a meeting of the World Mission Committee, this issue was raised and it became clear that these days there was no need to have purpose made containers as jars and tins are now widely available and could be 'upcycled' into a Mission Jar.

All that was needed was a label and so the help of those attending Summer

Camp 2015 was sought. Campers were given a challenge: design a label and the artist behind the winning design would win a prize and their label would be printed and made available throughout the Province.

The young people rose to the challenge and the World Mission Committee spent an enjoyable interlude during their autumn meeting, choosing the winner. It was a hard decision as

there were many brilliant designs to choose from. Finally, it was agreed that the winner was Rachel Walker from the Kilwarlin congregation.

Rachel was eventually awarded her prize and the design sent off to Dave Bull to prepare it for printing. The labels are

available, free of charge, from Church House and it is hoped that the revitalised Mission Jars (or tins etc.) will bring about a renewed interest in supporting the church's work overseas.

Congregations are asked to decide whether the money raised will be sent directly to Church House by the individuals holding the jars or whether the money contained should be handed in to congregation treasurers at a time decided by the congregation and a cheque sent to Church House from the congregation. Either way, the money raised will be gratefully received and used well.

So, choose the largest tin or jar you would otherwise recycle and put it to good use as a Mission Jar and start collecting!

Sr Jackie Morten

World Mission Committee

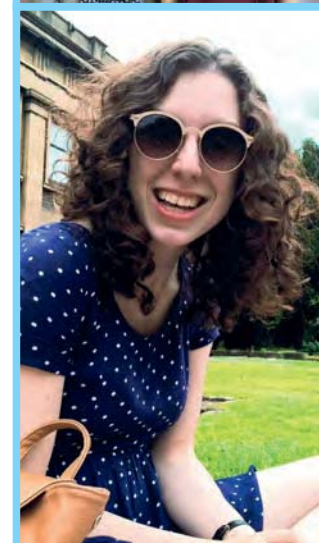


Report on Synod from one of the Youth Representatives

Sr Katie Biggs and Br Peter Dunn

I'm Katie Biggs from Fairfield and was given the opportunity to go to Synod this year as a Youth Representative. It was a very busy but amazing weekend! Over the weekend we discussed many important issues regarding the province's development, the church's relationship with the Church of Ireland, membership and a whole range of other topics. For me, the highlight of the weekend was meeting and chatting to people from across the province as it really made me feel connected to our bigger and stronger church community, particularly as so many of them had personal connections to Fairfield or my grandma Dorothy Biggs! Each church also had to present a report on Mission and Vision and how they were engaging with their wider community and it was incredibly interesting to see how different churches make their church accessible and open to their local people. Whether with community lunches, choirs or getting involved with uniform groups, it was inspiring to see all the little ways our church is growing and engaging with

communities of all ages across the province. Someone said to me over the weekend that 'not all growth comes from the young' which I think is very important, whether from young couples, families, the elderly or from young people, each church requires their mission to target all and not simply focus on the young to ensure true success. Yet as I was there as a Youth Representative I greatly appreciated the value and importance the people of Synod placed in the young. There is a commitment to young people and an understanding of their role in the future of our church which I found incredibly moving. As part of this youth focus, there was also a vote over the Synod weekend for the newly reconfigured Youth and Children's Committee which I was lucky enough to be voted onto. It was a real honour that those at Synod placed their trust in my ability to represent young people but also in my ability to bring about change and action through the committee. I enjoyed Synod so much and hope that I will be back soon!



Sr Katie Biggs

Youth Representative

Men's Fellowship Rally Ockbrook

congregation invited those who were present to partake in a tour of the Settlement. The tour was well received by those who attended.

At 1pm everyone was encouraged to take their seats for the formal start of the Men's Fellowship Rally. Br Ken Evans led the opening devotions and read the greetings from the PEC and MWA. Bishop Joachim welcomed everyone to Ockbrook.

Dr Margaret Barker was welcomed by Br Ken Evans and the theme for the day was noted as; 'Solomon's Temple and the Shape of the Church'. (Dr Margaret Barker is an Old Testament Scholar and retired teacher of Ockbrook School). Dr Margaret Barker presented an interesting and focused presentation and noted a few of the following points (example only):

- The veil of the Temple symbolised the matter of creation.
- The veil covered the Holiest of holies from the main worship area.

- Singing reflected the harmony with the angels in heaven.
- Colours were important; red for fire, blue for the sky etc.
- Some of the things we do now in worship dated back to the time of the Temple.

At the end of the presentation the attendees were divided into six groups directed by the programme to discuss the questions set by Dr Margaret Barker. The Rally came back together as a plenary to listen to the responses from each group. This part of the session was concluded with the singing of the Commemoration Doxology (214 MHB); 'Give praise to God', written by Br Paul Gubi.

We had a short recess as we prepared for Holy Communion. Bishop Joachim presided at Holy Communion assisted by Br Michael Rea and Br Victor Launder.

Br Edwin Quildan

Minister of Fetter Lane Moravian Church



Br Ken Evans leading the opening devotions

Saturday 25 June 2016 was the date set for the Men's Fellowship Rally at Ockbrook. Brothers and Sisters started to gather at Ockbrook from 11.30am. Spells of rain greeted those who were gathering, along with a warm welcome from the congregation at Ockbrook. Refreshments were made available and greetings were given and received by all. It was both pleasing and good to see the improved attendance this year.

Br Alan McGibbon from the Ockbrook



Three Fulneck Poets

A recent trip to Fulneck organised by Sr Sarah Groves (see Sr Sally Ann Johnston's article in last month's issue) found me looking at the history of Fulneck School which hosted us during our stay. A little reading turned up the fact that three 19th century poets had been educated there.

Most Moravians only know of James Montgomery (1771-1854) as a hymn writer ('Angels from the realms of glory' and others) and his poetry is little read today. Two of Montgomery's epic poems are however of particular interest to Moravians. The first of these, 'The West Indies', published in 1808, tells the story of the slave trade from the discovery of the West Indies to abolition, a cause in which Montgomery took an active role. Both of his parents died while missionaries; his father is buried in Barbados and his mother in Tobago. Montgomery's verse may come across as a touch naive in places and the intelligent reader will, of course, need to make concessions for a world view reflecting the early 19th century. Nevertheless, a fierce emotion burns throughout the poem and his descriptions of the dreadful suffering of the slaves remain as harrowing today as they were when first published. In the following lines he makes the points that slavery degrades all concerned; the slave is the lowest in the scale of human beings apart from the slave dealer:



**Lives there a savage ruder than the slave?
- Cruel as death, insatiate as the grave,
False as the winds that round his vessel blow,
Remorseless as the gulf that yawns below,
Is he who toils upon the wafting flood,
A Christian broker in the trade of blood
Boisterous in speech, in action prompt and bold,
He buys, he sells, - he steals, he kills, for gold.**

'Greenland' strikes a more cheerful note and tells the story of that island from its discovery by Norsemen to the arrival of the Moravians. Montgomery's main source is the history of Greenland by David Crantz, the Moravian missionary. There are many good lines and the whole story is an interesting read, not least because Crantz's history, especially on the fate of the Norse settlers, is more entertaining than the probable facts.

Here the poet tells of the perils encountered by the first missionaries to that island:

**Strange scenes, strange men; untold, untried distress;
Pain, hardships, famine, cold, and nakedness,
Diseases; death in every hideous form,
On shore, at sea, by fire, by flood, by storm;
Wild beasts and wilder men: - unmoved with fear,
Health, comfort, safety, life, they count not dear,
May they but hope a Saviour's love to shew,
And warn one spirit from eternal woe;
Nor will they faint; nor can they strive in vain,
Since thus - to live is Christ, to die is gain.**

Our second poet, John Edwards (1772-1845), was born at Fulneck to a Moravian family and on leaving the school set up as a wine merchant in Derby where he remained until his death. His obituary in the Derby Mercury describes him as 'a man of fine taste, great literary acquirements and stainless integrity a poet of no ordinary character. Though through life an attached member of the Church of the Brethren, his spirit was truly catholic, and he was ever ready to serve the cause of Christ in any way he could'.

He is best known for two long verses, 'All Saint's Church, Derby' (1801) and 'A Tour of the Dove' (1825), a description of the River Dove from where it joins the Trent to its source and which earned him the title of the 'Water Poet of Derby'. A contemporary review in The Monthly Magazine wrote of the latter poem, 'I think we may venture to speak in approbation of a new descriptive poem.' The Monthly Review was a touch less appreciative and termed the verse 'a respectable little work' but considered that the poet should remain content with the applause which the Derbyshire resident or tourist may be willing to bestow upon him. The poem nevertheless ran to two editions:

**Hail! Water! - beautiful thy gushing springs,
The lakes and rivers; - shrined in clouds or dew;
In ice or snow, or where the rainbow flings
Its radiant arch; - in every form and hue.
Thou, glorious element, art ever fair and new!**

Edwards was an early admirer of Wordsworth and Wordsworth himself held Edwards's poetry in some esteem. Wordsworth's Essay upon Epitaphs quotes from 'All Saints Church, Derby' approving Edwards's sentiment that the appearance of churchyards would be improved if they were not used for burials. Wordsworth's diary entry for 15 May 1812 recalls a party at which both Edwards and Montgomery were present. It is interesting that he links the two Moravians together as if Moravianism were an essential part of their identity.

Edwin Atherstone (1788-1872), the third Fulneck poet, has earned a place in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography but his verse, which even to his contemporaries was considered verbose and a touch pompous, is now pretty well unreadable. His Miltonic epic 'The Fall of Nineveh' in six books (1828), despite attracting some mildly favourable attention ('Mr Atherstone is undoubtedly one of the most promising of our rising poets' Monthly Review), had the misfortune of receiving a thorough drubbing from an anonymous reviewer in Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine which must surely rank as one of the most damning ever received by any poet. It begins, 'We have read Mr Atherstone till we have become almost as stupid as himself; and how stupid that is, you perhaps partly may know by reading either this article or The Fall of Nineveh' and the review continues in a similar vein for no fewer than 35 pages. How poor Atherstone coped with this I have not been able to discover but he was clearly not put off the task as he went on to add a further 24 books to complete his epic! Interestingly, the review compares him unfavourably with Montgomery as if, again, Moravian identity were of especial significance. Coleridge, who had met Atherstone, privately described the epic as the most ridiculous thing he had ever read. A further disappointment awaited Atherstone three years later when his fellow Fulneck poet James Montgomery, then President of the Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society, invited him to deliver a series of lectures on 'The Nature and Principles of Poetry'. After the second lecture the members were so dissatisfied that a special meeting was convened to consider the complaints and anonymous pieces regarding his talks that appeared in the Sheffield newspapers and which Atherstone described as 'brutal attacks' undermining his character and prospects as a lecturer. Overall one gets the impression of a rather sad character and his daughter, on the poet's death, described his life as one of almost constant struggle.

Unless one is inordinately interested in Moravian poets I suggest that Edwards and Atherstone can safely be left unread but Montgomery remains an interesting, educative and enjoyable read.

Adrian Wilsdon

Volunteer worker in the Moravian Archive in Church House.



Synod is convened once every two years and meets over a weekend normally at Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire where we met this year from 8th to the 11th July.

A Report Back from the Provincial Synod

Photo: Synod at work

Synod is the legislative body for the British Province of the Moravian Church and it elects the Provincial Board who guide the Province between Synods. At the heart of Synod are the Synodals; those elected deputies for each congregation, all the serving ministers in the province, the small number of ex officio members, and two youth representatives. Other people are welcome at Synod as observers, some are invited to serve on the administration of Synod and others are our ecumenical guests who bring a valued contribution from the wider Church world.

Synod began with an act of worship in the Chapel at the Hayes Centre. This year the preacher was the Very Rev Michael Persson from the Swedish Lutheran Church who preached a stunning sermon on Luke 9 where Jesus calls his followers to renounce themselves. He illustrated this further with reference to a short story by Tomas Transtromer called 'The Clearing' which contains the wonderful phrase 'Deep in the forest there's an unexpected clearing that can be reached only by someone who has lost his way.' He called for our churches to be clearings in the forest, glades that can refresh those who have lost their way in our very complex and often lonely world. He reminded us that our calling is to lose our

life to follow Jesus, to get lost following Him.

From this moment of transfiguration up the hill we all too soon had to come down to the valley where the work of the world awaited us. Most of Friday evening was given over to working out a process for hearing appeals at Synod, mundane but important for good order in the Church.

Mornings began with Prayers and Bible Study led by Sr Patsy Holdsworth, then breakfast - and the work of the day started. At the end of each day Br Edwin Quildan led the evening prayers.

Much of the work of Synod is taken in giving reports of the work of the Church during the intersynodal period. The longest report was as usual the report of the Provincial Board and this is split into two sections, the work of the Board as trustees of the charity that is the Church and its work as the management team of the Church.

The Moravian Women's Association and the Moravian Men's Fellowship both presented their reports, called Memorials, to Synod. The MWA memorial given by Sr Janet Cooper mentioned the questionnaire that had been distributed to women in the Church in 2014/5 trying

to ascertain people's views on the MWA. Br Ken Evans talked about the successful Men's Fellowship Day that had been held at Ockbrook in June.

The Schools session started with a report from Ockbrook School given by the Head Teacher, Br Tom Brooksby. He outlined the progress of the school towards full co-education of boys as well as girls and how the school is interacting with other local schools and the students' involvement with charities and competitions. One highlight for the school was a story written and illustrated by year 8 and 9 students who won second prize in a national story competition with 'this is me': a story about a child with autism and the way he viewed the world around him. This story can be seen and downloaded at <http://www.readingzone.com>

The Fulneck School report was given by the Chair of Governors of the School, Sr Lesley Sharp. As with Ockbrook, although the results in exams are important and have been very good, much effort in the school goes into wider personal and social development of the students. The school is part of the Erasmus+ project which links schools together across Europe and helps them broaden their horizons in the world



Synod
Chair and
Vice Chair



Br James Woolford



Br Livingstone
Thompson and
Sr Eunice Hoey



Br Malcolm Yates and Br Phil Cooper

of Physics. This has resulted in a seismometer in the Physics lab which picked up the Nepal earthquake waves just 11 minutes after the earthquake happened in Nepal. In October some of the students will be travelling to their sister Moravian School in Rajpur and the Principal and Vice Principal hope to join them there for part of their trip.

The Finance Committee report covered the new contributory pension scheme that ministers now pay into and noted that stipends had gone up by 4% to cover the fact that the minister's contribution to the pension from the stipend is now 4%. The committee also reported on the Churches investments and the volatile market conditions at the moment.

The Faith and Order and Ecumenical Relations Committee reported on its work over the past two years, including references to the issue of what constitutes membership and how this relates to church growth and ecumenical partnerships and to Human Sexuality.

A number of proposals came from the Faith and Order Committee. One proposal called for a working party to be set up to look at both membership and assessment on members as it was felt that the current way of assessing what Churches pay into the common pot to fund stipends is a disincentive to grow. There were two related proposals to this, one which called for the per capita levy on members only to apply to those over 18 to encourage confirmations of our young people and the other was to encourage congregations to seek out and restore lapsed members.

Another proposal called for preparation and distribution of materials to discuss issues of human sexuality in congregations and districts with a special report back session at next Synod. This proposal produced some excellent speeches and two very moving personal testimonies from speakers. A proposal from Hall Green United Community Church recognized the bringing together of Sparkhill United Church (URC/Moravian) and Hall Green Methodist Church. Another proposal was to regularize the position of the National Ecumenical Officer.

A related report came from the discussions between the Moravian Church and the Church of Ireland. These discussions started when news crossed

the Atlantic about the covenant relationship between the Episcopal Church and the Moravian Church in the United States. Since then several meetings have taken place and it is hoped that eventually there may be a covenant relationship in Ireland building on the Fetter Lane agreement. As a result of this report a proposal was passed welcoming the deepening relationship with the Church of Ireland and encouraging us to move towards interchangeability of ministry and this was passed by acclamation. A further proposal was passed that ensured that at the consecration of any future bishops in the British Province at least three bishops should participate.

The Church Service Committee reported on the students in training for the ministry and those who are newly ordained. They have a brief for in service training so they also reported on the Ministers and Lay workers training conference, the lay preachers' bi annual conference and a new conference for retired ministers.

Proposals following this report brought by the committee were to clarify the situation with regard to Church workers sabbaticals, so now a sabbatical can be taken every ten years and also to allow ministers to take 5 study days every six months. Another proposal clarified the position about the period of time that a student minister serves before discussions begin about their ordination, so now discussions will take place within 12 months of the beginning of the first call.

The Provincial Youth and Children's Committee reported on work with young people and young adults around the Province and on Summer Camp, Connect 14, Moravian and the Irish District Youth Weekend. Following this report the committee brought a proposal to have a review of children and youth engagement with the Church and to bring recommendations for sustainable youth work to next Synod.

The Mission and Society Committee reported on the one day conference it organised in Ockbrook in 2015 on the unjust structures in our society and spoke of their plans for the future. They brought two proposals: one urging congregations to identify needs in their communities, and another to act on these needs and report their work back to the committee. A further proposal called for the President of Synod to write to Her Majesty's Government urging it to reconsider its



Br James
Mewha and
Br John
McOwat



Synod 2016 outside the
Hayes Conference Centre
in Swanwick, Derbyshire

Br James Woolford, the Bishop of Connor, Rt Rev Alan Abernathy, Sr Jane Dixon and Br Joachim Kreusel



Sr Claire Maxwell, Br James Mewha and Sr Sarah Groves



Sunday Service

Sr Elisabeth Holindrake

Br David Howarth

position on the imposition of all sanctions on migrants, treating all people with compassion, equality and love. It was pointed out that for this proposal to be really effective it would need many members of Synod to write individually to their MPs as well.

The World Mission Committee reported on the publicity it has sought to give the world wide Moravian Church (The Unity) through its regular newsletter, the Unity Prayer Watch notes, links with the Schools and mission jar labels. The Diaspora Secretaries presented their report on the Diaspora newsletter, copies of which can be obtained by emailing diaspora@moravian.org.uk.

The Young People's Missionary Association report to Synod noted the projects that it has supported in this two year period. The report of the Editor of the Moravian Messenger reviewed the challenges and joys of editing our monthly magazine and thanked the many people who had written for it over the years.

As always other proposals were brought to Synod. Some proposals were tidying up exercises and others had wider

implications. One such was the passing of a proposal that gave two retired ministers a seat at Synod just as the two youth representatives do. Another proposal called for Districts to prioritise work on revival, renewal and growth; and another called for the PEC and the Bishops to take the first democratic steps to end child poverty in the UK.

The elections were over quickly with most places being filled. Sr Zoe Ferdinand was elected to the Provincial Board as a part time member for four years, taking the place of Sr Sarah Groves who had stepped down. But sadly there was no election for a full time member of the Provincial Board so that will mean a postal ballot will have to be conducted.

The Ecumenical and Fraternal Guests were each asked to speak to Synod and are also free to speak (though not vote) in the debates. Sr Judy Gantz from the American Board of World Mission spoke of this board's mission work across the world. Br Peter Krazny brought greetings from the Czech Province and Br Raimund Hertzsch, Rt Rev Alan Abernathy represented the Church of Ireland and spoke several times in

debates. Also present were Rev Peter Bates representing the Methodist Church and a former minister of Hall Green Methodist Church; Very Rev Michael Persson, the Lutheran Church, Rev David Cornick, Churches together in England.

The Synod Communion on the Sunday night was again in the chapel up the hill. It was a wonderful service with the celebrant Br Joachim Kreusel and our newest ministers Sr Jane Dixon and Br James Woolford helping him. The sermon was given by the Bishop of Connor, Rt Rev Alan Abernathy who preached very passionately and powerfully on the parable of the unforgiving brother (Luke 15).

My perspective - as always it is a privilege to be at Synod and to share in the fellowship, some of it at coffee and some later at night and to be part of the worship. Synod is not perfect but then none of us are perfect but it is the way that we seek the Lord's will for our life together and our service, in his name, in the community.

Sr Sarah Groves

Minister of Gracehill and Ballinderry Moravian Churches

News of the work of the Friends of Athelstan Museum (FOAM) at Malmesbury

This is the story of how a Moravian Church once flourished, declined and was neglected but is now, like a Phoenix, rising from the ashes.

Malmesbury is a small but very ancient town set in the Cotswolds about 100 miles west of London. John Cennick preached here in 1740, and in 1742 a Society was established in Malmesbury as part of the diaspora from London; Malmesbury was one of several congregations around Bath. He moved on, and in 1748 his societies became part of the Moravian Church. Services initially were held in an old malt house but they eventually built their own church which opened on 4th November 1770.

Malmesbury had several non-conformist churches but the Moravian Church was one of the earliest. It is an attractive building and considering the size and relative poverty of the population at that time surprisingly impressive. It is now a listed building.

For 200 years the Moravian church flourished in Malmesbury, but as the end of the twentieth century approached the congregation dwindled. By 1997 they started to meet in the schoolroom, and the church and Manse were sold. The congregation at Malmesbury finally closed on 5th October 2008 and the three remaining worshippers attended East Tytherton.

The new owner of the church had ideas of using the building as a showroom and a certain amount of work was done in both the church and the manse, but there was a fall-out with the planning authorities and all work ceased. The building lay empty and neglected for nearly twenty years. Eventually it was repossessed by the bank and once more came available on the market.

Friends of Athelstan Museum (FOAM) run a small local history museum which tells the history of the town - and there is a lot of it. There was an iron-age hill fort here in 800 BC and possibly 1,700 years before that. Malmesbury also claims to be the oldest borough in the land. The museum is very close to the Moravian Church so FOAM immediately saw its potential as an additional resource for the Athelstan Museum, named after King Athelstan, the first king of all England, who reigned 924-939 AD. He was particularly fond of Malmesbury: giving the town 5 hides (around 270 hectares) of common land to the south west of the town, and he was buried in the old Saxon Abbey church.

At once the Friends started a campaign to raise funds to buy the church and repair, restore, convert and equip it. Although the response was very good and there was a strong groundswell of support for the project, Malmesbury is only a small town and



before enough could be raised in donation pledges the church was sold to a developer. Members of FOAM and the townsfolk were devastated by this - all their dreams dashed.

However, fortunes change and FOAM's certainly did quite dramatically. Some

generous, very generous, donors appeared and with their encouragement and aid, the Moravian Church was purchased from the developer.

FOAM has great plans for the church. We shall respect the integrity of the building and its former use as a place of worship. We shall be able to keep the main meeting room intact which will be a wonderful space, roughly 10m square and over 6 metres high which will be able to be used in so many different ways. Education is high on the list of priorities; there will be much better provision for visiting school parties and adult education will be catered for with talks, lectures and displays. The building will be available for museum exhibitions to display much more of our collection. There will also be more room to store our

collection in environmentally controlled conditions; and sufficient space to work on the collection. Meetings and social events will also feature. The intention most definitely is that this will be a facility open to the entire town.

The neglected appearance of the church is being tackled. The jungle illustrated was removed very quickly -

within days - by FOAM volunteers. A group from the church at East Tytherton have also worked on clearing the burial ground behind the church. Before they started less than a dozen graves were visible; now nearly a hundred have been revealed.

FOAM now has to raise the funds to pay for this ambitious project. The town has responded warmly and positively, as have the members of

FOAM but this is a major undertaking and there is still a long way to go. It is obvious that the more funds the better will be the final result; the hope and dream is to finish with a building of which everyone can be proud.

To learn more about FOAM, the Athelstan Museum and this exciting project please visit our website at: www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk; or www.malmesburyappeal.co.uk.

Full details of how to donate are on the websites or write to The Treasurer, Athelstan Museum, Town Hall, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BZ.

Roger Griffin

Friends of Athelstan Museum

Heritage Open Days around the Province

Lindsey House

Open House London takes place this year on September 17th and 18th with one National Trust property,

Lindsey House, of particular interest to Moravians. Located on Chelsea Embankment, just south of the Fetter Lane God's Acre site, it was a retreat for Sir Thomas More in the 16th century and then purchased by the 3rd Earl of Lindsey in 1674. In 1750 Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf bought and renovated the property which was used by the Moravian community in London until its sale in 1770. Other famous

occupants of Lindsey House include Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel and the painter James MacNeil Whistler.

Open House London is the only occasion when the property is open to the public. The full programme with precise details of times will be available on the website, www.openhouselondon.org.uk from mid-August.

Lindsey House is at 99/100 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, London, SW10 0DQ.

Ballinderry Heritage Weekend

We will have an exhibition on the history of the Moravian Church and items will show the extent of the church within the Irish District and also show the global spread of Unitas. Congregation members will be on hand to give talks on the history of the congregation and its place in the community. We are located in the area that was part of the great estates owned by Sir Richard Wallace, better known for the great Wallace collection in London. As at times we were behind in our rent he finally transferred ownership to us!



Heritage Open Day at Gracehill Moravian Settlement

23 Church Road, Gracehill, BT42 2NL
Open on Saturday 10th from 12.30 - 4.30pm

- Talks about the history of the Moravian Church at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm.
- Informative and entertaining guided tours of the settlement leave the outside of the Church every half hour from 12.30pm onwards
- The Visitor Centre in the Old School is open and a film about the history of the settlement will be shown at regular intervals in the period classroom.
- The former Single Brethren's house will be open
- Call into the Old Shop and hear about the plans for its restoration
- Walk around the restored Village Square
- Refreshments in the Church Hall from the Gracehill Country Market

The village of Gracehill is the only complete Moravian Settlement in Ireland and is renowned for its distinctive architecture and layout and began in 1746. The village plan is a simple grid pattern with designated green spaces. This layout was very forward thinking at a time when formal town planning was almost unknown. The style of the architecture is classical Georgian as illustrated by the multiple pane sash windows and decorative door ways. Many of the stone buildings boast unusual details such as galleting where a decorative line of small stones is pressed into the joints between the basalt courses. In 1975 Gracehill became the first designated Conservation Area in Northern Ireland.

Lower Wyke

Once again the congregation at Lower Wyke will be opening its doors to visitors over the weekend the 10th and 11th of September for the national and popular Heritage Open Days event.

The church will be open on Saturday 10th, September from 10am to 4pm and on Sunday 11th September from noon to 4pm. On display will be the history of the Moravian Church from its beginnings to the present day life of the congregation with photographs and memorabilia, walks round the settlement and access to church records. Refreshments will be available.

Gomersal Heritage Day

Sunday 11th September 1 - 4pm

- History of the Church
- Links with the Taylors of Red House
- Links with the Brontës and Jane Eyre
- Gomersal and the Great War
- Organ recitals
- Children's activities
- Refreshments

Thermopylae @ Kilwarlin

The Battle of Thermopylae, between the Greeks and the Persians, was fought in 480BC.



How did the terrain of the battlefield come to be built at Kilwarlin and what does it mean?

What happened in the battle and why? How did that battle change European history?

These questions will be answered in a lecture by Dr Maureen Alden, a specialist in Greek literature and archaeologist, Dr Philip MacDonald, on Saturday 10th September 2016, 2pm at Kilwarlin Moravian Church, Kilwarlin Road, Hillsborough, Co Down, BT26 6DZ. The lecture is free and refreshments will be served. Take this opportunity to explore this unique feature and learn other facts relating to the Moravian Church.

Congregation News



Br Andre, Sr Alex, Br Edwin and baby Rosalind

Fetter Lane

Moravian Close, including God's Acre, is looking particularly beautiful after the summer mix of sun and rain. And it's been a perfect setting for three important events. In June a special memorial service, arranged by Br Austin Daniel, was held to remember the life of our late Sr Monica Arthur. Attended by friends and family, the service was very interactive with many of those present leading our voices in some of Sr Monica's favourite hymns.

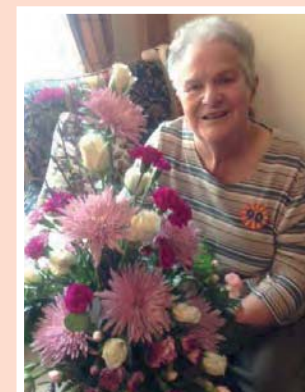
The first weekend in July was marked by our annual Family BBQ with music on Saturday followed by the baptism of baby Rosalind, daughter of Br Andre and Sr Alex Flemmings on Sunday, 3rd July. Rosie took it all in her stride and seemed to enjoy the convivial atmosphere helped by tea and cakes after the service.

As September approaches, the congregation continues its work with English Heritage and restoration experts on plans to renew the Tudor wall surrounding the close.

Sr Cynthia Dize - Messenger correspondent

Gracehill's Very Own Queen

Sr Lily (Elizabeth) Kitson was ninety on 4th July. She had spent the entire weekend celebrating her birthday with a special family meal on the Saturday and then a cake in Church on the Sunday morning. Earlier in the year she had been a guest at the special tea dance at the Town Hall where she was presented with a commemorative medal for the Queen's 90th birthday. It is a joy to have Sr Lily's active participation in the Congregation and we wish her every blessing in the years to come.



Sr Lily Kitson

Diamond Wedding Congratulations

Br and Sr Desmond and Lily Quaithe celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in June. They knew each other from Sunday School days and were married on 26th June 1956. Desmond and Lily went on to serve in the ministry of the Moravian Church in Kilwarlin and Ballinderry, Gomersal, Swindon, Malmesbury, Carmel and West Moreland in Jamaica and then in the non stipendiary ministry in the Irish District. They celebrated with all their family at a special meal and the next day in Church. Pride of place in their home is a congratulations card from the Queen.

Sr Roberta Gray - Gracehill Correspondent

Swindon

Swindon Rainbows (30 girls aged 5-7) dressed as Princesses, decorated crowns and enjoyed an indoor street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Each girl was presented with a commemorative badge to celebrate the occasion.

Sr Sandy Mundy

1st Old Town Rainbows



Salem

We held our monthly coffee morning on Saturday 11 June, and decorated the hall and driveway with Union flags and St George's flags for the Queen's 90th birthday. Everyone commented on them, and they made a good display. We raised £46, slightly less than usual as quite a few members were on holiday.

Sr Anne Broadbent - Salem Correspondent

Congregational Register

Baptisms	14 August 2016	Rylee Thomas Inman	Ockbrook
Deaths	24 July 2016	Regula Schule	Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador

Dates to remember

Heritage Open Days

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

8
Sept

11
Sept

Education Sunday

11
Sept

21
Sept

UN International Day of Peace

www.un.org/en/events/peaceday

From Church House

The Provincial Board are delighted to announce that Sr Christine Emanuel of our Hornsey congregation has offered and been accepted for training for the non-stipendiary ministry. Sr Christine will commence her studies at Northern College this coming September. We wish her well and ask that you remember her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

A new Editorial Team has been appointed to the editorship of the Moravian Messenger: Lindsey Newens, Lorraine Parsons and Sarah Groves. If you have any articles, images, news, views or anything else you would like to submit, they would love to hear from you. You can contact them at: editorialteam@moravian.org.uk or at Church House.

We would like to thank Br Richard Ingham for all his Prayer Notes that he has submitted to the Messenger over the last few years, which have been appreciated by so many.

The Province is deeply saddened to hear of the death of Br. Katuma in a car accident while en route to Unity Synod. We would ask you to remember his family in your thoughts and prayers at this tragic time.

31st Aug - 1st Sept

PEC, BMB and Estates Property
- Church House

6th - 10th Sept

European Mission Conference
- Mirfield

13th - 14th Sept

PEC, BMB and Estates Property
- Church House

17th Sept

Mission and Society Committee
- Church House

28th Sept

World Mission Committee
- Church House

28th Sept

LAMM A.G.M. - Church House

Prayer Notes

For Heritage Open Days

God of our Forebears,

As we celebrate our heritage we thank you for the gift of our Church buildings which have moulded our tradition and nurtured our faith. These bricks and stones have absorbed the prayers of praise and intercession

offered to you across the generations.

At our wooden tables we have broken the bread and shared the wine, calling to mind the sacrifice of your Son

and looking for the foretaste of the heavenly feast

Our doors have formed the sacred arch,

through which infants have come to be baptised,

lovers have come to be exchange vows

and our beloved dead

have been born through to be commended to your loving care.

The sight of our buildings have been a lasting sign of faithfulness

and worship to the communities in which they stand.

Lord, as we share our buildings with others may these outward signs be pointers to faith for our visitors and reminders for us of the faith of those who have walked the way of faith before us.

Lord God

May the story of our past,

in history books and the pages of our archives

inspire us to trust you in the changing times in which we live.

May the faith of past generations

help us to see your hand in our lives

and give us courage to go forward into the future

May the remembrance of those we have known,

who were faithful to the end

give us strength to follow in Jesus' steps until we are led home.

New School Year

Lord God

Whose Son Jesus taught his disciples

We pray for our schools at the beginning of a new school year

For children taking their first steps in formal education

And the parents who are learning to let go at the school gates.

For children returning to new classes and teachers.

For children moving up to secondary school

With all the worries and hopes that brings.

For those moving into exam years

With the pressure of increasing study.

For those moving on to university and college

And the challenges and issues they will face.

Lord God

Whose Son Jesus, who as a child taught the teachers of the law in the temple

We pray for all who work in education.

May they be blessed as they pass on knowledge and wisdom.

May they retain a sense of wonder at the world in which they live.

May their eyes always be open to the needs of those in their classes.

And may they too learn from the children and young people they serve.

The Moravian Messenger

Official Journal of the Moravian Church in the British Province.
Published monthly by the authority of the Provincial Synod.

Advertisements and all communications concerning distribution and supply should be sent to the Editorial Team.

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Contributions for the Messenger should reach the editorial team by the 7th day of the preceeding month.

Design & Artwork
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