

Moravian messenger

DECEMBER 2016



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Christmas Greetings

and an insight into the work at Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center

History...

Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center (SMRC) in Palestine is an undertaking of the worldwide Moravian Church that enables people with intellectual disabilities to live dignified lives through the provision of rehabilitation, training services, inclusion, raising awareness and social mobilisation based on love, dignity, justice and equality.

Star Mountain is located in a village called Abu Qash, in Ramallah and Al-Bireh District, West Bank, Palestine, 25 km to the north of Jerusalem. The closest Palestinian city is Ramallah, 10 km to the south of Star Mountain. It was established in 1959 as a hospital for Leprosy, and kept providing its services until 1980. With the advancement of medicine, a cure for this disease was found and hence there was no longer a need for a Leprosy hospital. Following a number of meetings held by the Board of Directors, a decision was made in 1981 to transform this place from a hospital for Leprosy into a rehabilitation centre for people with intellectual disabilities. SMRC became a provider for rehabilitation services inside and outside the Center, in the local community, and now supports 186 people with intellectual disabilities. Qualified personnel of 36 employees carry out the specialised services required.

Programs...

There are currently four programs running at Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center:

• Inclusive Kindergarten

This provides rehabilitation and educational services to 15 children with intellectual disabilities from the age of 3 months to 6 years old. However, children without disabilities stay until they reach the age of 4 years old. It adopts the concept of inclusion which means children with and without disabilities can join the Kindergarten. It aims at developing their self-care, cognitive, physical, logic and language skills, as well as, art, nature and imagination.

• School Education & Autism Program

This provides rehabilitation and educational services to 30 children with intellectual disabilities and autism from the age of 6 until 14. It aims at developing their academic, cognitive, behavioural, language, independence, physical, social, economic, and rehabilitation skills, as well as, general safety and supportive skills (drawing and music) in order to become more independent and self-reliant.

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Editorial



Walking around Manchester the other day I was shocked by the number of people I saw sleeping rough in doorways and corners around the city centre. Sheets of cardboard laid in concrete slabs, feet sticking out of old sleeping bags, men and dogs hunkered down with begging bowls in the middle of the day in our northern powerhouse city.

I wondered about what that had brought them to this cold and lonely state. How did their journey through life work out, what twists and turns faced them and how would we have coped if we had been in their shoes. Of course journeys that end in desolation and hardship are often literal as well as allegorical.

Christian Aid report that 65 million people have been forced from their homes by violence and fear. As refugees within or outside their own countries they too have ended up in places they never anticipated and in situations of hardship and suffering. Christian Aid's Christmas appeal is called 'Searching for safety - Will you light the way?'

Suffering is suffering whether it is here in the United Kingdom or across the world. And the people who suffer are not a different species but the same as us. It is often said that many of us are only ever three pay cheques away from real hardship ourselves and addictions and failed relationships happen so easily. We think we are special somehow because of the peace and security of our own country. But things can change so quickly and over a short time hard won peace can be lost through a combination of national and international power politics over which we would have no control.

At Christmas we celebrate the coming of Jesus into our hurting world. He came not to the respectable but to an unmarried mother, born not in a comfortable bed but in the squalor of a stable because there was no house who would take the holy couple in. Within a short time of his birth he and his family fled the danger of Bethlehem and went as refugees to Egypt. In his incarnation, the Anointed one honoured the marginalized, homeless and refugees.

It is absolutely right that at Christmas we celebrate Christ coming to us to

enter our human experience and to reconcile us to God. As we celebrate we should remember the manner of his coming and use that as a prompt to give generously to all the worthy causes around us at Christmas, be it Christian Aid, Food Banks, Shelter and so on. However generosity is not the last word, we are called by our faith to challenge why wars happen, the inequality of world trade, and the difference in people's life opportunities and experiences.

Mary sang when she was told of God's plan about Jesus '(God) has routed the proud and all their schemes, he has brought down monarchs from their thrones, and raised on high the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away.' (Luke 1:51-52) This is the promise of Christmas, may we live it each day.

Sr Sarah Groves

There will be a short piece about the history of the Moravian Christingle in an episode of BBC1's 'Songs of Praise' to be aired on Sunday 4th December, which was filmed at Fulneck.

Letter

Dear Editors,
Reformation 1517?

What a fascinating idea that 20th May 2017 is the quincentenary of the Reformation.

The more I read about the Reformation the more I understand that it owed its existence to no single specific event, but was a gradual, step-by-step process. It all began with that redoubtable Yorkshireman John Wycliff (c1320-1384) and his followers the Lollards. Wycliff's ideas went viral around Europe, being the first serious challenge to the authority and practices of the Catholic Church. His ideas were taken up avidly by Jan Hus (c1369-1415) in Bohemia, by Martin Luther (1483-1546) in Germany, by Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531) in Switzerland, by William Tyndale (c1494-1536) in England, and Jean Calvin (1509-1564) in France, together with many other lesser known figures. Nonetheless Luther's ninety-five theses of 1517

became the theological framework by which the conformity of protestant bodies was judged.

In England there is the widespread idea that the Reformation was the result of Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy of 1534, even though he continued to regard himself as a good Catholic all his life, and the Church of England as we know it only took shape with the 1558 Act of Supremacy, the Act of Uniformity of 1559, and the Thirty Nine Articles of 1562.

It was never the intention of the early reformers to initiate separate churches: reform of the Catholic Church was their aim. Indeed, to take an extreme view, only the Church of England is the result of reformation as such. All other protestant bodies result from the acceptance of failure to reform the Catholic Church.

Br Ted Wilson

Moravians on tour

The Irish district of the Moravian Church have each summer for the last three years gone on tour to the recognised tourist seaside town of Portrush which is thirty miles from the nearest congregation. We select four Sunday evenings in the summer, hire a venue, find four different service leaders and have a relaxed Sunday service with some hymns, prayers and a homily. It is really informal and a lot of people attending either have summer homes in the area or just make a day trip out of it.

When the idea was first mooted, it was reckoned that a success would be an attendance of eleven, and that included two from each of the five congregations in the district and someone to take the service. The first summer averaged an attendance of 18, the second 20, and this year 21.

It's not a new work but rather a Moravian summer holiday fellowship and it has built its own traditions already, with always a cup of tea after the service and this year it became a must to attend the local ice cream shop before departing. The hired hall has great views of the sun setting over the cliffs of Donegal from one window and the flashing neon lights of the amusement park from the other. This means that the person taking the service has to be at the top of their game.

It received funding for the first year from the PEC but thereafter



Br Charles Costley, Sr Sarah Groves, © Sr Mandy Kernohan
Br Mark Kernohan and Br Livingstone Thompson.

it's been funded by the district. It is advertised in the local press bringing the Moravian name into a sphere where it was not known. We have had visitors who were not members, which is a side plus, but the main aim is fellowship during quiet church summer months.

It's an easy thing to do so if you think your district could do it get in touch - the format is a template for new work as well.

Br Mark Kernohan



Dormitory at Bishop Kisanji School for Girls, Tanzania

The MWA have been financing an additional dormitory at the Bishop Kisanji Girls School in Tanzania. They have contributed £4,000 over the past four years. This dormitory was opened recently and is an



improvement on the overcrowded accommodation that the girls had previously. It also means that the school can increase the number of girls being educated there. The pictures sent from Br Richard Lawali, a member of the Western Tanzanian Provincial Board show the completed dormitory and the girls enjoying their new living space which is probably more than most of them have at home. In fact this will probably be luxury to most of these girls.

Sr Gillian Taylor
Provincial Board

The work at Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center *continued*



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• Vocational Training Program

This provides rehabilitation, training and employment services to 41 people with intellectual disability from the age of 14 years until 40 years old. They are trained in several different vocational skills including farming, olive soap and candle production, paper-recycling, assembly of electric outlets, embroidery stitches, sewing and housekeeping.

• Community Work Program

This provides services to 100 people with intellectual disabilities in eleven villages and one refugee camp. It cooperates and coordinates with local institutions to raise their awareness on the rights of people with disability. The aim of this Program is to train people with intellectual disabilities in daily life skills to become self-reliant and independent, as well as, communication, language and employment skills.

Additionally, SMRC offers specialised services including physiotherapy, speech therapy, art and physical education, music, drama and psycho-social support/counselling for students and their mothers.

Challenges...

Financial deficit is the main challenge which prevents SMRC from sustaining its operations. We have constant fears that at one point one of our unique programs would be shut down due to lack of resources. Fund raising is getting more and more difficult in light of the difficult regional political crisis and lack of interest on the part of donor institutions in issues of disability.

For instance, the costs of the School Education Program and most of the costs of the Inclusive Kindergarten Program lack a fixed donor. They depend financially on SMRC's own revenues and the support of the World Wide Moravian Church. There is a constant need to find relatively sustainable donors to assure their continuity.

For the other two programs, the Vocational Training and the Community Work programs, we managed to secure funding for

the coming next three years. This was a big relief and gives us some space to breathe.

Link to our Brothers and Sisters...

Star Mountain is an important mission that the Moravian Church owns in Palestine. Despite the far distance between Star Mountain and other Moravian Provinces, we feel attached through the circulating periodic newsletter from different areas and visits of some friends every now and then. However, we like to be more in touch, and therefore we encourage our Moravian Sisters and Brothers to visit Star Mountain, to share their experiences and get to know our work. People are encouraged to come as volunteers, to help out in technical, administrative and rehabilitation matters.

Season's Greetings...

In light of the Advent Season and Christmas coming up soon, we like to convey our best wishes, and blessings, hoping that joy, good health and prosperity shines in each Moravian home. Here at Star Mountain we will start by celebrating the advent season on every Monday morning in December. Children and youth are encouraged to act, sing, play and participate in games related to the theme of Christmas. We have a good connection with the Lutheran priest in Ramallah, who comes to join us in these celebrations and to give his spiritual blessings.

During this holy season, Christmas Stollen, the Moravian Raisin Buns, Chocolate Santas and many more delights are circulated to all attending.

Fuad Samaanin,

Director Assistant of Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center / Moravian Church

From the Editorial Team:

If you would like to make a donation to help with the work of Star Mountain, you can make a card payment through Church House, or send a cheque payable to Moravian Union Inc. We can also claim Gift Aid on tax payers' donations.

Br Dick Porter reports from the Yorkshire District Conference at Lower Wyke

A church facing challenges locally yet expanding worldwide - this was the Moravian Church today, the conference heard.

Yorkshire is to lose a minister when the Rev James Woolford of Wellhouse and Lower Wyke, takes up duties in Hornsey, London in February, leaving the Rev Michael Newman as the only full-time minister.

The conference was asked what plans were being put in place for Yorkshire, with concerns that the loss would place an extra burden on retired ministers and lay preachers.

Br Bob Hopcroft, of the Provincial Board, described it as "a priority" and gave assurances that plans were in hand, with hopefully an outcome by the summer. He said he was deeply grateful for the lay preachers who helped to cover

services.

Br Simon Dunn suggested that with small congregations more sacramental services could be performed jointly and Br Hopcroft agreed that people needed to look at the challenges in different ways. Sr Libby Mitchell called for positive thinking.

Individual figures were reported for each congregation. Baildon has 36 members, Fulneck 86 and Gomersal 36. Horton's congregation remains at 39, Lower Wyke 41 and Wellhouse 15.

Br Hopcroft said it was important to see the whole picture and said the Moravian Church was growing globally, with 1.4 million members and eight Moravian congregations in Cuba alone.

Br Dunn, giving his report for the Yorkshire District Singers, said the choir could give "a shot in the arm" to services where

congregations were down in numbers. He urged all congregations to support district services, saying: "Much more can be done together than separately."

Youth secretary Sr Eleanor Hollindrake reported that summer camp at Tollymore Activity Centre in Northern Ireland had attracted 15 young people, of which only four were from Ireland. Ten young people flew from Manchester and one from Heathrow. She said that while the number was low, summer camp still formed a very important part of church life for those attending.

The conference endorsed positive feedback on the new colour presentation of the Moravian Messenger.

Delegates also sent their best wishes for the future to Br and Sr Woolford as they prepare to take up their new life - not just at Hornsey but as proud parents of their new daughter, Charlotte Grace.

Musings from the Midlands by Br Blair Kessler

I'm writing this on the morning of 9th November and I'm trying to get my head around two words that I never thought would ever be put next to each other, 'President Trump'.

The American voters have spoken and what they seem to have said is, 'We don't trust politicians, we'd rather have someone who has no experience of public office as our leader.' Of course, we've seen this in the UK with the result of our referendum earlier in the year. We, too, rejected the status quo and the advice of 'experts' and followed a populist and nationalistic line.

I wonder why we are seeing this change in our political landscape. There are many reasons, I guess, but one stands out for me. The reputation of politicians and politics is at an all-time low in our democracies. 'They are all the same' and 'they are only in it for themselves', are just two of the comments I have heard regularly over the past few years.

Of course, some of it is the fault of the politicians themselves, the expenses scandal comes immediately to mind, but we should remember that even that concerned a minority of our MPs. The majority are doing their job as best as they can.

I joined my political party in 1974 and, although never elected to my local council, I have served as local party chairman, regional chair and president, Chief agent for the Birmingham party and was a media spokesperson over many years. That experience gives me the authority to say that the overwhelming majority of politicians are in politics for the right reasons. They

want to change things for the better. I may not agree with their priorities and policies but I rarely doubt their integrity. There are exceptions but they are just that, exceptions.

The other reason for the low esteem we seem to have for politics is the attitude of our press who seem to delight in doing down our elected representatives. Whilst I believe in a free press, the majority of the popular papers today peddle an intolerant and divisive message which appeals to the fears and intolerance in our society.

So what do we, as Christians, do about it? Firstly, we must accept that it is our problem. If we believe that it is our call to establish Christ's kingdom on earth then we have to understand that one way of doing that is through politics. At the very basest level we have a duty to vote but if you can I would suggest a greater involvement than that.

Have you thought of joining the political party that you feel closest to? Once you are a member you can help effect change from the inside. Member or not you should keep in touch with your local MP and councillors. You can't grumble that they don't do what you want them to do if you never communicate your wishes to them. Don't join the populist bandwagon. Stand your ground for what you believe in.

Somehow this morning the world seems a darker, more worrying place. But we have the assurance of our faith to support us through dark times. The darkness will never extinguish the light, but we have our responsibility to keep the light burning.



Developing Heart Theology through 'Banden' today

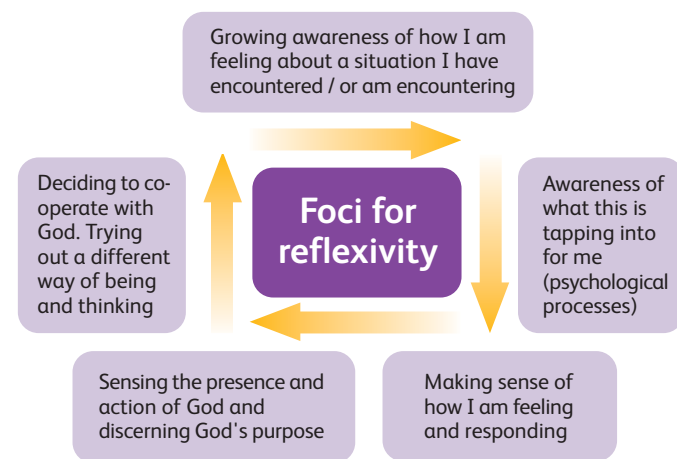
By Br Peter M. Gubi

In article one of this series, I explored my sense of what Heart Theology consists of. Article two explored the historic use of Banden in the early Moravian Church as a means of developing Heart Theology within community. In this article, the last in the series, I examine what such spiritually reflexive groups (or Banden) might look like in our Moravian Church today? Graf¹ suggests that the content and reflexivity of Banden should be based on the following questions:

- 'How do you know God? How has God worked in your life up to this point?
- How do you feel about your current relationship with God?
- Where did God work in your life this week/month? Where is God leading you?
- What obstacles this week/month hampered your relationship with God?
- What will you do to handle these obstacles and draw closer to God this week/month?'

In my own research^{2,3}, I propose the following focus for reflexivity (see Figure 1) for use in spiritually reflexive groups, which are defined as 'non-directive, closed groups that aim to offer opportunities for reflection on interactions and processes in which reflexivity can take place at a psychological, relational and spiritual (theological) level'⁴ - i.e. Banden:

Figure 1: Foci for reflexivity



These foci for reflexivity enable a fairly systematic, yet fluid, approach for the development of reflexivity within the Banden context, and include the psychological and the spiritual/ theological. Recommendations for instigating spiritually reflexive groups (or Banden) are:

- That the Group is not structured in its content (i.e. it is non-directive, but focussed on psychological and spiritual process, holding the foci for reflection with attention). The content emerges from what is 'around' for the group participants;
- Groups should consist of between six and ten participants who negotiate an agreement (covenant or contract) consisting of confidentiality and practicalities (time, place, frequency, cost);
- The Group should meet weekly, or monthly, for at least one and a half hours (preferably two hours);

- The Group should be facilitated (preferably) by an external facilitator who is trained in group facilitation and group process, and who is able to facilitate at a spiritual- and psychological-process level;
- The facilitator keeps the group focussed on the internal reflexivity task, and the sharing within the group of that, embodying and exemplifying a quality of servanthood, service and hospitality. The time is not to be divided equally between participants, nor does everyone have to speak. However, a good facilitator will 'notice' and 'invite' non-contributors as appropriate;
- Participants, too, will be encouraged to listen deeply, share appropriately and facilitate each other with the foci for reflexivity in mind;
- Facilitators mindfully hold awareness of the aspects that may limit a group and do what they can to overcome them where possible;
- Because there is always the potential for the process to become unhelpful, facilitators should be in pastoral supervision if at all possible;
- Facilitators will also need to be able to facilitate fluidly in ways that move relatively easily between the spiritual (theological) and the psychological.

Graf¹ proposes that, should Banden be adopted again, the consequences would be that:

- The individual will develop his or her spiritual relationship with Christ;
- The individual will deepen fellowship with his or her peers;
- Active lay leadership will allow the minister more time for creative ministry and vision;
- The entire congregation will be reinvigorated by small groups of highly motivated Christians.

My research^{5,6} has demonstrated the positive effect of such groups in countering isolation, offering support, and furthering spiritual growth. It seems an interesting paradox that in growing our congregations for the future, there is merit in looking to the past. However, as in Heart Theology, this method is focussed primarily on developing a more meaningful relationship with Christ. Any other consequence can only be a blessing.

Revd Professor Peter M. Gubi is the minister of Dukinfield Moravian Church and Professor of Counselling and Spiritual Accompaniment at the University of Chester. Br Gubi has researched and published extensively in the areas around Counselling and Spirituality.

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A European Mission Conference in Mirfield

In early September, Br Paul Greenhough and I were privileged to attend the European Mission Conference, held this year at the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield. We went as observers and as representatives of the Provincial World Mission Board.

My conference began at Leeds/Bradford Airport where I was meeting and greeting three brothers who had flown in from Holland. Brs Aart Schalkwijk and Age Kramer represent the Dutch Mission Board (ZZg) and Br Johannes Klemm the Swiss Mission 21. On arrival at the Community of the Resurrection, which is a theological college and monastery as well as a conference centre, we met up with the other delegates: Sr Judy Ganz (American Mission Board), Sr Minna Serholt (a representative from Sweden), Br Jens Peter Rejkjaer (Danish Mission Board - BDM), Sr Bettina Nasgowitz and Br Raimund Hertzsch (German Mission Board - HMH) and representatives from our own Mission Board, Sr Gillian Taylor and Br Robert Hopcroft.



© Br Robert Hopcroft

During the Conference topics such as 'Cooperation and Communication between Mission Boards', 'Mission Partnerships', 'Volunteer Programmes' and 'Star Mountain' were discussed and ideas were enthusiastically shared. (Being unilingual myself, I was astounded at the level of English spoken by the delegates, many of whom could speak four or five languages fluently.) From the discussions many positive decisions were made including (i) the setting up of a 'Platform' on the Internet, which can be used by the different mission agencies to post information,

(ii) supporting each other's Mission Projects where appropriate, (iii) using the expertise of the Danish Mission Board's Volunteer Programme to train and prepare volunteers being sent to different Mission Areas and (iv) inviting all congregation members to use Star Mountain's excellent guest facilities to view the work being

done or to use as a base for trips to the Holy Land.

Several of the conference delegates are also Unity Board Members so it was interesting to hear of global Moravian activities and topics relating to the wider Moravian Church. It was also good to share British Moravian history with our new-found friends who were then treated to an afternoon at Fulneck, Lower Wyke and Gomersal.

I very much appreciated the open and frank discussions which took place and felt that the aim of promoting better communication between mission agencies had been secured. It is always a pleasure to meet Moravians from other countries as it makes one feel less of an 'endangered species', the numbers of British Moravians being so small. It was also important for me to realise that 'Mission' is not something that someone does abroad but that it is a vital part of our work here in the UK and that it involves everyone.

The next European Mission Conference is to take place at Star Mountain in Palestine next year. Please remember the work of the Mission Agencies in your prayers as the work they oversee can be very challenging and the need greater than the monies available.

Sr Maureen Colbert

Heritage Day around the Province



Fairfield

We opened our doors to our first visitors at 11am on Saturday 10th. By mid-afternoon it seemed quieter than previous years. It would seem that this may have been erroneous and that with retrospect our visitors this year were more of a steady stream rather than the ebbs and flows of the past years. Exact numbers are uncertain as many visitors do not sign the visitors' book, however we estimate over 200 visited over the weekend.

This year for the first time we had an exhibition of John Bateman La Trobe which was very well received. Some of the written comments were:

- Proud to be local**
- Beautiful area**
- Really Interesting**
- Really brilliant and enjoyable time, lots of knowledge gained**
- Lovely food and all very interesting**

These comments together with the questions and comments we get throughout the weekend make the hard work worthwhile, especially the occasional promise of further visits to church services.

The Square looked particularly good as a lot of residents had put out hanging baskets and flower tubs and Unitas Estates had done some clearing up the week before. The weekend is

Ballinderry

A record number of visitors came to the Church on Heritage Open Day on Saturday September 10th and enjoyed a warm welcome from members of the congregation. They were impressed by the extensive display on the history, not only of the Moravian Church in Ballinderry but that of the Irish District and beyond. It was a wonderful display of our heritage and witness over the years put together by Sr Best. We had visitors from many different areas and their comments really made it



© Sr Marjery Sutcliffe

free to all, but like many other sites we sell refreshments and of course some give donations in recognition of their enjoyment of the guided tours or simply as acknowledgment of the expense of the upkeep of such a heritage site; money raised was £1,492.60, an increase on last year.

All in all, another successful weekend, and a pleasure to get the opportunity to meet new people and share our tranquil surroundings in the middle of an urban area.

Sr Margery Sutcliffe
Fairfield Correspondent

worthwhile. They ranged from 'outstanding' to 'a wonderful witness' and one repeated comment was on the warm welcome they had received. A misprint in the official brochure that we were having a 'Norman' display of articles was thankfully unregarded! Once again, a big thankyou to all who helped in any way.

Sr Marilyn Marshall and Br Henry Wilson
Ballinderry Correspondents

Fulneck

Saturday, 10th September dawned with fine weather for what promised to be an excellent and fulfilling Heritage Open Day. Large numbers attended throughout the day enjoying the displays and activities. It was busy from 10am to 4pm. Bunting adorned the street and church members wore traditional Moravian costume and 18th century dress.

This year's theme was the crafts and industries which sustained Fulneck from the earliest days to more recently. Twelve separate areas of the church, looked at in order gave a historical insight into the developing story, beginning with wool, from sheep to cloth, and ending with the Sisters' embroidery and Dresden Lace production. The theme was augmented by items from the church archives displayed in the vestry. Also there were demonstrations of spinning in the church and hand loom weaving in the museum which caught the interest of many visitors.



Church members impersonated characters from Fulneck's past giving talks at intervals during the day. In this way Sr Rosina Anderson, Br William Bramley, Sr Lilian Norton and grandson Br Richard Ingham brought to life the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Tours of the settlement took place each hour. Children enjoyed hunting for the 'lost' horses in the church as well as weaving, colouring and designing initials.

Many people visited the museum and the gift stall outside did a roaring trade. Refreshments were provided all day in the Boys' Brigade building. It was indeed a splendid day!

Br David Ingham
Fulneck Correspondent

© Sr Maureen Ingham



Gomersal

Heritage Open Day at Gomersal was attended by well over 100 visitors. This year the theme was based around our links to the Brontë family. A vintage bus ferried visitors around the three local attractions of Oakwell Hall, Red House Museum and our Church, all of which have strong Brontë connections.

Displays of our history included a model of the Church, originally built in 1955 by members for the bi-centenary of our Church. Information boards detailing our links to the Brontë's and the role of Gomersal in the First World War added lots of local interest.



© Br Michael Newman

Visitors also enjoyed refreshments, children's activities and wonderful organ music, played by Br Simon Dunn.

Sr Norma Machell
Gomersal Correspondent

Exhibition at Bath (Weston)

From the 19th-25th October there was an exhibition in our church to raise awareness and funding for refugees. This was all set up by a local artist Penny Faux whose paintings were displayed around a perimeter fence with a short story of their plight by the side. The paintings were incredibly detailed and moving, it certainly made you think how lucky we are to live in a country where we have peace, running water, sanitation and all the other 'luxuries' most of us have. We may not think of them as 'luxuries' but to many, they certainly are!

Sr Carole Young

Bath (Weston)



© Sr Carole Young

Our congregation hosted a 90th birthday party for the Queen in June which was for the Weston Village Community and was sponsored by the More to Life Team. There was face painting (for all ages), community singing in the church, which was really enjoyed by the older folk, a bouncy castle and of course a cream tea and lots more for the children. We even had the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. One of our ladies made a birthday cake, which was cut up and shared out. Luckily it was a lovely sunny afternoon, so all the outside grounds were in full use, it was a lovely occasion.

The Western District Rally was hosted by us on Sunday 21st August. We were joined by friends from most of the other churches in the district, and the service was led by Br Paul Holdsworth. Br Paul spoke a little

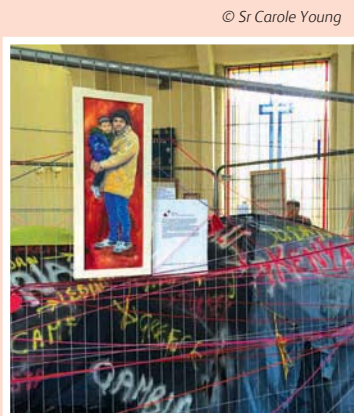
about the Tower of Babel from Genesis and how different languages divided the world up, also the different languages of the Moravian Unity. Sr Patsy Holdsworth, who had only just arrived back from Unity Synod at Montego Bay in Jamaica, was very tired but she gave us a lovely talk about her experiences at Unity Synod, plus she shared a song about the Holy Spirit that had been popular there. During the service we bid farewell to Br Peter Gubi who was moving from Tytherton up to Chester to live with his son. Sr Brenda from Coronation Avenue Church played the organ for us which made the singing extra special, as normally we use a CD system. After the service we all moved into the hall for afternoon tea, sandwiches, scones and cakes, very enjoyable! The retiring collection made £160 which was donated to Star Mountain and the Carol Holdsworth Memorial Trust.

It had been many years since we had a Harvest Supper, so on Saturday 24th September we put on a three course meal and were joined by friends from the Weston Methodist Church, who we

alternate with once a month. Br Paul Holdsworth arranged the entertainment, which of course had lots of singing (including a choir), poems and jokes from Br Paul and Sr Patsy, (Sr Patsy got the most laughs). After an enjoyable evening, filled to the brim with great food, everyone went home happy. The following day was our Harvest Festival, led by our minister Br Paul Holdsworth which included Holy Communion. The church was decorated with fruit and veg plus a harvest loaf and it was good to sing the harvest hymns once again, to remind us of how lucky we are to be able to enjoy all these gifts grown from the land. This year 'WaterAid' was our project for Harvest, everyone was given a bottle of water to drink, then we had a few weeks to try and fill the bottle. The amount collected was £270 which included money from the Harvest Supper.

In November we are going to hold an Autumn Fair for church funds, so hoping it will be well attended. Then we will be looking forward to Christmas.

Sr Carole Young
Bath Correspondent



© Sr Carole Young



Gracehill

June 2016 saw the end of 21 years of service to Gracehill Primary School for the Principal Mr Lexi Scott. Mr Scott had served under the ministry of Br Victor Launder, Sr Gloria David, Sr Jan Mullin and our present minister Sr Sarah Groves. There has always been a very close relationship between the Church and the School, and taking School Assemblies became a regular and hugely important part of this. This close relationship led to our Summer Fair being held in the School grounds and this has proved to be a very popular venue. In recognition of all Mr Scott's work and support, the church presented him with a specially commissioned painting of the Church and the Old School at Morning Service.

Once again June provided just the suitably pleasant weather we hoped for our Summer Fair. The School Grounds were awash with colourful streamers, striped stalls, dancers, music and crowds of people from far and near, all thoroughly enjoying the barbeque, cakes, teas, games and entertainment. Between the advertising booklet and the day, £10,806.85 was raised for the building fund. Br Raymond Kitson and his band did it again!

June is always a wonderful month for Gracehill. This year our Children's Day Service on 12th was such a happy service of Praise. These young people



Lexi Scott receiving his presentation after retiring as Gracehill Principal.

© Br Jim Mewa

demonstrated talents such as music, poetry, dance, instrumental pieces and song and used these to such wonderful effect in their worship.

The annual Holiday Bible Club took place in August and, for a very special week, the

sounds of children enjoying playing and learning could be heard around the Square and the halls as we went on an Expedition with Jesus. Srs Rachel and Carolyn Hamilton planned and prepared the content and trained the enthusiastic and creative team of leaders meticulously. Each day saw a different stage in the mountaineering story and included an age related craft activity based on the senses. At the end of each day these were pinned to five large wooden crosses which were on display at Morning Service led by Sr Roberta Thompson.

There is great excitement at the end of August as people from near and far look forward to 'The Great Gracehill Auction'. Br Billy Kitson and his team sort and catalogue hundreds of items in readiness for this much anticipated event and on the evening of the auction the hall is packed with people eagerly bidding against one another for a bargain. Billy's expertise as an auctioneer keeps the night flowing and the crack going! This year the total reached almost £2,500 which goes to the Building Fund.

Sr Roberta Gray

Horton

On May 15th we welcomed Sr Diane Thornton as guest preacher for our Sisters' Festival followed by a lunch for all the sisters in church.

In June we celebrated our annual 'Gift Day' where we had over £4,000 donated from the various groups and through individual giving going towards the continuing work here in West Yorkshire.

The Tuesday afternoon ladies group enjoyed a trip to a local park where there is tea and ice creams, train rides and for those who are fit and energetic a boat can be hired to row around the lake.

Sr Maureen Colbert led a Cafe Church service in June where Father's Day was the topic and every man received a present.

In July we observed Prayer Watch and also in July some members attended an open forum at Saltaire United Reformed Church.

On a sad note in August we said goodbye to one of our dearly loved members Sr Rose Nuttall who was 93. Sr Lorraine led a lovely service to celebrate Rose's life.

At our Harvest Festival on 25th September we were pleased to welcome Br Robert Hopcroft as our guest preacher. The Harvest produce was donated to the Bradford Food Bank which is in constant demand. Horton supports the food bank with monthly donations.

Br Jim Spencer
Horton Correspondent

Ballinderry

Visitors, friends and the congregation joined together to celebrate the Harvest at our annual service. As usual the church was beautifully decorated but as a change to the usual format we requested that people could also contribute tinned goods and other non-perishable foodstuff and this was in turn donated to local foodbanks. In effect, it was a Harvest Thanksgiving for all the produce in the world, the food we are actually blessed with today. The response was tremendous and the next day a car was completely filled with donated produce. We also took a special collection for 'Aquabox' which raised over £200. It may be a good idea to continue this harvest work in the future under the title 'Fill a Car' as this is what we achieved. Thanks to all the congregation and friends who so generously gave donations.

Sr Marilyn Marshall and Br Henry Wilson
Ballinderry Correspondents



© Sr Carole Young



The craft stall at Baildon Autumn market.

© Sr Elizabeth Simpson

Baildon

The craft club at Baildon continue to produce items to raise funds for the church and other worthy causes.

Congregational Register

Baptisms

1st May 2016	Ann Darcy Yates	Bath Weston
17th July 2016	Josie Anderson	Bath Weston
11th September 2016	Oscar Stephens	Gracehill
27th September 2016	Finley Jack Tipping	Fairfield
2nd October 2016	Jack Louis Vincent Doherty	Bath Weston
2nd October 2016	James George Victor Doherty	Bath Weston
2nd October 2016	Luke Thomas Clutterbuck	Fairfield
23rd October 2016	Jack William Bobby McDonald	Gracehill

Marriages

3rd September 2016	Karl Mark Barrett & Lisa Marie Hall	Fairfield
8th October 2016	David Anthony Adams & Catherine Stephanie Yates	Fairfield
23rd October 2016	Matthew Lomax & Bryony Smallman	Ockbrook

Deaths

17th August 2016	Jacqueline Davidson	Fairfield
25th August 2016	Ada Dobson	Fairfield
27th August 2016	Jean Bintley	Salem
6th September 2016	Ann Baguley	Fairfield
7th October 2016	Lorna Conroy	Ballinderry

In the November edition under 'Notices' the contact telephone number for the ordering of knitted Moravian Lady Chapel Servants was given as 02274 583757 and it should be 01274 583757.

Call for Papers

'My Heart Strangely Warmed'

A Conference by the Lutheran, Moravian and Methodist Churches commemorating the 500th Anniversary of Luther's 95 Theses and Considering the Place of Hymnody in the Life of the Church

Saturday 20 May 2017

The Moravian Church and Fulneck School, Fulneck, Pudsey, West Yorkshire, LS28 8NT

Papers are invited for this conference, which will be part of a larger day event shared between the Lutheran, Moravian and Methodist Churches that commemorates the events of 1517 and the birth of the Reformation. The subject area is hymnody in the life of the Church. This is interpreted broadly.

Length of paper: 30 minutes
Abstract: 200 words

Deadline for abstract is 31st January 2017

Please send your abstract to David Harmer: harmerd@methodistchurch.org.uk

Dates to remember

World Aids Day
www.worldaidsday.org

1
Dec

10
Dec Human
Rights Day

www.ohchr.org/EN/ABOUTUS/Pages/HumanRightsDay.aspx

International
Migrants Day

18
Dec

www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday

25
Dec

Christmas Day

25
Dec

1
Jan

Hanukkah
- Jewish

New Year's Eve /
Watchnight

31
Dec

From Church House

Church House will be closed on 22nd December and reopens on Tuesday 3rd January, 2017.

From 6th December **Br David Howarth's** new address will be: 39 Mariner Way, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 9DF.

Provincial Diary for December

19-20 PEC, BMB and Estates Property meeting, Church House
PEC

Prayer Notes

Verse by Paul Gerhardt translated by AT Russell

*How shall I receive thee,
How greet thee, Lord, aright?
All nations long to see thee,
My hope, my heart's delight*

O Lord, I long to see you with my own eye, I long for all people to see you as the hope of the world and the bringer of peace and justice. You are the hope of my life and the apple of my eye.

*O kindle, Lord, most holy,
Thy lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please thee best.*

Lord help me to serve you as you deserve. Light the lamp of your spirit in my heart so others may see you in me. May my preparations for Christmas and my words and deeds will please you.

*O love beyond all telling,
That led thee to embrace,
In love all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.*

In recognition of our own sin we turn to you O Lord, the sin that sours our personal relationships, that breaks families and ruins lives. In recognition of the sin that we share we turn to you O Lord, the sin that keeps the poor oppressed, that enables the powerful to prosper, that feeds the machine of war and allows environmental degradation. We are a lost and fallen race and yet you still love us with a love that is beyond telling.

*Love caused thy incarnation,
Love brought thee down to me;
Thy thirst for my salvation
Hath brought my liberty.*

O Lord, in your love you sent Jesus to enter our world of limitations and to live a sin free human life for us. You reached down to us to lift us and set us free and restore us as your children.

*Rejoice, then, ye sad hearted,
Who sit in deepest gloom,....
He who alone can cheer you
Is standing at the door;....*

Lord, help us to rejoice this Christmas, not in the cards, parcels and food but in the knowledge that Jesus is for us and with us. May our faith and hope point others to you and your love for us. May the struggling hear the song of the angels and open the door of their hearts to Jesus this Christmastide. Amen



Enquirers'
Day

**DO YOU SENSE
GOD IS CALLING
YOU TO ORDAINED
MINISTRY?**

This is a big question and one that the Provincial Board would encourage anyone to explore.

So, if your answer to the above question is **YES**, or even if you are unsure or would like to know more, why not come along to the **ENQUIRERS' DAY**.

To register an interest, or to know more, please speak to either your minister or Br David Howarth (email: david.howarth@moravian.org.uk).

The closing date for next year's day is 7th January 2017. The programme and venue will reflect those attending.

Saturday
21st January
2017

The Moravian Messenger

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editorialteam@moravian.org.uk

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