

moravian messenger

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The Easter People

© Sr Claire Newman

The mist lifts slowly from the valley floor, the trees sparkle with silver and dew, the sun, suddenly present in a pink dawn sky lights the clouds - and within the church a joyfulness builds, as the minister appears in the doorway. 'The Lord is Risen' - and 'He is Risen indeed' we respond. Not for nothing are we called The Easter People.

We have so many questions to ask about Easter, about the crucifixion, and about the resurrection - Easter goes to the core of our Being - and asks us to celebrate something that to our modern way of thinking, doesn't always make sense. But however we view it, Easter is a Giving Celebration.

Christmas arrives with fun and laughter. For many of us it is the children's time, a time for us to gather into family and friendship groups, to be with others, to share gifts, to remind ourselves that Our Lord was born as a human baby, a future king who understood a child's life as a refugee, a future teacher who learned from loving parents and from the words of clerics, a future leader who disciplined himself by mastering the carpenter's craft - Christmas asks us to remember Jesus' roots, His Jewishness, His childhood, and to wonder at the knowledge that a tiny child was born to bring a message of hope, and love and redemption to the world.

Easter arrives after a long period of thoughtful reflections, and a haunting week that never fails to bring us face to face with suffering, and horror and a mounting sense of tragedy. We are caught up in something that is beyond understanding, and that

tears the message of Jesus from its safe and secure village scenario of fields and poppies and bread and fruits, and flings it into the heart of all that is cruel and vicious and sordid and dreadful. A child listens to the Good Friday readings, hearing the sound of the nails and the cries of the crowd, Crucify Him, and calls out 'How could they do it?' How indeed.

But from a scene of destruction and hatred, we are led, surely and inevitably, to a place of stillness and peace - from Golgotha - which seems to take from us all that makes our lives worth living, to a garden, the sun rising on a new day, and a voice, a presence - however we understand it - that assures us that Jesus is still with us, that He has never left us, that He will always be present.

And that is our gift to the world - a gift of life, and love and hope, from a birth at Christmas, to a rebirth at Easter - we have so much to give - and all of it free and to a world that needs so much, a message of love, of inclusiveness, of acceptance, of joy and of hope. Easter brings a sense of a world that can be grounded in goodness and also a sense of Being that we don't entirely understand, but that we gladly share. Easter gives a reason to live and a reason to be, a sense of joyfulness that is so much a part of our Christian life that we can't wait for the minister to fling wide the doors and shout for the world to hear 'The Lord is Risen' - He is risen indeed.

Sr Elizabeth McOwat



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Deep Underground the Seed Grows

I was fascinated to hear recently about an underground farm. Under the Northern Line in Clapham, in an old bomb shelter, a state of the art horticultural enterprise is producing sprouting beans, garlic, chives, salad leaves and herbs for the local markets and restaurants. Deep underground, in a cave made by human hands, life is emerging and a business is thriving. What was designed to keep residents safe from the horror of the blitz is now helping to provide local food and employment. What a wonderful new use for a forgotten building designed for a time of war.

Easter in the Northern Hemisphere is naturally taken up with the idea of the seed sown into the dark soil only to emerge into green life after a time. A parable of death and resurrection seen in the fields and gardens around us. How can we take this further as Christians? We believe, of course, that the death of Jesus was once and for all; that he gave up his life for us on the cross and was laid in a cave of human making and on the third day rose again. The worst that men and women could do, cannot defeat the power of God's love and forgiveness;

that life given through the resurrection is eternal and that the powers of darkness will ultimately be defeated. So how then should we live as Easter people. I have been struck more and more by a verse in Colossians 3:16, 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly'. Regard the gospel of Christ as a seed in your heart and give it space to grow and allow it to emerge so that it influences your thoughts words and deeds. Holy Week is a wonderful time for this as we gather together in our Churches, or for some in their homes, to read together the narrative of the Passion, from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday. Each day, allow the readings for that day to settle deep within you so that again we understand the depths of God's love and Christ's sacrifice for us. Then we can face outwards and recognizing our own failures and the destructive nature within and around us we can act to bring Christ's life and love into dark places and the caves of our world.

Sr Sarah Groves



Dear Editors,

After reading editor Sr Sarah's words and reflections on Br Woolford's talk (not a sermon) on how we must love one another just in case we are not already doing so I realised I wanted a Government which would love all it's citizens. Very many Moravians voted for and support our present Parliamentary Administration however, I would ask them to decide if it is Christianity motivated?

The proliferation of food banks is in my humble opinion one of the many consequences of this Government's austerity measures, the designer of which was swiftly consigned to the back benches from the lofty position of Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Moravians should know who are the sufferers but they are certainly not errant Bankers. £398 billion was given to Bankers in quantitative easing to shore up their misdemeanours and yet their lending to citizens who may not be able to pay it back has reached the 2009-2010 levels again.

My prayers are with and for those paying the economic price of austerity, the poor, users of food banks, the homeless, the unemployed, those on benefits being bureaucratically punished, (Sanctioned) those on tax credits, pension credits etc. Are my Christian Brothers and Sisters comfortable with this? I certainly am not.

Yours working for you and Christ,

Br Alan Holdsworth



Unplug Project

Sr Katie Biggs

Unplug is an incredibly exciting project being set up within our Province for all 18-30 year olds. The project aims to establish online Unplug groups made up of 4-5 people. These will be informal groups who meet up to chat and do a Bible study online. Unplug aims to take Church outside of that what is simply done on a Sunday and create Unplug groups who do life and faith together. So whether you can't make it to a Moravian Church each week, or any Church at all, or even if you are an active member of a congregation, Unplug is there for you.

Chatting every two weeks over Skype, young people across the country can connect and plug into a supportive community where friends will be

made who will support each other outside of our small churches. The bible studies will be people

based, around your experience, your lives and what you want out of church. The groups will meet when everyone is free and mean they can work around the busy lives of parents or students. It gives you the chance to touch base with Church in an informal setting which works around you.

The topics of the Bible studies will look at themes such as leadership, love, our position as a Church, social responsibility as well as the church and politics. It will be led by what you want to chat about.

I have been asked repeatedly where this project has come from and why I think it is needed. It is very simple, I have had the opportunity to be part of a similar programme in my time at university and it has, not a word of a lie or an overestimation, been transformative in both my life and faith. I love Fairfield which is my home church, yet I go to university in York so getting to any Moravian church on a Sunday is a struggle. Add onto the fact that I am one of the very few people of my age within the church, which means that no matter how hard my incredible congregation try, they can never quite understand what it is like to be a young person today when there is often an age gap of a couple of decades. So this is where Unplug comes in. Connecting people across the country of the same age in a Moravian community led by fellowship and faith where people do life together - regularly chatting and making everything from accountability to sharing a tough time possible. The internet facilitates this: you can have conversations as easily with someone on the other side of the country as with someone 10 minutes away. Through Facebook and Skype Unplug aims to connect individuals to create a thriving, faith-centred and fun community of 18-30 year olds.

If you think this could be something you're interested in or you can think of someone who may enjoy the project, or even if you think your own church could use the resource for your own congregations, please get in touch with Katie Biggs at katie.biggs@btinternet.com

Thy Kingdom Come - the Urgency of Prayer



Thy Kingdom Come, as a prayer movement, is barely a year old! In May 2016 the Archbishops of Canterbury and York invited Christians from across the Church of England to join a wave of prayer during the days between Ascension and Pentecost - a time when the church traditionally focuses on prayer.

They encouraged everyone to ask for the Holy Spirit to help them be witnesses to Jesus Christ and to pray for others to discover that living faith.

What started as an idea gained momentum and in May 2016 more than 100,000 Christians from different denominations and traditions took part from the UK and across the world. They joined in more than 3,000 events and services to pray for others to come to know Jesus Christ and for God's kingdom to come. The response to this simple invitation was astonishing as hundreds of thousands joined in from churches of many denominations and different traditions around the UK and across the world.

For 2017 the vision is even greater. The hope is to see at least 80 per cent of Church of England churches and cathedrals taking part as well as many other denominations and the



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churches of the world-wide Anglican Communion. Many other Churches are involved including ours, the Moravian Church in Britain and Ireland. You can see the full list of Churches and Church organisations on the web page <https://www.thykingdomcome.global>.

So what are you waiting for? Encourage your Minister, Church Committee, Prayer Group, and members to join in the prayer wave from Ascension to Pentecost this year. We can pray for our Churches, our family and friends, those we work with and those we meet casually. Can your Congregation organise prayer walks, 24 hour prayer events or prayer triplets? Can we commit to pray as individuals and as family as well? Go to the website for lots of ideas of imaginative ways to pray and once you have committed to pray sign the pledge2pray. We can't afford not to, prayer is our heritage and our powerhouse!

Sr Sarah Groves

Minister of Gracehill and Ballinderry Moravian Churches

Br Dick Porter reports from the

Yorkshire District Spring Conference

held at Wellhouse

Good things come in threes, the spring meeting was told. The Yorkshire District, which currently has only one full-time minister, will have three in place by September.

Sr Jane Dixon is to serve at Wellhouse and Lower Wyke from July and Br David Howarth at Baildon and Horton by September.

Br Michael Newman is at present the only serving minister since Br James Woolford's move to Hornsey.

The news was revealed by Br Bob Hopcroft of the Provincial Board, and was welcomed at the conference, which at its autumn meeting had expressed concern at the pressures the vacancies put on retired ministers and lay preachers who were asked to provide cover.

The gathering was told that summer camp for the young this year will take

place at Dovedale House, in the National Park at Ilam, Derbyshire, from August 5th to 11th at a cost of £275 if booked by 16April. The conference encouraged as many young people as possible to attend, pointing out that financial help is available for those who want to go.

Delegates heard that a day-long Moravian, Methodist and Lutheran Conference will be held at Fulneck on 20th May to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It will be based at the church, school halls and Boys' Brigade building and will feature workshops, seminars and hymns from the different religions. It will culminate in a closing service and the price will be £10, including food.

A Yorkshire District day retreat has been arranged for 27th May at Scargill House at Kettlewell in the Yorkshire Dales. The chairman, Br Kenneth Evans said he

hoped it would become an annual event for renewal and revival and be arranged each year at district level. More than 20 people have so far put their names forward and there are hopes it can be expanded into a full weekend in the future.

The conference re-elected its district officers. Chairman is Br Evans, vice chairman Br Newman, and Sr Diane Thornton is secretary. Sr Elisabeth Hollindrake was elected renewal secretary, Br Porter the Moravian Messenger reporter, Sr Eleanor Hollindrake the youth secretary, Br Paul Greenhough as missions' secretary and Br Les Machell as treasurer.

The autumn conference has been set for 7th October and will be held at Baildon.

Br Dick Porter



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A Glimpse at History through the Dublin Moravian Church Diaries

Last year was the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising on Easter Monday in Dublin. This eventually led to the establishment of the Republic of Ireland and the full independence of Ireland from the United Kingdom. The commemorations of this last year in the Irish Republic, whilst celebrating the beginning of the independence movement, were very respectful to the complexity of the political realities of the time. The First World War was raging in Europe and many Irish soldiers were caught up in this.

The Dublin Moravian Congregation was worshipping in Bishop Street at this time: the Moravian Church on Lower Kevin Street was not opened until the autumn of 1917. We hope that you enjoy this glimpse back into the life of the Dublin Congregation over such turbulent years.

Thanks to Sr Julie Greer for her researches in the Dublin Diaries and to Sr Edna Cooper for general research and clarifications about the site of the Moravian Church at the time.

1914

Aug 9th - War having broken out between Germany and Austria on the one side and France Russia and Great Britain on the other. There is much anxiety felt on all sides with regard to our Church Unity and the effect it may have on our Foreign Missions work. What will be the result no one can tell. May God preserve the unity of the Church and her united work, is the earnest prayer of all her members.

Nov 8th - the collection amounted to £29.0.10 and increase in spite of the many demands on account of the war.

Nov 15th - in the evening of the 20th the usual missionary meeting was held. Br Arthur Ward, who was elected at the General Synod last May to take the place of Bishop B La Trobe as a member of the Mission Board came and has not yet been able on account of the war with Germany to take up his duties in Herrnhut, came from England as Deputation. He spoke on the wide work in which we were engaged

Sunday 22nd - the half yearly collection on behalf of our Foreign Missions was made. Br A Ward preached. The attendance was not quite as good as usual, probably owing to the mistaken idea some have that ours is a distinctly German Mission. The collection, however, was quite up to the average vis £62.1.11

The usual parcel of clothing for the leper home in Jerusalem has been provided by the work party and sent to Fetter Lane. When it will reach the Leper Home we cannot tell. Nearly all communications with Palestine is cut off at present.

1915

3rd January - this first Sunday in the year was appointed by His Majesty the King as a day of National Intercession throughout the empire on account of the war. In order to stand in line with other Churches we used a series of prayers published under Church of England direction for use today. And in the sermon special reference was made to the war and the strain it is placing on the country. The usual New Year's Lovefeast was held at 7pm and the special prayers were repeated in this service.

17th January - the annual collection on behalf of our work in

Bohemia and Moravia was made today and amounted to £17.4.0. This year it was specially difficult to appeal on behalf of this work as we are in a state of war with Austria

June 27th - the attendance at Holy Communion affected much by absences on holiday and some were busy in connection with a hospital ship arriving in Dublin with 670 wounded soldiers from France.

Aug 1st - the European War having continued for a year, a national day of Intercession was called for. We observed it today by the introduction in the service of special prayers selected from a number issued for the purpose. The sermon was of course in keeping with the occasion.

Sept 26th - we noticed in passing by the end of lower Kevin Street that the contractors for the new building here commenced to clean the ground. The contract has been let to Mrs McLoughlin & Harvey and the agreement is that they have the building complete on or before January 1st 1917.

Dec 31st - Between 25 and 30 were present at the Watchnight Service. It was rather a stormy night which prevented some from attending. At the present time thought of the war colours everything more or less and the Memorabilia on this occasion dealt with little else than its influence on the world's present life, and especially on the life of our own national life.

1916

Jan 2nd - today was observed throughout these islands as a day of special intercession on account of the war. Special prayers were used in our service as on former like occasions last year and reference was made to the importance of continual prayer that God may sustain the right and bring good out of this terrible conflict. A collection was made on behalf of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St John of Jerusalem which realized upwards of £17.

Feb 6th - Holy Communion. An appeal was made in many churches on behalf of the Suffering Armenian Refugees in Russia and elsewhere and subscriptions were invited. Only one subscription of 5/- was handed in.

Feb 13th - the Annual Collection was made on behalf of our work in Bohemia. There is no possibility of sending financial help for this purpose, and what is raised must remain in the hands of the treasurer until the end of the war. It is not therefore to be wondered at that the collection was rather lower than usual. The amount given was £10.4.0

Mar 20th - At the close of the [Congregational Council] meeting a sum of money was handed over to the minister to assist in meeting the minister's personal expenses during this period of exceptionally high prices owing to the war.

Easter Monday April 24th - About midday shots were heard in the city. A revolutionary party, calling themselves Sinn Fein had previously armed themselves and been drilled. Ammunition had also been obtained from abroad. These were joined by the 'Citizen Volunteers' (a body raised by James Larkin the labour agitator). Several of the principal public buildings in the city were taken possession of by the rebels - e.g. the City Hall and



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the General Post Office, The College of Surgeons, The Four Courts, The South Dublin Union - also factories and private houses in strategical positions. The arrangements were made so secretly and the seizing of the buildings was so sudden that the authorities had no time to prevent these violent acts. Messrs. Jacobs' factory standing opposite our church was one of the buildings taken over and manned by the rebels.

For eight days there was severe fighting in many parts of the city and suburbs. Most of the rebel strongholds surrendered on Sunday the 30th but there was much sniping from houses for a day or two after that. Most destructive fires occurred and now half of Sackville Street is an utter ruin and the same may be said of Middle and Lower Abbey streets and Henry Street and Erle Street. And other large fires have left their toll of devastation. Loss of life has been very great both among the military and the civil population, and many hundreds have been wounded.

Some of our Church members were living in the midst of the turmoil, others were rendering either military service or with the ambulance brigade and it is with gratitude to God that we are able to record the fact that none were injured, none of the dwellings entered by the rebels and none of their business houses looted.

Until the men in Messrs. Jacobs' factory surrendered we were naturally very anxious about our premises in Bishop Street and the Widows house in Whitefriar Street. If the military had been obliged to shell the factory our buildings must almost inevitably have suffered. The timely surrender however saved this and we are happy to record that not even a window was broken at either place. Truly God has been good to us beyond all that we can acknowledge during this time of troubles and perplexity. As a natural consequence it follows that we were quite unable to hold service in Bishop Street on Sunday April 30th and as the city is under martial law it was difficult to get in or out of the city on May 7th the service was dropped on that day also.

May 14th - Bishop Street was still in the hands of the military, and it was considered advisable to hold no service on account of the difficulty in passing the military posts.

May 21st - Today we assembled at Bishop Street for the first time since the Rebellion broke out on Easter Monday. About the usual number were present. The opportunity was used to call attention the goodness of God in sparing the lives and property of our people, and our church buildings and Widows house. Also to plead that prayer may be made continuously for the divine guidance of our government and that the spirit of unrest and disaffection may be overcome by a higher spirit of patriotism and a sense of the [?] of God.

Sept 24th - A collection was made today on behalf of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial fund for the help of wounded officers and men. The amount given was £16.5.7.

James's Final Sunday at Wellhouse

Sunday 12th February 2017 saw Br James Woolford conduct his last service at Wellhouse Church as our minister, and this was followed by a tea at which a presentation of a sturdy six foot wooden garden bench was made to James.

Whilst everyone enjoyed their tea, Br Evans reflected on the three and a half years James has been with us and spoke of a lot happening in that time, including quite a few new beginnings.

Firstly the birth of their son Edward, just four months after their arrival, and then this last October to add to the family the birth of daughter Charlotte.



© Br Kenneth Evans

We have also embarked upon a few new ventures within the Church as well, we first tried to start a Wellhouse Community Garden, but we got no takers. I think the mind set was, allotments, 'If I've planted it, then I'll pick it', so that didn't get off the ground (no pun intended). Then we tried the J.O.Y. coffee mornings; JOY standing for Just Older Youth. It was open to all the elderly and those not quite as old to come along free of charge for a cup of coffee, a chat and a get together, but again no one turned up, even after some 250 flyers had been hand delivered around the area.

We then started the Golden Oldies film club, which runs each second Tuesday of the month, and is enjoyed by most of the people most of the time. It has attracted a few non-members and is still going strong. We have re-started Bible Study and that continues each month, we make good use of the multi-media system we have had installed, both for Sunday services as well as the film club and school visits.

We have faced new challenges together and shared new experiences and overall have come through together relatively unscathed.

James had spoken a week or so before about examples we follow to help us to learn to do things better, so hopefully we are all following the example of the one who came not to be served but to serve. He also said he wasn't good at D.I.Y., which is unfortunate as we were presenting James with the picture of the bench in it's assembled state but the bench is ready to be assembled once they have arrived in London, easier to transport that way, so there will be a few bolts to fasten in.

Along with the bench James was given a card signed by all the members and friends of the congregation and a plaque to be fixed to the bench on which it said: 'Presented by the Congregation of the Wellhouse Moravian Church to the Rev James Woolford in Recognition of his Ministry. 12th February 2017.'

Finally, on behalf of the congregation James, Annette and family were wished every blessing as they take up this new role in the ministry of the Church and the service of our Lord in the congregations of Hornsey and Harold Road.

Br Kenneth Evans



Ladakhi Colloquial Bible Translation Ministry Part 2

We are grateful that in the initial years, we could network with Bible translation agencies, who helped us not only by providing us with Bible software designed specifically for Bible translators, and with programs for keying-in text using the Tibetan script, but also with training in translation principles. The best translations were those that were accurate, clear and natural. Accuracy to the original Greek text is of prime importance, not in form but in meaning. Clarity is naturally necessary for understanding the text. And clarity and even accuracy is not achieved if the translation is not in the natural order and form of the target language.

Another factor the training made us aware of was our translation philosophy - did we want our translation to be literal (or what is called word-for-word) e.g. NASB, ESV; dynamic (meaning-based) like the TEV, NLT, CEV; or balanced, like the NIV? We decided that our Ladakhi translation would be dynamic. Literal translations were already available, albeit in other languages. But a meaning-based translation would not only help the church members be able to understand the biblical text on their own (there is paucity of teachers and leaders in our churches), but when the Scriptures are distributed to the non-Christian reader, it would be effective only if there is no need for someone to be there every time to explain the text. Of course making this decision meant that a much longer time would be needed to complete the translation, as exegesis was very crucial and much study would be needed to keep within the boundaries of what the original writer intended to say. We felt it was better to take a longer time to do a good 'easy-to-read' translation, rather than quickly do a translation which would not be so easily understood.

Third major point of learning was Key Biblical Terms. In consultation with church members and testing with lay people and others, the meaning and translating major key biblical terms like, God, Christ/Messiah, Holy Spirit, Son of Man, righteousness, glory, sin, Satan, evil spirit, grace, angel, high priest, prophet, etc. which we take for granted in English, has to be worked out early in the translation project. Spelling of names of people and places in the Bible has to be worked out separately. Thankfully we did not have to do much work on this aspect as the earlier translators had already decided which terms were to be used and were being used in sermons, except for some, like righteousness, as the literal term was not easily understandable. Some others we had to modify.

Over the years, with experience around the world, and research, Bible agencies have come up with 'best practices' processes in order to achieve the above stated goals of having a clear, accurate and natural meaning-based translation. Just translating the text, revising it once or twice and even maybe having it checked by someone else was not enough. The following are the 'best practice' processes advocated:

1. 1st draft: Exegesis and drafting
2. 2nd draft: Revision of 1st draft (checking again for section headings, footnotes, and cross-references)
3. 3rd draft: Team-check
4. 4th draft: Reviewers' check
5. 5th draft: Village/Comprehension testing

6. Back translation of the translated text back into English
7. 6th draft: RSV check: Comparison of back-translation with RSV/NIV
8. Preparation of glossary, book introduction, illustrations (if needed), maps and other aids
9. 7th draft: Consultant check (by a certified/approved Translation Consultant)
10. Final draft: final check for consistency, spelling, punctuation, etc.
11. Ready-for-publication: Layout of text, formatting, preface writing, etc.

(The above steps are explained in more detail in the final part of this series on Ladakhi Colloquial Bible Translation in next month's issue.)

The training also advised us to begin with the translation of the easiest book - Gospel of Mark. With that advice we began on the book. Learning theory and putting into practice are worlds apart. We learn by trial and error. Trying our best to keep all the above translation principles in mind, meant making implicit information explicit wherever necessary; or leaving out explicit information if it was understood from the context; distinguishing between inclusive and exclusive 'we'; having to determine whether plural or singular 'you' was meant; metaphors were made into similes; doublets were combined if separate terms were not available in Ladakhi; and many other translation methods which we were advised to follow. We finally printed Mark's Gospel in 2008 after following all the above steps. As we started translating other books, it was quite a challenge, for example, to render relative clauses, used so often by Paul, in our language, which work differently from Greek and English; verbalizing abstract nouns and how to render personification of terms like 'sin' and 'death'; different senses of 'flesh', etc. But by God's grace we were able to move on and in subsequent years we printed the book of Galatians & James; 1&2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon; Hebrews; and John's Gospel & Epistles. Mark's gospel was also recorded on audio. We are grateful to the translation agencies for all the help and expertise they have provided.

After the books were printed we distributed copies to the believers and encouraged them to take more copies to give out to their friends and relatives. We were also able to network with other ministries who were either doing social work or taking teams for outreach in the villages, and provide them with the printed books and audio recording for distribution to villagers. We and the other teams were able to share the gospel and give out these books. We need continual prayer for God's word to do its work in the hearts of the people.

At present the main translator is working on Paul's epistles - Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians, and Acts, whereas the other translator (part-time) is working on Luke and Matthew. Because of the difficulty of Paul's epistles, and the need for in-depth study to translate those books meaningfully, our earlier drafts were not exegetically satisfactory and in a way we had to 're-do' those books - thankfully one of the translation agencies conducted workshops on the above

books and now we have a good translation, which will improve further as we follow the remaining steps outlined above. Next year a workshop on 2 Corinthians is scheduled which we plan to attend. We need similar help for Revelation, although the second draft has been done and of the remaining smaller books.

Several members of the church are helping us as reviewers. A sister is helping with the back-translation. For consultant-checking, we have to request an approved consultant (certified by one of the translation agencies) to check our pre-final draft. For comprehension testing of the epistles we need to have the help of one or two new believers and test with them. For narratives, a UNS (Uninitiated Native Speaker), most times a non-Christian, is needed for testing. This is another challenge as it is difficult to find such people who are willing to be test subjects. Reasons being: resistance to the gospel; fear and hesitancy in anything to do with language testing; and unwillingness to give time. Even among believers we have similar challenges. We had hoped to train one or two young believers in translation principles, so that work can continue and meet future needs of the church and for the community, but we are still waiting for that prayer to be answered.

It appears that Ladakhi Buddhists generally have become more resistant to the gospel over the years. In the recent past, believers have been threatened and new believers beaten up. We are seeing that they are now observing more rituals than ever before and there are ever-increasing religious gatherings and ceremonies. Part of the reason for this change among Buddhists could be the increasing divide with the Muslim community, with whom there have been clashes in recent years. But I believe the reason is more spiritual. Seeing God's kingdom expanding around the world, the enemy is not keeping quiet. He wants to keep his hold on the people in darkness. But God and His Word are much more powerful and we can see hopeful signs among the young people, especially those studying outside Ladakh.

They are more open and willing to consider the claims of Christ. The biggest witness is the lives of their Christian friends. But the lives of Christians not showing a true Christian character can also be the biggest hindrance. The Ladakhi Colloquial Bible Translation is an endeavour towards helping the Ladakhi Christians live a humble, Christ-like life and build up their faith, and helping make Christ known to the Ladakhis in their own heart-language. We are grateful for your continual prayers and support for the building of God's kingdom in this part of His vineyard, and ask that you continue being a part of this task, in particular in prayer for the Ladakhi people, and for us, as we have so many challenges to overcome.

May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you and shower you His grace as you serve Him.



© Br Joseph Kundan

© Br Joachim Kreusel

Br Joseph Kundan and Sr Zhidey Kundan

Translators, Ladakhi Colloquial Bible Translation Ministry

The final part of this short series on translation will be published in next month's issue.

Ockbrook Heritage Board

One snowy morning in February, the newest addition to Ockbrook Moravian Settlement was unveiled.



© Br Peter Summers

The Heritage Board was the culmination of many months of planning by a small group of people led by Dr Margaret Barker. The artwork for the board was skilfully created by Dr Barker's daughter Kate. Representatives from Erewash Council and Derbyshire County Council, which helped to fund the board, were present at the opening ceremony.

The board features a potted history of the Moravians, how and when they came to Ockbrook, details of the church building, Moravian customs and a little about Moravian education. Photographs of Moravian churches around the world, an 18th Century lithograph of the Settlement, an Advent Star and a Christingle are all included, as well as a map of the Settlement buildings and their dates.

The new board has already proved a talking point with visitors to the Settlement and should be enjoyed by generations to come, a visual reminder of our rich heritage.

Sr Julie Hague

Elizabeth Rosa Plumb (Beth)

(14th May 1932 - 23rd January 2017)

Baptized and brought up in the Moravian Church in Dixon Street, Beth served the Swindon congregation as Sunday School teacher, youth group leader, leader of the local MWA Circle, and she was a member of Congregation Committee for over 40 years. She represented the congregation at countless provincial synods and was a support to a succession of ministers at Dixon Street.



When contacted, former minister of the Moravian Church in Swindon, Sr Gloria David, commented: 'When I think of Beth the phrase that comes to mind is 'Consider it done'; for me she was faithful, kind, loving and committed to her Lord and those she encountered.' Another former minister, Br Peter Gubi, recalled an admiration of the professional way in which Beth dealt with matters that required the professional touch, but that he was also amused on those occasions when she seemed to be somewhat absent minded; particularly the time when she was lighting the candles for the Christingle service. She began to light them at the front of the tray, working toward the back, but in the process managed to catch her sleeve on fire. And the general tone of many comments and tributes has been, 'nothing was too much bother.'

Beth was Moravian in the truest sense, with a wider perspective of the work of the church than just the local congregation. She saw the importance of working together with other churches in the community, and this was reflected in her representing the local Moravian congregation in ecumenical affairs with Churches Together in Swindon Centre and on the local committee for the Women's World Day of Prayer.

She maintained an interest in the overseas missions work of the Moravian Church; and was a keen participant in the provincial activities of the Moravian Women's Association.

She served for many years as the Western

District representative on the national executive. For much of that time, Sr Libby Mitchell was the national President of the MWA, and she lovingly remembers a good friend: 'Beth was very involved in The Moravian Women's Association. She was on the Executive Committee holding various offices including Devotional Secretary, writing the monthly notes which were sent out to all the Circles to study and discuss, and the Quarterly Secretary, where she had to condense all the papers and letters every three months to send out to members who were spread far and wide throughout the world. She was a moving force in organizing and leading the MWA residential retreats in North Yorkshire, the Midlands and South Wales and there is a memory of her taking a group through the woods at Ampleforth Abbey in a snow storm and putting up her umbrella with the encouraging words to "imagine we were with Christian David leading his group of Bohemian Brethren through the mountains to Count Zinzendorf's refuge in Saxony" - some bright spark at the back asked, "did they have brollies, too?!" A kind, gentle and totally reliable friend.'

In the Moravian Church, we still call each other 'brother' or 'sister' as a matter of course. To some it's old-fashioned and quaint, a relic of a bygone age. Far from it; it is the cement of our Christian fellowship. Beth was a true sister - sister to her family - Sister to those in her care in hospital throughout a long career in nursing - sister to those who shared her faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you, Sr Beth, for being you.

Br David Newman

Congregation News

Baildon



© Sr Liz Simpson

The crafty ladies at Baildon have joined in the Age UK knitting appeal, raising funds for the elderly. These are a few of the tops we have produced to go on Innocent drinks bottles: apparently Age UK receive money when they are purchased.

Sr Liz Simpson

Lower Wyke



© Sr Michelle Walker

Here at Lower Wyke, we had our annual YPMA Awards service. Here are two of our collectors displaying long lengths of their awards, Lucy Horner and Grenville Greenwood.

Sr Michelle Walker

Congregational Register

Christening

Louis Alan Fyfe 29 January 2017 Swindon

Deaths

David Carr 3 February 2017 Fulneck
Beth Plumb 23 January 2017 Swindon

Reception into Membership

Brian Williams 5 February 2017 Fairfield
Olga Williams 5 February 2017 Fairfield

Fulneck

Fulneck Organ

Fulneck has a monthly organ concert by Dr Simon Lindley, usually on the first Thursday of the month (please check www.fulneck.org.uk for dates) at 11am and lasting for about 45 minutes. The programmes are varied, and Dr Lindley begins with a short talk about the pieces and composers. There is a retiring collection.

Dr Simon Lindley has been Leeds City Organist since 1976 and was organist of Leeds Minster from 1975 until retirement in 2016. He is a former president of the Royal College of Organists,



© Sr Claire Newman

and of the Incorporated Association of Organists. He is much recorded as an organ soloist or orchestral organist.

Dr Gordon Stewart has been Borough Organist in Kirklees since 1989, and has been the organist of Manchester and Blackburn Cathedrals. He taught at the Royal Northern College of Music

and Chetham's School of Music, and is now a visiting organ tutor at the University of Cambridge. He regularly tours abroad as an organ recitalist.

Br Michael Newman

Leicester



On 19th and 20th of November 2016 the Leicester Moravian Church celebrated 40 years of being a congregation. The celebration began with an anniversary meal on the Saturday evening at Wesley Hall Church. This was a fantastic evening which was attended by members of the congregation, their families, friends, past minsters and in addition by our brothers and sisters from the Methodist congregation. Those attending had an enjoyable time of fellowship and thoroughly enjoyed being entertained by a lively jazz band.

our celebrations with the anniversary service. Br Fred Linyard, who was the minister when the congregation was officially formed, was our guest preacher. He helped us to understand how essential continuous fellowship is. Sr Claire Maxwell gave an excellent children's talk; Br Greg Maskalik played the organ and piano; whilst our Br Joachim Kreusel led the service. A small exhibition is giving us an insight into the last 40 years of the congregation at Leicester.



to help us developing a vision for the congregation, and it is very much enjoyed by all participants. We are grateful to her for her wonderful and enthusiastic input.

We look forward to God's further guidance.

Sr Jennifer Henry
Leicester Correspondent



© Br Joachim Kreusel

Swindon

It's been just over eighteen months since our minister Paul arrived here in the Western district, and it has been a busy eighteen months. We have enjoyed many district 'get togethers': open manse days, all six congregations, enjoying games, quizzes, food and fellowship. There has been a very successful (and lively!) youth weekend, a trip to the theatre to see the Pirates of Penzance (featuring our very own Pirate Holdsworth), the Western District Rally, and a trip to Prague and Herrnhut.

Our midweek activities - Beavers, Rainbows & Operation Christmas Child continue to grow - all with Paul's help, despite the commute from Bristol. Our neighbours and housebound friends enjoy Paul's regular visits whilst he is in Swindon.

We now have a mid-week 'Wednesday Worship' once a

month, a time of worship and fellowship, enjoyed by all, from teenagers to octogenarians. Thank you Paul for all you have done and continue to do with our little flock and the local community.

During January we were saddened to hear of the death of Sr Beth Plumb, a lifelong member of Swindon congregation. Beth was a very active and much loved member of our Church and many ecumenical committees over the years - she will be fondly remembered by everyone.

On Sunday 29th January Louis Alan Fyfe was christened and welcomed into the Church family and on Saturday 4th Feb Sr Marjorie Marchant and Ken celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary.

Sr Sandy Mundy
Swindon Correspondent

Gomersal

Our Church calendar is very busy with the usual services, meetings, social gatherings and fund raising events. The monthly Wellbeing group continues to flourish under the expert guidance of Sr Victoria Wright. The ladies, many of whom attend other Churches, or none at all, continue to enjoy the all age yoga and walking activities.

Another of our monthly meetings, which attracts both members and non members of Church, is the Ladies Fellowship. We are a group of around 20 members. In January Don Buxton, from the West Yorkshire Ambulance Service gave an informative and humorous talk of their work. Don had never been to a Moravian group before but commented on the warm welcome he received and also the refreshments afterwards. A collection raised over £50 for the YAS Charitable fund. The attached photo shows Dan with some of the group members.



© Br Don Buxton

The charity we are supporting for the coming year is 'One In A Million', which helps and supports under privileged children from the Bradford area. We had a wonderful talk at our February meeting by Kirsty Moon who works for the charity. This was followed by a scrumptious faith supper. A collection taken on the night raised over £70 for their work.

The March meeting should also be very interesting as PC Phillip Miller, from the West Yorkshire Police is giving a talk on crime prevention.

Sr Norma Machell
Gomersal Correspondent

From Church House

Sikonge Leprosarium Update:

Dr Steen Andersen wishes to convey his thanks to those who have sent donations They have suffered a severe cut in funding this year so every donation is very gratefully received and very much needed.

Provincial Diary for April

- 6-7 PEC, BMB and Estates Property meetings at Church House PEC
- 29 MWA Away Day at Harlesden

- 9 Palm Sunday
- 11 First Day of Passover - Jewish
- 14 Good Friday
- 16 Easter Sunday
- 17 Easter Monday
- 23 St George's Day
- 24 Yom HaShoah - Jewish
- 24 Isra and Mi'raj - Muslim



My Heart Strangely Warmed The Methodist Church



The Lutheran, Moravian and Methodist Churches are pleased to invite you to a day of music, workshops, academic discussion and worship.

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. Participants will be able to choose from a number of workshops and papers, including:

- David Bunney 'Lines in pleasant places' / Margaret Morey 'Catherine Wink-worth + hymn translation' / Walter Riggans 'And yet strangely cooled' / James Woolford 'How do we get people singing again?' / Clive Barrett 'Hymnody + war resistance' / Marylynn Rouse 'John Newton' / Jo Cox-Darling 'The Wind of the Spirit..' / Grove Choir workshop / Martin Clarke 'And Can it be' / Danish choir workshop



For tickets, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/my-heart-strangely-warmed-tickets-28327863402> or return the slip below.

Saturday 20th May 2017

From 10am to 5.15pm

Lunch and refreshments throughout the day included

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).

Bookings to be received by 27th April at 5pm

Please photocopy as necessary and return this form to:

THE COUNCIL OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES

30 Thanet Street London WC1H 9QH

Phone: 020 7388 4044 Email: enquiries@lutheran.org.uk

Method of Payment

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Account: The Lutheran Council of Great Britain
Sort Code: 40-52-40
Account number: 00007862
Please include "MHSW-[your name]" as the payment reference and ensure that you return this form as well to secure your place.
If you would like to pay by credit card, tick the relevant box and sign, and we will contact you to complete the payment.
Alternatively, please make cheques payable to The Lutheran Council of Great Britain.

From the Sanctuary

What a wonderful time of year this is! Spring is with us! In my garden, Spring started to demand my attention with the clumps of snowdrops..., then the cyclamens and crocuses popped up in clusters to join them..., and now the daffodils are beginning to show their majestic golden yellow heads and dark green, spear-like leaves - dancing in the breeze. What a beautiful sight! New life! Lambs are frolicking in the pastures. Soon there will be bluebells. In the earlier hours of the day break, rabbits hop around on the hillsides nibbling the grass, and bird song greets the break of the morn - an amazing sound to behold. There are leaves on some of the trees, and the rest are in bud. There is a resurrection taking place around us as nature safely emerges from the battering down of winter. Gone, hopefully, is the harshness of winter although some snow is still possible, as nature is caressed by the life-enabling shafts of warm sunlight. Yet it is still risky for new life, as night frost has the potential to end it with its icy sword. It isn't yet a time to plant out seedlings except under cover.

This month, this transition from 'death' to new life, which is inherent in nature and in our faith, we will be celebrating

the resurrection of Christ at Easter. The winter of humanity that brought to an end a good and gracious life will be recalled during the nightly readings of the 'Harmony of the Gospel' during 'Passion Week' (i.e. the week before Easter). It is a moving narrative that culminates in the events of Good Friday, which is a day of remembering when Christ was crucified - when we see the worst of humanity (that which we are all capable of) in action. Yet, even in that, we see God's presence in the grace of Christ as he faces his oppressors with humility and vulnerability. Then, three days later, we had the re-emergence of hope from despair, seen in the risen Christ on Easter Day. We take this to be a spiritual truth that there is life beyond death, and so we celebrate this with an early morning service. In many Moravian Churches, this takes place in God's Acre (our burial ground) on Easter Day - remembering those who have passed on to better things, but who have left an imprint on our lives, our souls and our community. It reminds us that even if we face the worst of the world, there is still hope. So we bring out the Chocolate eggs and rabbits, and the little yellow fluffy chickens that the commercial world provided - all symbols of the new life



which is to be celebrated and marvelled at - but actually, and more profoundly, which is already in the emerging world that is present around us. So take a gentle stroll and enjoy the sight and symbolism that is Easter - but remember what happened to Christ as you journey, and be filled with hope. We Moravians haven't been called 'the Easter People' for nothing!

Br Peter Gubi, Dukinfield

Help Summer Camp 2017



**Dovedale House,
near Ashbourne, Derbyshire
Saturday 5th to Friday 11th August**

Summer camp returns to England this year but in this world of increasing costs we are struggling to keep costs down. The fee paid for the young people only just covers the cost of the centre - which is one of the cheaper ones - but none of the extras that make camp so special, outdoor activities, craft materials, worship resources, and especially the trip to a theme park. Please help financially in any way you can. All contributions are welcome. Your money will help to in the following way:

£32 for Theme park entry for one

£850 will pay for all the coach trips

£15 for an activity on the water for one

£10 for some worship resources (this may be anything from balloons to sparklers)

Donations can be sent to Joy Raynor, 25 Lynwood Avenue, Slough SL3 7BJ. Cheques payable to Moravian Union Inc; or you can pay direct by BACS: email youth@moravian.org.uk for details of how to do this.

Many thanks from all the summer campers.

© Sr Joy Raynor

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