



The Work Continues at Sikonge Leprosarium

When Sr Lindsey Newens suggested I write an article about the work undertaken at Sikonge Leprosarium, I was very happy to accept. Over the years we have received many donations from congregations and from individual brothers and sisters in the UK; this is a wonderful opportunity to explain what we are doing.

Let us start with the wards of the leprosarium. Established in 1955 - in line with the thinking of that time - the facilities are located a 15 minute walk from the main Sikonge Hospital, west of Sikonge Hill.

We continue to diagnose a fair number of new leprosy cases, either here or at the main hospital. In recent years most of them are coming from other districts, and typically they have already been to one or more local health facilities, where the correct diagnosis has been missed. Unfortunately delayed diagnosis often leads to deformities.

If there are no complications, new cases are not admitted, but these people will take their medicines at home. They do, however, get a thorough examination, including testing the nerve function of hands and feet; they get equally thorough health education about the disease and how to care for affected limbs or eyes. They are also supplied with suitable protective footwear, if required.

Complications do occur, not infrequently, in both new and old cases. It may be ulcers or nerve damage, which can lead to muscle weakness, paralysis or loss of sensation in hands and feet. Recent nerve damage can often be reduced through treatment with steroids for a number of months. There are other complications, and often admission is needed. Some ulcers

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Creative Minorities

New Year is a thought provoking time with reviews of the past year and looking ahead to what may lie in front of us in the coming year. Turmoil in politics, uncertainty in the money markets and armed conflict in many places seem to be a given and create a sense of helplessness in even the most confident and optimistic person. Further as Christians we see a future where traditional expressions of our faith seem to be undervalued. As Moravian Christians, we recognize too that we are one of the smallest of the main stream denominations in the United Kingdom and we wonder what the future holds for us.

Given all of that it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the challenges that face us on the world and national stage. It would be too easy to give up and go home. However, that is never an option for Christians or particularly for us as Moravians given our history of holding to the faith as a minority in the most difficult of times. We cannot change the world but we can change ourselves and situations around us.

The first step is to recognize that we are a minority and not bemoan that fact but work with it. In September 2009, on his way to the Czech Republic, a highly-secularized society, Pope Benedict said 'I would say that normally it is the creative minorities that determine the future, and in this sense the Catholic Church must

understand itself as a creative minority that has a heritage of values that are not things of the past, but a very living and relevant reality. The Church must actualize, be present in the public debate, in our struggle for a true concept of liberty and peace.'

The same could be said of the Moravian Church. We have a heritage that is not just of the past but is a living and relevant reality. We must be present in the public sphere and work for liberty, peace, charity and justice. We may not be able to do the things that we did in the past but there are new ways of working and sharing ideas. We may not be the biggest church in any given area but what if we took every opportunity going to say who we are and to engage ecumenically. What if we started thinking creatively about who we are and where we put our efforts. A small Church of creative engaged Christians could make a huge difference in a local area, in dialogue about our faith, in the arts, in civic engagement, in interfaith work and in so many other areas.

So many Moravians are creatively engaged already, and some of our Churches are creative to their very core. Let's make this a year when all of our Churches act positively and creatively in worship, prayer, Bible Study and in engagement with the world around us.

With all good wishes for the New Year.

Sr Sarah Groves



Letter

Dear Editor,

May I pass greetings to all readers from the Provincial Men's Fellowship Committee and also pass on an important date.

The venue and date for the

Men's Fellowship Rally in 2017

has been finalised. Please note the below date in your Church calendar and personal diaries:

Saturday 24th June 2017

- Kingswood Moravian Church from 12.30 p.m.

Details will follow in the New Year.

Every blessing.

Br Edwin Quildan

On behalf of the Provincial Men's Fellowship Committee.

Dovedale House,
near Ashbourne,
Derbyshire

**Saturday 5th August
- Friday 11th August**

More details to follow. Look at the house on <http://www.dovedalehouse.org/>

Dovedale House is a residential centre located in Ilam in the Peak District, catering for school groups, youth groups, students and parish groups.

Summer Camp 2017



BBC Songs of Praise at Fulneck

Whilst at a Provincial Board meeting at Church House in November, I was called to the telephone where one of the producers for Songs of Praise asked whether I would be willing to do a short piece for the programme telling the Moravian origins of the Christingle. I was impressed by the fact that the producer had discovered that it wasn't the Children's Society who had come up with the idea 60 years ago but the Moravians over 200 years ago.

I was informed that the piece would only be three minutes long and would probably take about two hours to record and would have to be done within the next week. As discussions continued it was decided that Fulneck would be a good venue and that it would be good to use some of the children from Fulneck School.



Having spoken to the School Principal to get her support and permission and also Br Michael Newman, minister at Fulneck, who was happy for me to do the recording I contacted the BBC and informed them that we were good to go ahead and awaited further instructions.

Cometh the day, cometh the hour at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday November 23rd. the BBC team arrived at Fulneck comprising of Nick the cameraman, Sophie the sound lady and runner and Rev Kate Bottley, whom some of you will know from 'Gogglebox' as the presenter.

Years 5 and 6 were put at our disposal for the day and the staff were all there for support.

After a general get to know each other session the team set off

for the classroom where the children were all set to construct the Christingles under the instruction of Mrs Atkins whilst answering questions about the elements of the Christingles from Rev Kate. I wasn't in the session but was placed on hold.

By lunchtime this part was finished and we then processed to the Church with Christingles in hand where, at the last minute, I had been asked to do a 20 minute service! We sang the first verse and chorus of 'Morning Star' 15 times, not because we were so bad but because Nick had asked us to sing until he got all the right shots. He was so taken up by the singing he forgot to tell us to stop.

Candles were lit and we sang as the children held up their christingles, and although it was still light outside it was still magical.

Finally at 2.00 p.m. I was interviewed by Rev Kate Bottley about the history of the Christingle, which seemed to go well. After six hours of being together Nick said he had about 70 minutes recorded which would be cut down to three minutes for the programme. So don't hold your breath as it won't be a feature length documentary but hopefully will remind people that the Christingle is something that the Moravian Church is glad to give to the wider Christian world as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Br Bob Hopcroft



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Three Aspects of Moravianism

The Moravian Church, like all denominations, changes over time. Different aspects come to the fore at different periods reflecting, for the most part, changes in society. At the same time the thread which links the Church to its past continues to inform and influence the present.

The following aspects of today's Moravian Church find their origin in the 18th century renewal under Zinzendorf and, although not explored in this article, may also be found among the beliefs of the old Czech Brethren.

Ecumenism

Moravians describe themselves as ecumenical, that is to say they seek co-operation and understanding with other denominations.

Witness to this in the modern Church are:

- o membership of the World Council of Churches since its founding in 1948;
- o membership of Churches Together;
- o the sharing of premises with other churches (notably the United Reformed Church in the UK), and
- o invitations to ministers or members of other denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church, to preach to Moravian congregations.

Zinzendorf had not intended to establish a separate denomination. The Moravians were to be a Church within a Church, a group of Christians enthused by their love of Christ to gather together from the various denominations and, after study and worship, to return to their own churches to fill them with new life. Indeed, Zinzendorf believed that separate denominations were intended by God. Each had its own contribution to make, enabling people of different personality and need to find what suited them. He was censured for not acknowledging the Pope to be the Anti-Christ. 'If,' he said, 'the Church of Rome has deviated from the letter of the Gospel so have some Protestants'.

The Christian Church, he believed, rose above the visible denominations but all were united in this one invisible Church through the love of Jesus Christ. It is worth remembering that the events of 13th August 1727, which have entered into the Moravian calendar, were at heart about the reconciliation, fellowship and understanding of the various Christian groups with their differing beliefs who had moved to seek refuge from persecution on Zinzendorf's estate.

This tolerant ecumenism is a strength of the Moravian Church and yet a weakness in that a Church which has such an impressive history and influence remains small because it has not sought to proselytize other denominations.

Biblical and doctrinal tolerance

It seems to me that there is a clear link between the Moravians' acceptance of

other denominations and their own approach to religious truths. 'The Ground of Unity' is the official doctrinal statement of the Moravian Church. It is an attempt to provide a common ground of belief among a world-wide Moravian Church with different ways of understanding the Bible and Christian living. Such differences arise for cultural or historical reasons. While, for the Moravians, the Bible remains, in the words of 'The Ground of the Unity', 'the sole standard of the doctrine and faith ... and therefore shapes our life' a glance at the history of the Christian Church shows that there never has been and never can be one interpretation. So the Moravian Church has not chosen to draw out of the Bible a set of doctrinal propositions that all must subscribe to. 'Just as the Holy Scripture,' 'The Ground of the Unity' states, 'does not contain any doctrinal system, so the Unitas Fratrum has not developed any of its own because it knows that the mystery of Jesus Christ cannot be comprehended completely by any human mind or expressed completely in any human statement'. While the Moravian Church accepts the creeds as 'the thankful acclaim of the Body of Christ (i.e. the Church)', it nonetheless considers that all the creeds 'stand in need of constant testing in the light of the Holy Scripture'.

This generous approach to individual understanding can be traced back to Zinzendorf, for linked with his view of ecumenism was his dislike of theological niceties. 'We do not have', he said, 'our own Moravian doctrines'. He believed that those who considered theological distinctions important were lacking the love of Christ in their hearts for love transcended doctrine. God, he thought, works in a way that is relevant to each age. Each age has its own theology and each person in each period has the faith which is right for him or her.

This approach did not, unfortunately, long survive Zinzendorf's death in 1760 and the church grew increasingly conservative during the 19th century.

A challenge to this conservatism arose in Germany in the second half of the 19th century when professors at the Moravian seminary at Gnadenfeld were found to have modernist views quite contrary to the beliefs of the bulk of Church members. This applied both to their theological beliefs and their approach to understanding the Bible. Their theology was much influenced by Albrecht Ritschl who interpreted Christianity in a practical way that reduced the miraculous element. So, for example, Jesus was divine because he was the perfect revealer of God and the love of God which Christ showed us by his death reconciled us with God. This understanding of the atonement was a world away from the view that Jesus died as a substitute for sinful man which was the accepted Moravian view.

Initially three professors were dismissed

but the attempt to impose doctrinal views failed as did an attempt to dictate how Scripture should be interpreted. The 1908 Synod eventually agreed after much argument, and to the horror, it should be added, of all conservative denominations in Germany, that professors at Gnadenfeld could have liberty in what they taught and thought on one condition, that they acknowledged Christ as their Saviour. This liberty regarding doctrinal and Biblical interpretation remains within the Church and fits comfortably with the Moravian axiom that unity is only required in essentials: for example sinful man's reconciliation with God achieved through Christ is a given but no one understanding of how this is achieved is insisted upon.

It is probably true to say that for Moravians the practical aspects of Christianity - how we live our lives: love of God and our neighbour - (orthopraxy) are more important than 'correct doctrine' (orthodoxy).

Happiness

Zinzendorf laid much stress on happiness. His observation that the Moravian looks at his redemption before his sin rather than the other way around (and does not 'wallow in sin') are often quoted. 'We are', he said, 'the Saviour's happy people'. The guidance 'Instructions for the members of the Unitas Fratrum who Minister in the Gospel among the Heathen', published in 1784, tells us that, 'Whoever desires to be a messenger of peace to the heathen, and magnify the grace of God in Christ unto them; his very countenance must bespeak the happiness of his heart...if he cannot rejoice in God our Saviour, he will prove a wretched messenger of peace'.

Some consider that it is this cheerfulness, often in the face of adversity, which kept up the spirits of Moravian missionaries on their long and arduous journeys, certain that they were safe in God's hands.

Threats of hellfire have played little part in Moravian preaching and evangelisation with the emphasis on salvation and its concomitant joys. Zinzendorf's message to missions was, 'Tell them about the Lamb of God till you can tell them no more'. It is interesting to note that the above instructions to missionaries do not contain the word 'hell' at all, although the word 'happiness' appears several times.

This has been very much a personal selection of what is attractive about the Moravian Church. An interesting start in exploring what is particular to Moravianism is Bishop Shawe's 'The Spirit of the Moravian Church' which is available on the internet at <http://moravianarchives.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Spirit-of-Moravian-Church.pdf>

Adrian Wilsdon

Volunteer worker in the Moravian Archive in Church House

The Work Continues at Sikonge Leprosarium *continued*

affect bones, and whenever required we undertake surgical procedures. Fortunately amputations bigger than a toe or a finger are rare nowadays.

Unlike at the main hospital, admission and treatment is free of charge at the leprosarium, and patients get free meals.

Today we are the only place in a huge area where leprosy expertise is preserved and available at all times; we are therefore a de facto referral centre.

Although patients are not frequently sent through official channels, they often refer themselves, as the name of Sikonge is still widely known. Knowledge about leprosy and its treatment is minimal or non-existent among general medical personnel in the country. The World Health Organisation made a countrywide survey a few years ago and was extremely disappointed and dismayed; they found that even among the district and regional TB & Leprosy coordinators, who are supposed to supervise the work, knowledge was good for TB (and HIV) but virtually absent for leprosy, except for filling in report forms.

Indeed, in the majority of patients finding their way to us from other districts, where a diagnosis has been made and treatment started, that is all that has happened; there has been no check up for nerve function, no diagnosis of nerve damage or other complications, no treatment to restore muscle strength and sensation, no health education, no footwear, and no treatment for ulcers; not to mention stigma and rejection. That the National Programme actually supplies all regions with ready made suitable sandals for free distribution to all needy leprosy patients, even two pairs per year, I will just mention here for completeness.

Further down from the wards is the Rehabilitation Unit, housing the workshop where footwear and artificial limbs are produced. People with loss of protective sensation in the soles of their feet should never walk barefoot. Our dedicated technician issues readymade sandals when appropriate. He also makes footwear ranging from simple sandals with a thick outer sole (old car tyres work well when factory-made material is unavailable) and a pressure distributing soft insole, to special shoes and orthopaedic boots made over a plaster cast of the patient's deformed foot.

Our technician also makes artificial legs for the patients who have had amputations. Usually amputation for leprosy is done below the knee, but he can make limbs for the occasional above knee amputee, provided we can procure a lockable knee joint. Even before the limb is fully ready, walking exercises are started in the parallel bars in front of a mirror.

Our services are not limited to leprosy patients. We help other patients as well, but they have to cover the cost of the materials.

In fact we are the only rehabilitation facility in a huge area covering most of western Tanzania; the National Leprosy Programme has sent patients to us from as far away as the east coast, a thousand kilometres away.

Kidugalo Camp is a bit further down the gentle slope beyond the rehabilitation unit. Only seven elderly handicapped former leprosy patients are left in the cottages in what is effectively an old peoples' home. We take care of them in every way, including three daily meals and laundry. They assemble every morning to soak their dry feet; in this self-care activity they are joined by 'colleagues' from nearby Usega village. The nurse from the wards attends to any problems, including bandaging ulcers. I make regular rounds.

Once there were almost fifty inhabitants in the camp, but slowly the number has decreased by a 'natural process.' Further, we have declined new admissions for more than ten years. Such a camp is a thing of the past, and it maintains stigma. Like all Tanzanians, elderly people affected by leprosy should stay in their communities and be taken care of by their families. In fact three residents have children and grandchildren very near by. We don't evict anyone; as long as they are there we will continue to care for them, and endeavour to do it well.

Let me conclude by mentioning the outreach that we undertake. We visit two self-care groups, three and 27 km away, where we supervise, encourage, and provide utensils for the essential soaking of dry feet (soap, Vaseline and basins). We also attend to ulcers and issue or repair footwear.

In addition to the above, we go to communities and schools, giving classes on early signs of leprosy as well as trying to reduce the social

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stigma. In recent years a number of new patients have told us that someone who had attended these classes had advised them that, for example, the mysterious tingling they had constantly felt in their hands might be due to leprosy. This encourages us to continue.

I hope that by now you'll agree that the activities at Sikonge Leprosarium are indeed worthwhile, and that it is important to have an institution such as ours.

Thank you for your continued support, and for remembering the work and the patients in your prayers.

Br Steen M Andersen

Br Steen is a member of the Moravian Congregation in Christiansfeld, Denmark. He studied for his medical degree in Aarhus and received further education in leprosy at Addis Ababa in 1980-81. From 1985 to 2001 he served in Bhutan for the Leprosy Mission International and since 2002 has been working in Sikonge, Tanzania, sent by BDM, the Danish Moravian Mission.

From the Editorial Team

If you would like to make a donation to help with the work of the Leprosarium, 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.



Fulneck School Trip to India

12th October - 1st November



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Over half term (with a couple of days either side) over 20 Fulneck students from Years 10-13, and four lucky members of staff, journeyed to Northern India for what really was a trip of a lifetime.

The main purpose of the trip was to spend 10 days with the staff and students from our sister school, the Moravian Institute in Dehradun, which turned out to be an unforgettable visit. We really did squeeze the most out of our trip with additional visits to Delhi - at the beginning - and then Rishikesh, Agra, Corbett National Park and the Silent Valley Farm in Nainital in the later stages of the trip.

India is everything we had expected, and many things that we didn't! Every outing was a true assault on the senses - the smells, sights and sounds combined were nothing like any experience you could get anywhere in Europe. As some Year 11s said, 'We knew it would be different; we didn't know it would be THIS different!' For many of our students, this made the experience an exciting challenge, far beyond that of any school trips or family holidays they may have encountered previously. We safely negotiated bustling markets and mastered the art of haggling, we learned to avoid scooters, tuk tuks and cows when crossing busy streets, and how to manage the attention which we received whenever we set foot in public.

Our students were thrust into many new experiences and often took these in their stride: tutoring children, some of whom could speak little or no English; performing in the talent show; and

competing in sports day simply to represent the school - in temperatures and sunshine that would be unheard of in the north of England! The second part of the tour included additional challenges and the opportunity to face fears - whether this meant jumping off a 10m cliff into the Ganges, camping for the very first time, or dealing with spiders bigger than your handspan! Spending a night on a sleeper train, rising before 5 a.m. to complete long journeys or go on safari, and a few lengthy walks were not necessarily the highlights of the trip for everyone - but these experiences combined created an adventure which helped to test, and build, character - and will leave the students with many, many happy memories.

The Moravian Institute, Dehradun

Our week at the Moravian Institute started even before we reached the building. We had received an invitation from the Principal to attend a regional music, dance and arts competition that the school was competing in, which we had eagerly accepted. One of the first things you have to realise about India is that the estimated times of any journey are almost certainly going to be way off. We arrived hours late to find they had slowed down the competition for their 'friends from England'. Thousands of pupils from different schools had waited patiently for us to arrive. The feeling was daunting to say the least as we hurried into our seats. In our honour, they had chosen a hymn based on the melody of 'The Derry Air' which left Mr McD emotional straight away! After a very impressive round, the Moravian Institute won!

Afterwards we had the opportunity to chat with our hosts and introduce ourselves to Rev and Mrs Kundan, the Principal and his wife, who guided us through the busy streets of Dehradun to our hotel. Tired, we ate and trotted off to bed.

Early the next morning, we were taken to the school by an old-style yellow school bus where the whole Institute was hosting a week of sporting events. We had decided previously that, rather than disrupt the running order of the events, Fulneck would compete as a fourth house.

On the Monday we had the girls' discus, long jump and 100m events. Everyone got stuck in and tried their best. The boys' 100m was a great race with one Moravian boy impressing everyone watching with his speed. In the afternoon we had a

friendly game of cricket with the Moravian boys. We mixed the teams so it was slightly fairer on the Fulneck pupils but it was all great fun.

At the start of the week we were each buddied up with a Moravian girl or boy who boarded at the Institute. Over the following days, we did sports in the mornings and tutored young children from the school improving their English skills in the afternoon. By the end we had all become great friends, promising to keep in touch. We got a chance to take part in other activities around the Institute, helping around the facilities whenever we could. These times together gave us a chance to appreciate the backgrounds of our buddies and what the school meant to them. They also reinforced the contrast between the British schools and those in post-monsoon India; how quickly things grow and what kinds of fauna and wildlife to look out for. Squeals rang out throughout the week whenever a Fulneck pupil saw a monkey or giant spider, things barely acknowledged by the locals.

Just before dinner, just as night fell, we held evening devotions each day. These consisted of singing religious songs with the Moravian Institute boarders; this was very upbeat and fun. To encourage us to join in, the children mainly chose English songs, often with movement and dances, so the starlit sky echoed with the laughter and singing of happy voices.

As a final bash, we held a talent show where pupils from both schools performed a variety of acts, showing the breadth and depth of our abilities. It ended the visit on a high note, bringing our time full circle, starting and ending on a song.

Over our time, we explored some of the Himalayan foothills, visited temples and academic institutions but all too soon it was over. Whilst for us that meant further adventures on the Ganges and elsewhere, it was still sad to say goodbye. Our thanks go to all the staff and pupils of the Moravian Institute for their generosity and warmth. Our stay was truly magical.

Tour of Uttarakhand

After a week at the school we travelled around the North of India. Our first stop after the school was Rishikesh; there we looked around the Hindu temples and visited the colourful, lively

markets. In the evenings we visited Hindu devotions along the Ganges, called Aarti. These were sunset ceremonies that consisted of fire, chanting and the placing of marigolds into the Ganges; they made everyone feel welcome regardless of their own religion.

While we were in Rishikesh we also ventured down the Ganges, white water rafting. This was the favourite part of the trip for many of the group because it was a new and exciting experience for them. During this adventure, students got the chance to face their fears and jump off a 10m cliff. The water was freezing cold but it was great fun!

After this we went to Corbett National Park to hunt for tigers; despite doing two safaris we came away somewhat disappointed (especially those of us who had missed sighting a tiger by a matter of minutes!). We did see monkeys, deer, eagles and a jackal - and some of the group got up close and personal with an elephant!

We then visited a farm in the Himalayas, where the views were stunning and living was more basic. We used machetes to clear some of the ground, and planted some seeds which should come into bloom in the spring. We had time to relax by the river, and did walking tours of the local area to see what life is like in rural India.

Finally, we made the trek to Agra which included long bus journeys and seven hours on the overnight train. In Agra we visited the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. The architecture and atmosphere were breathtaking - no wonder the Taj is considered one of the Wonders of the World!

The day after, our last full day in India, we travelled the four hours back to Delhi, stopping off to travel part of it on the Metro. On the final day we ate breakfast at the hotel and then travelled to the airport for the nine-hour flight back to England. We returned to school with fantastic memories and many a story to tell - it really was a trip of a lifetime.

Jennie Roberts and Grace Gentry (pupils at Fulneck);
and Lindsay Wilkinson and John McDermott (teachers at Fulneck).

Fulneck School

Eastern District Conference Report

EDC was held on Saturday 15th October this year at Harold Road Moravian Church (Hibiscus Community Centre) London and all congregations were represented. EDC commenced at 10.30 p.m. with Sr Elsie welcoming everyone to the Hibiscus Centre. Br Edwin welcomed everyone to the conference and then led the opening devotions.

The elections were held and the following Sisters and Brothers were elected:-

Chairperson - Br Edwin Quildan
Minute Secretary - Sr Ruth Franklin
Prayer watch - Sr Minette Flemmings

The Provincial report 2016 was distributed, and then presented by Br Edwin with questions taken.

Queens Park (Bedford)

Br Eric Moore reported that they have six members and five adherents. While without a minister the treasurer is taking the service, whilst Communion has been taken by Br David Howarth. Churches together in Bedford (six churches ecumenically) celebrated thirty years of Shalom with a Fish and Chip supper. The congregation has received a £1000 legacy from the late Harry William. This is going to be used to replace the gas heaters in the room at the back.

Harold Road

Sr Ruth Franklin reported that membership stands at 23 with an average weekly attendance of 14. Brn David Howarth and Edwin Quildan have been taking Communion service during the year. The MWA continues to meet at Sr Lake's home and attended the rally in April. The financial position of the congregation has greatly improved due to a large increase in weekly collection and the monthly fundraising held every last Sunday of the month.

Harlesden

Sr Louise McCarthy reported that Harlesden continues to be a very active congregation with two ministers and a team of members participating in the Sunday services as Worship Leaders. Membership remains at 100 with an attendance of 60 on Sundays. The two members who have completed the URC training for learning and service course (TLS) have been commissioned and have now entered onto the roll of Lay Preachers.

Hornsey

Sr Rose Calder reported that Hornsey has managed to keep the ministry and its many programmes going despite the many challenges. Attendance among adults and young people has dropped. Sr Christine Emanuel has started her training

for the ministry. Winter night shelter programme is on-going with much support from individual donations; non-perishable food not used at the end of the programme was given to the Haringey Food Bank. The new minister and his family will take up his post in February 2017.

Fetter Lane

Sr Minette Flemmings reported that membership stands at 21 with nine adherents. Church Anniversary service was led by Br David Newman on the First Sunday of November 2015, this included Holy Communion and Love Feast. Christingle service was held on the fourth Sunday of Advent at 3 p.m., this was conducted by Br Quildan.

MWA conducts services on the Third Sunday of the month and Men's Fellowship with Holy Trinity Brompton Group on a Fifth Sunday. We have been fortunate to be able to have a regular pianist to fill the void left by the passing of Sr Monica Arthur last year. The walls are in various stages of disrepair. English Heritage have offered guidance and funding for a pilot scheme to repair the more vulnerable areas as the buildings and walls are Grade 2 listed.

Lay Training Courses

Br Edwin gave an update on the Lay Training course. There are six people currently on the course. Anybody is welcome to attend.

Unity Synod

Br Edwin gave an update on the recent Unity Synod. A copy of the proposals was circulated to all attendees. A number of the proposals were reviewed.

Welcome service for Br James Woolford

A welcome service for Br James Woolford and family will be held at Hornsey on Saturday 4th February 2017 at 3 p.m.

Sr Joy Raynor circulated and presented the Summer Camp 2016 and Youth report.

EDC Fellowship Day

The EDC fellowship day will be held on Sunday 11th June 2017 at Harold Road at 3 p.m. All present were asked to consider a suitable topic, suggested was Praise & Prayer or Human Trafficking.

Spring conference 2017 to be held on Sunday 11th June 2017 at 3 p.m. at Harold Road.

Autumn conference 2017 to be held on 21st October 2017 at 10.30 a.m. at Hornsey.

Sr Ruth Franklin and Br Edwin Quildan

Congregation News

Gracehill

On Sunday 2nd October we celebrated God's continued goodness at our Harvest Service. Our wonderful team of flower arrangers spent all Friday and Saturday creating beautiful displays and making the church look amazing. The Girl's Brigade created a stunning poster and the pulpit was adorned with some enormous sunflowers grown by the McCormick Family. Monday evening saw our Harvest Auction directed by our inimitable auctioneer Br Billy Kitson. At the end of a really fun night we had raised £420 for McMillan Cancer Support.

The Men's Fellowship went on a visit to a local company where buses are designed and built. They were welcomed to the factory by Dr William Wright CBE who was himself married in our church and still has connections with the Moravian Church. He then showed the group around the bus production lines where they had an opportunity to go on board the famous 'Boris' bus which is made for the London market. Dr Wright chatted about the company - past, present and future - the technology of batteries, his travelling and negotiating experiences and other stories of local interest. It was a fascinating visit.

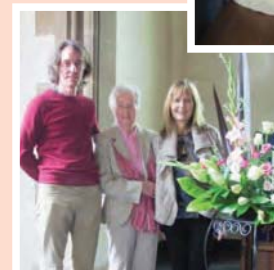
The Annual Enrolment Service for our Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade was on 20th November. The church was full of parents, aunts, uncles and Grandparents as well as the members of our Brigades. Emma White and Channele Johnston were enrolled as our Girls Brigade Captain and Boys Brigade Captain respectively. We are very grateful to the Captains, Officers and helpers for all the love and commitment that they pour into the brigades week by week and wish them and the young people a wonderful and inspiring year.

Thirteen folk from Gracehill attended a First Aid First Response course in the Church Hall on Saturday 22nd October. The day course covered all the basics in First Aid and the participants are now qualified as first responders for a three year period. The course was run for us by Emergency Care NI. We are grateful to all those who gave up a Saturday to train in this way and so serve the Church and the community. The Girls Brigade were so impressed that they invited Charlie Howes from Emergency Care NI back to do first aid training with the girls in the Brigade. Thank you to the Church for funding this training for us all.

Sr Roberta Gray

Cliftonville

On 7th August we met to say farewell to our organist Sr Noma Deane, who agreed to play the organ for a few weeks in 1980 while Br Joe Cooper was in Labrador to ordain the first Inuit minister. When he returned, she was happy to continue and a 'few weeks' became 36 years of faithful service. In 1984 she encouraged the re-forming of the choir that had lapsed for a time, and since then it has led the singing and provided the music for special occasions.



Sr Noma Deane at organ and with her daughter Kirsten and son in law Pete
© Sr Edna Cooper

We were sad to see Sr Noma leave us, we miss her cheerful presence, but are glad that she has settled happily in Hawkshaw, near Bury in Lancashire, with her daughter Kirsten and son-in-law Pete, and we keep in touch by e-mail. We are pleased the choir continue to meet, and though it is quite different to having Noma preside at the organ, they and we are coming to terms with singing to



the accompaniment of the Hymnal Machine donated in memory of Br Joe Cooper.

Br George Stringer has been ill much of this past

year, some of the members called at the nursing home to congratulate him on his 90th Birthday on 21st August. He had a further spell in hospital but was able to be home in November when his daughter Marie visited from South Africa and it was good to be able to welcome her in church. the preacher at the Harvest service in October. The participants in a Suicide Awareness Interdenominational Prayer Walk on 7th November gathered in the Church Hall and were later provided with refreshments. Sr Eunice Hoey was our preacher on Remembrance Sunday and we welcomed Sr Carol Ackah on the first Sunday in Advent. We appreciate the continuing service of these and other lay preachers for two Sunday services each month, Br Peddie being responsible for the others, one of which is Communion.

The children and teachers in the Sunday School have packed over 90 shoe boxes of gifts as well as many knitted items for children in Romanian Orphanages. Donations for the British Legion Poppy Appeal amounted to £40.

Sr Edna Cooper

Fulneck

As usual Fulneck was very busy last autumn. On 15th September a group of people of all ages set off on a valley walk to appreciate nature and to ponder the effects of global warming. Young people collected nuts and berries. Bacon butties and drinks were served in the Boys' Brigade on their return.

On 30th October a Service of Commemoration for the life of Sir Leonard Hutton was held in conjunction with the Brethren's Festival. Many members of Yorkshire Cricket Club were present as was the Deputy Lord Lt. of West Yorkshire. Later a plaque was unveiled at St. Lawrence C.C., bearing the names of Sir Leonard and Herbert Sutcliffe who were both players there and at Yorkshire.

The Grandparents Link of Leeds brought us a Service of Song. These ladies sang, read and recited items which told of Faith at the centre of life. It was an entertaining and enthusiastic occasion followed by Caribbean refreshments.

On the 19th November our Christmas Fair was held in the Boys' Brigade. It was well attended, raising over £500.

Beer, Chilli & Jazz Festival at Ockbrook



Lamb & Flag, Heisenberg's Principle, California Steam and many more locally brewed beers were on offer at Ockbrook's second annual Beer, Chilli & Jazz Festival. The event, organised by Br and Sr Maskalick, attracted visitors from far and wide.

The festival was sponsored by Draycott Brewing Company. As well as brewing much of the beer, Br Maskalick, with his fellow musicians, played a great variety of live jazz throughout the event. A good sum of money was raised for church funds and several of the visitors expressed an interest in other upcoming church events.



Sr Julie Hague

Congregational Register

Baptisms

20th November 2016

Samuel Eoin Potter Ballinderry

Deaths

7th November 2016

John James (Jacky) McCurry

Gracehill



Megan playing her guitar
© Sr Judi Harvey

Mission Sunday at Ockbrook

Mission Sunday this year featured Megan Stone, who played her guitar and sang beautifully.

Instead of a sermon, Jasvinder Glen, a social worker and

author from Nottingham, was interviewed by Br Joachim Kreusel. Questions were put to Jasvinder by students from Ockbrook School and congregation members.

Jasvinder spoke movingly of the extreme difficulties she faced as a teenager, leading to her 'running away' and being disowned

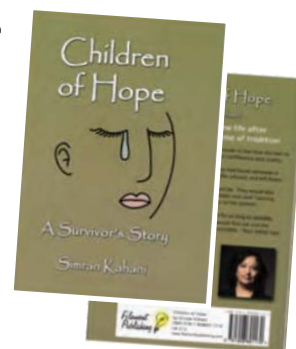
by her family. She concluded by emphasizing the need for forgiveness.

Jasvinder's book, '**Children of Hope - a Survivor's Story**' is published under her pen name Simran Kahani, ISBN: 9781908691170.

Jasvinder passed on the proceeds from the book sale to the family of a Rwandan genocide survivor, struggling to recover from an accident earlier this year.



Joachim interviewing Jasvinder
© Sr Rosie Hague



Sr Julie Hague

Western District Conference

This autumn the Conference met at Kingswood on 5th November. Br Ashton welcomed all present to Conference including Sr Beth Torkington and Sr G Taylor representing P.E.C. It was noted that Br Peter Gubi will be missed from the District but that he is settling well into his new life. Br Paul Holdsworth led the opening devotions.

Minutes of the Conference held at Kingswood on 27th February 2016 being circulated before the Conference were accepted as read. A report from a working group on areas of injustice within the district was given by Sr Holdsworth. The group has met twice and as there are many aspects to get to grips with they are focusing on how congregations can penetrate into communities to make a difference. It was suggested that it is

more fruitful to evaluate what is already happening than duplicating what other churches are doing and supporting existing projects. An idea for a 'family church weekend' has been mooted whereby each congregation will gather together to thrash out ideas as well as having planned activities.

Congregation reports were given by each of the churches represented and they all had some positive things to report. Spring District Conference will be held at Kingswood on 18th March 2017 beginning at 10.00 a.m. The Cup of Covenant was led by Sr Holdsworth. The members of Kingswood were thanked for their hospitality.

Br Judith Ashton

News from Dublin

The Dublin Moravian congregation closed in the mid sixties but several Moravians remained in the area and in 1995 it was decided by Br Derick Woods to hold a Christingle service and invite all the former Moravians to attend. So successful was it that a Dublin Moravian fellowship was formed and for several years after this, three services a year were held, at Easter, September and Christingle in December and it is this Christingle service that has continued every year for 22 years - some would say it's now a tradition. The service is usually held on the first Sunday in December and for the past few years has been held in the Dundrum Methodist Church which is in South Dublin, 100 miles from the nearest congregation but only a mile from the Dublin Moravian graveyard. It's a service that starts the Christmas season for so many people.



Sr Marion Woods and Sr Mandy Kernohan getting ready for the Christingle service



The grave of John Tölschig

The entrance gate to the Moravian graveyard

From Church House

We have a number of booklets from the '**Great Men of the Church**' series (Cennick, Gregory, Spangenberg and Zinzendorf), as well as many copies of Bishop Shawe's '**The Moravian Church and what it stands for**' (1960), at Church House that are now available free of charge to collect, or we are happy to send out for just the cost of postage. Please contact the Bookroom for more details.

The new edition of the '**Passion week and Eastertide**' published this year is also available from the Bookroom for £2.

Br and Sr Richard Ingham's new address is: 30 Fairfield Square, Droylsden, Manchester, M43 6AE.

Daily Watchwords 2017 correction:

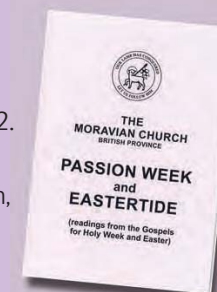
The telephone number for Sr Rosieta Burton should be amended to: 01444 483417.

Provincial Diary for January

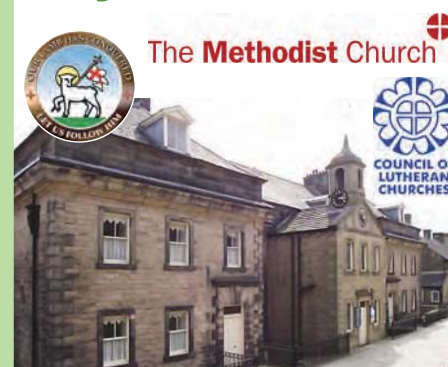
7 **Youth Committee** at Hall Green - Sr Ferdinand and Sr Taylor

11 **Faith and Order** at Fulneck - Br Hopcroft

18 -19 **PEC, BMB and Estates Property** meeting - PEC



My Heart Strangely Warmed



Saturday 20th May 2017
From 10am to 5.15pm

Moravian Church and School, Fulneck, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 8NT

Travel is possible by air (to Leeds Bradford International Airport), road, or rail (to New Pudsey station: minibuses will be arranged if required).

The Lutheran, Moravian and Methodist Churches are pleased to invite you to join us for a day of music, work-shops, academic discussion and worship.

The theme of the day has a special focus on music, particularly hymnody. Congregational singing has been an important part of most churches as a vehicle to develop spirituality, convey theology, and of course as a deep and moving form of communal worship.

People of all or no faith are invited to join us to explore these and other developments and influences through plenary lectures, interactive workshops, and academic papers. More details will be available in spring 2017 when you will be able to express your preference regarding which workshops and papers you wish to attend.

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

Please photocopy as necessary and return this form to:

THE COUNCIL OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES

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Alternatively, please make cheques payable to The Lutheran Council of Great Britain.

From the Sanctuary

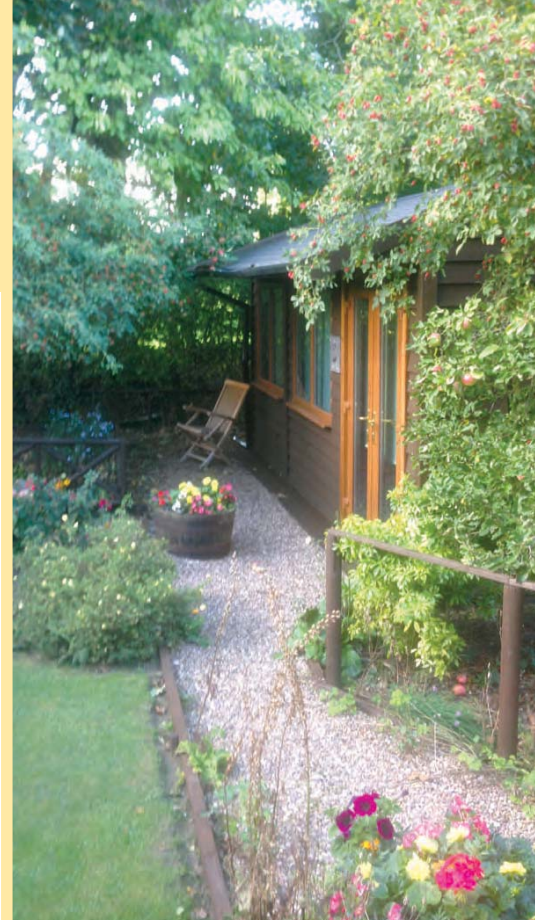
In January 2014, the passing of Nelson Mandela was prominent in the news. There are few people in (inter)national life that can live the best of humanity with such grace and dignity, in spite of such overwhelming odds. He was one who could (as was Jesus Christ), and from whom we can learn much of what it means to live the best of our humanity. Mandela was one like us - nothing more than a mere mortal.

At this stage in the year, when we traditionally take stock of our life and make promises to ourselves for a better quality of existence, what can we learn from these great men? Very few of us will have to deal with such oppression, or be imprisoned (or crucified) for our principles and beliefs. But, all of us will face difficulty with forgiveness, especially when we have been wounded and hurt.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in his book 'No future without forgiveness', describes Nelson Mandela as a man who personified 'Ubuntu'. Ubuntu ... speaks of the very essence of being human. [We] say, 'Hey, so-and-so has Ubuntu.' Then

you are generous, you are hospitable, you are friendly and caring and compassionate. You share what you have. It is to say, 'My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in yours.' We belong in a bundle of life. We say, 'A person is a person through other persons.' A person with Ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed, or treated as if they were less than who they are.

Christ also personified Ubuntu - seeing and loving the best in others, and forgiving his oppressors. The start of a New Year - a time of Epiphany - seems to be a good time to desire the best of our own humanity; to strive to be more like Christ, and Mandela, in our world. We have it within our capability to be like them - to be Ubuntu. But, do we have it within our desire to be Ubuntu? For if we



can be more living of Ubuntu, our community, our family-life, our congregation life and our world can be transformed. No one said it was easy, but I know that I want it for myself. How much do you want it for yourself too?

Br Peter Gubi, Dukinfield

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

**Enquirers'
Day**



**Saturday
21st Jan 2017**

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 programme and venue will reflect those attending.

The closing date for this year's day is 7th January 2017.

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