



Y.P.M.A.



60 years old 1957 - 2017

The Young Peoples Missionary Association was started in 1957 by Rev. Ronald G. Lloyd. It was initially called 'Junior Missionary Association' (J.M.A.). This was a proposal unanimously agreed by the Yorkshire District Conference in 1956 to recommend the setting-up, throughout the province, of a Junior Missionary Association. Br Lloyd writes in the January 1957 Moravian Messenger, 'I believe that there exists a tremendous fund of goodwill not only among our own young people, but among their parents and relatives ... By bringing together the needs of our overseas work and people of good will there will be benefits to both the mission work and to our home province.' In May 1957 the 'Junior Missionary Association' was renamed 'Young Peoples Missionary Association' (Y.P.M.A.). The reason for this was to ensure that there was no confusion with the Methodist's J.M.A.

The aims of the Y.P.M.A. were:

- **For our children to learn more about Moravian work overseas**
- **To share this knowledge with others**
- **To pray for it**
- **To support this work by personal giving**
- **To encourage others also to give**

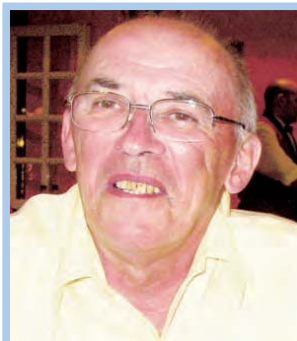
These aims remain unchanged today.

The original idea was that the children collect money regularly week by week from their mums, dads, aunties, uncles and other members of their family, but most important they have to contribute themselves with their name being the first one listed on the collecting card.

There was to be no door to door collecting. This family approach to supporting Y.P.M.A. continues to this day and in many cases expands to the extended family of church members.

In more recent years older church members have joined Y.P.M.A. as members and in some churches a contribution is donated from the congregation.

At the request of Br Lloyd, in 1958 Rev. A.J. Lewis wrote the Y.P.M.A. Hymn which is set to the tune Diademata (No. 121 Moravian Hymn Book) which features on the back of the Y.P.M.A. Collecting Card. The hymn consists of a single verse. Br Lloyd says Br Lewis must have put pen to paper immediately as Br Lloyd received the hymn by return of post. This is the Hymn:



Br Paul Greenhough
General Secretary Young Peoples Missionary Association

*Jesus our King Thou art,
Our Saviour strong and true;
In Thy dear love we all are joined,
In Thee we live anew.
Bless us Thy reign to spread
Thy great salvation tell,
Till all the world Thy name adore
And shout 'Emmanuel!'*

A.J. Lewis. 1958

In the first six months of 1957, Y.P.M.A. collected £291.15s.4d. 13 churches contributed with 211 members. The total raised in the first year was £545.7s.9d; 15 churches contributed. The total raised in the second year was £629.12s.7d.

In April 1958 Sr Leach, who was a member at Bedford St. Peter's church, wrote to Br Lloyd saying that a 'Juvenile Missionary Association' was started in the British Province some 80 years

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It has been a traumatic period in the UK with the terrorist attacks in Manchester and London and the Grenfell Tower fire disaster just the day before writing this editorial. We have all been horrified by the sight of the devastation, prayed for the survivors, been in awe of heroism of the emergency services and thankful for the kindness of strangers. The trauma from these events will remain with those involved for many years if not the rest of their lives.

The country has also just been through a bruising General Election where it became apparent that the country is deeply split on political lines. There is no clear governing majority for either of the main political parties without deals with other parties. The language of political debate has been harsh and sometimes very unfair on parties and individuals. One political leader has resigned over the intensity of questioning over his personal evangelical Christian beliefs.

Some of the hurt has been caused by posts on social media. Sadly, people say and do things on social media that they would not dream of saying in mixed company in real life. People 'like' or 'share' posts without being aware of where they come from. What could be sophisticated political analysis is reduced to a poster or picture post and these posts come flooding into our computers or phones without our say so.

Now is surely the time for Christians to draw back, pause and consider where we are and what has happened to us as a nation over the past few weeks. The Church should be able to model reconciliation and healing in its own life before offering it to others.

It does not mean that we should all agree on everything. Many people of honour, integrity and Christian faith exist in our political parties. Further, Christians can genuinely differ in the way they see issues in our society and in the solutions they put forward to the problems that exist. Acts Ch 15 shows how the early Church coped with sharp differences between the Jewish and Gentile believers. The two strands of faith learned to recognize the authenticity of the other without having to agree on all points of practice.

The spirit of our Church is summed up in the motto, 'In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty and in all things charity'. May we be united in our devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ, and over the summer we can build up, not tear down, cherish each other and celebrate difference.

Sr Sarah Groves



Y.P.M.A. 60 years old

continued



2014 Tanzanian Motor Bikes Project

ago and she used to be a member. One branch was originally formed at the school at Fairfield in 1858 and then other Moravian Juvenile Missionary Associations were formed for Moravian schools in England in 1867. These associations appear to only have lasted a few years due to lack of support and leadership from the church.

In November 1958 the first Y.P.M.A. news sheet was produced and distributed to every member of Y.P.M.A. Previously, Y.P.M.A. news was only in the 'Messenger'.

Br Ronald Lloyd reluctantly asked the Provincial Board to accept his resignation as Mission Advocate in 1960 because of the increased responsibilities when he moved to Yorkshire to be minister of the Gomersal and Heckmondwike congregations. Br Wilfred Mortimore was appointed as General Secretary in 1960 while he was minister of the Lower Wyke congregation and held the post until 1967.

The first Y.P.M.A. Badge was produced in 1960. Award Bars in the early days were Gold for collecting £10 in the year; Silver Bar for £5. Now we have Award Bars ranging from £5 in the year up to £300 in the year.

Br George Wilkinson from the Horton congregation took over as General Secretary in 1967. Br Wilkinson was in the wool trade and travelled all over the world and in many of his overseas trips came across the work of Moravian Missions. One time, he called in at the Moravian home at Ramallah Star Mountain, which was then a Leper Home. He said that the leprosy patients would benefit by having more practical occupations, and he immediately provided wool and equipment for hand weaving.

Br Wilkinson stood down as General Secretary in 1980. In April 1980 the British Mission Board appointed me to succeed Br Wilkinson as General Secretary. Up to this point I had been Y.P.M.A. Secretary at Lower Wyke since the 1960's. When taking over as General Secretary I gave up my post as branch secretary at Lower Wyke and Brother Dennis Thorpe took over and is still in post today.

Initially Y.P.M.A. collections were used for general overseas mission. In the early

1980's the money collected started to be used for specific projects. The following are some of projects carried out over the last 35 years for the Moravian Church:

- Laboratory equipment
- Medical supplies
- Seeds, tools and basic farming implements
- Books
- Boys brigade equipment
- Farm Animals
- New ceiling
- Plant 1,000 orange trees
- Sports facilities
- Television sets and Video recorders
- Film projector
- Bicycles
- Teaching material
- Trekking and hiking equipment
- A Laparoscope (a medical instrument for looking inside a person before an operation)
- Musical instruments
- Sponsor young people's conferences
- Founded and contribute to Scholarship funds for children's education
- Materials to build a children's playground
- Bibles
- Fax machines
- Kitchen equipment
- Nursery school equipment
- School uniforms
- New vehicles
- Motor bikes
- Heart beat monitors
- Wheel chairs for handicapped children
- Chairs
- Computers
- Biology and Chemistry equipment
- Bedding.
- School buses
- Children's toys
- New girls Dormitory
- New Library building

Y.P.M.A. has also carried out projects for organisations not connected with the Moravian Church. Some of these are:

- Mobile eye unit for Africa, a project through the Royal Society for the Blind.
- Supply materials for the building of a new toilet block at an orphanage in Romania.
- Medical supplies for a hospital in Romania.
- Water Pumps for Uganda, a project through Blue Peter.
- Wheel Chairs for Burren Chernobyl Project at Goradiche Orphanage in Belarus.
- Improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities through Water Aid charity.
- Aquaboxes a means of supplying safe water to those in desperate need.

Countries where projects have been carried out:

- India
- Honduras
- Assam
- Nicaragua
- Romania
- Uganda
- Tanzania
- England
- Belarus
- Jamaica
- Slovenia
- Albania
- South Africa
- Nepal

In 2007, the 50th anniversary year I asked Br Paul Gubi to add another verse to the Y.P.M.A. hymn. The tune is the same Diademata (No. 121 Moravian Hymn Book). The first verse was freely adapted from the original verse written by Br Lewis without changing the original message.

*Jesus our Lord and King,
Our Saviour strong and true,
Joined by your love, our gifts we bring:
An offering, Lord, to you.
May these your kingdom spread,
Helping the world to hear
The word of life that wakes the dead;
The love of God come near.
Jesus our Lord and King,
Our Saviour strong and true,
Joined by our gifts, our love we sing,
Offering our praise to you.
The kingdom, Lord, is yours;
The power and glory too;
The privilege of serving, ours:
Each with a task to do.*

Paul Gubi. 2007

Please use the Y.P.M.A. hymns; either Br Lewis's original single verse or Br Gubi's two verse version. One suitable time is in the service when the Y.P.M.A. awards are being presented and I am sure you will find other occasions.

Since the start of Y.P.M.A. in 1957, the 500th Anniversary of the founding of the Moravian Church, over £347,000 has been raised.

I hope you will find these interesting and bring back memories from days gone by. I thank Lorraine Parsons for all her work in looking through archive records to unearth information to enable the story of 60 years of Y.P.M.A.

*Br Paul Greenhough
General Secretary Young Peoples
Missionary Association*

Teenagers and Toddlers

to peak at ages 13, 16 and 18, it doesn't take a genius to work out these are significant ages of change in the lives of young people, so what does keep young people and young adults in church? The research presents the findings as a series of graphs with a range of responses. The main influences on young adults attending church are:

- **Personal faith (87%)**
- **Sense of community (62%)**
- **Sense of belonging to a church (56%)**
- **Christian teachings and beliefs (55%)**

These may not be what you thought and further questions asked what made the perfect church? Top of the list was 'friendly' (79%) followed by 'non-judgemental' (60%). And the preferred style of service? Modern style (66%), traditional service (44%) with youth focused services only scoring 21% and youth groups 20%. There was a difference in the value of these to different groups with 16-19 year olds preferring youth focused services and youth groups far more than the 26-30 year olds.

However this is the whole content of the research and the evidence gathered and found in a literature search led to a list of suggestions of what changes churches could make to keep young people 'rooted in the church'. These can be summarised as:

1. **Churches should aim to build a culture of intergenerational relationships.**

2. **Churches should be inclusive of all ages in both leadership and worship.**
3. **Churches should recognise young people and young adults as equal members of the Body of Christ.**
4. **Churches should be encouraged to consider the possibility of admitting baptised children to Communion before Confirmation.**
5. **Churches should become unconditionally welcoming places for young people.**
6. **Churches need to do more to support their youth workers and leaders.**

These six points could easily be discussed, maybe one by one, in the church and the meaning of each be examined in relation to the congregation we belong to. The research shows that the actions don't need large amounts of money or large congregations to be effective, just a willingness to re-examine ministry with and by young people, to be challenged and make a long term commitment to the young people in the church. The full summary report is well worth reading if you have a passion to move forward with this. It can be found at www.churchofengland.org/media/3775547/rooted-in-the-church-summary-report-nov-2016.pdf

Report on the toddler group report to follow ...

*Sr Joy Raynor
Provincial Youth and Children's Officer*



© from the Moravian camp leaders

Too often we analyse why teenagers leave or families stay with the church without really understanding what is happening or how to change things. The Church of England commissioned research projects, one to look at why young people stay in church and one to look at the added value of church toddler groups. Here are some thoughts on the reports.

Teenager - Young people and young adults

Rooted in the church asked young people, young adults and their parents what kept them in the church when the evidence is that young people don't commit to membership not just of the church but of sports clubs, voluntary organisations and other groups. There is a reduction in social connectedness in the over 16s across a range of activities. The research looked at what kept young people and young adults 'rooted' in the church, maintaining an active membership, rather than a 'go it alone' faith.

Disengagement with the church seems



Godly Play

This month's Godly Play article is a reflection on the Godly Play, Childhood Spirituality Conference I attended, held at Sheffield Cathedral 12th -13th May 2017.

**Every child has known God,
not the God of names,
not the God of don'ts,
not the God who ever does anything weird,
but the God who only knows four words
and keeps repeating them, saying:
'Come dance with me.'**

Hafiz (14thC Persia)

These were the opening words to Peter Privett's talk at the Godly Play conference I attended in Sheffield last month. The title of the conference was 'Come Dance With Me' and throughout the two days we were surrounded by these words and reflected on how we can embody them.

On the first day John Bell, who is a member of the Iona Community, delivered a stimulating and thought provoking talk on the 'Tangibility of Jesus'. John shared his thoughts on the contradictions of Jesus' miracles/healing ministry and noted that Jesus had no technique to his healing method. Sometimes he touched the person he healed and sometimes he didn't. This, John explained, is what made the healing individual to that person, for example; Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52) is a lively individual who is shouting at Jesus from the side of the road, to have pity of him. Jesus offers healing in an equally lively way and just says 'Go, your faith has healed you.'

However, to the man born blind (John 9:1-11) Jesus spits on the man. If we look at this story a little deeper and think about the man who had never seen himself or anything else, and did not know what was in front of him, the sound of Jesus spitting and making a mud pie would indicate to his other senses that something was going to happen! Jesus is a man of contradictions and his touch is an incredible gift and affirms the person receiving healing that they are no longer 'untouchable'. Jesus understands that people have to be treated in different ways. Jesus also allows himself to be touched, think of the haemorrhaging woman (Mark 9:20). John closed his talk by saying 'This is God among us waiting to be touched, it would be a very small God who only communicated with the intellectual. Godly Play allows for an experiential engagement with Christ.'

Throughout the conference, around the Cathedral were displays from charities sharing their experience of working with Godly Play with children, the elderly and those with dementia. There were also stalls selling books and Godly Play equipment.

There was also a large Labyrinth in one of the side chapels. Labyrinths are used by different religions in many settings such as schools, prisons, churches and more as an aid to personal prayer and reflection. 'The winding path helps us to 'unwind' to let go and rest in God. A labyrinth is different from a maze.



A maze is full of dead ends and designed to get you lost. A labyrinth has only one path that leads you to the centre ... if you stay on the path you cannot get lost.' If anyone is interested in hosting a Labyrinth quiet day then please look at their website. (See link below)

The conference was also a time to share experiences and meet new people. We had a chance to get to know Godly Players from our own area so we have a supportive network of people. It was a wonderful weekend and a time to be re-energised but also a time of blessing.

At the end of the conference we all shared the Godly Play blessing:

*May the Good Shepherd, who knows all the sheep
by name,
lead you to the good green pastures and stay with
you through the times of desert.
May you find your pearl of great price,
and know that you journey with the People of God,
who are as many as the stars in the sky
and as many as the grains of sand in the desert.
And may the blessing of God who is Creator,
Redeemer and Sustainer
be with you now and always. Amen*

www.godlyplay.uk
www.christiansonageing.org.uk
www.pilgrimpaths.co.uk

As I write this article I am also putting the final words to my BA dissertation. Next month I will share with you some of the findings of my research.

Blessings to you all,

Sr Lorraine Shorten



© Sr Roberta Hoey

The Moravian Women's Association Away Day at Harlesden

The Moravian Women's Auxiliary (MWA) began in 1950 with the aim of uniting women in closer fellowship with each other and serving God. This aim was to be achieved by increasing understanding and love of the Bible, supporting the work of the Moravian Church both here and abroad, encouraging leadership and promoting social service. 67 years later the name has changed - Association rather than Auxiliary - but the aims of the organisation remain the same and continue to be fulfilled.

© Sr Roberta Hoey



MWA currently has 23 groups known as Circles in the British Province with around 200 members. Circles meet monthly, sharing in fellowship with each other. Usually two papers or articles are read and discussed at the meeting. One is a devotional paper written around a theme which lasts for 12 months - the current theme is 'Come journey with me' and the other 'Home and Overseas' paper deals with more topical issues.

Two committees exist to oversee the running of MWA. The Executive committee has seven members and meets twice a year. Each member of the Executive is elected for a three year period and can only be re-elected twice. The Central Committee meets once a year the day before the MWA Day and consists of members of the Executive plus a representative from each District of the British Province plus the Women's World Day of Prayer Representative. At this annual meeting the theme for the year's Devotional Paper is decided along with the projects MWA members will raise money for and the venue for the annual MWA Day.

The MWA Day is the highlight of the MWA year. This year it was held on the 29th April at Harlesden. The day started with early morning sunshine - it usually does! 'Singspiration' - a time when hymns old and new are sung together, began at 10.30am, giving an opportunity for Sisters to arrive, register and gather in Church for the day ahead. Following 'Singspiration' there was the usual service where I, as President give news from the Central Committee. This is always quite a nerve wracking time. MWA seeks to support as many good causes as it can and I always worry that

I am going to leave out some piece of vital information. MWA manages to raise an incredible amount of money given its small size and this year we were able to give the following amounts: £1,000 for flood relief in Karonga, Malawi and £1,000 to the Birmingham Crisis Centre, £600 to

Cornerstones in Salford, £500 to the Cinderella Fund in Bradford and £500 to Gogo Olive, an organisation supporting women in Zimbabwe. MWA hold a 'Disaster Fund' and have donated £1,500 to UNICEF for famine relief in Africa. Next year we will be supporting Summer Camp once more as well as the Moravian Leprosarium in Sikonge, Tanzania and Crohns and Colitis UK.

The Vice-president (Sr Audrey Kendall) delivered the roll call of all the Circles and it never ceases to amaze me just how many Sisters manage to travel often many miles with very early starts to get to the MWA Day. The all-important project money was collected, counted and the total announced. This year an amazing £6,940! This money will be distributed to Summer Camp (£750), Elim Home (£1,500) and The Harbour Project (£1,500) - a project working with refugees in Swindon, the rest will be held in reserve and decisions made about its use at next year's Central Committee. Sr Valerie Williams delivered an inspiring address on the current theme and whilst singing our final hymn of the morning session an

offertory was taken raising £450 for Crohns and Colitis UK.

After lunch we all joined in one of a variety of workshops - I enjoyed learning how to put together a flower posy, others sang, made jewellery, learnt more about dementia, kept fit (very lively!!) or enjoyed a local history tour - Buckingham Palace included!

At the end of the day, we gathered once more in the Church to celebrate Holy Communion presided over by Sr Jane Dixon. It is always a great honour to me to be able to assist in the distribution of the bread and wine and a wonderful opportunity to meet so many of my MWA Sisters whilst serving them communion. Our service closed - as it always does and as each Circle meeting does - with the singing of the MWA covenant hymn and the recitation of the MIZPAH. The singing of the covenant hymn made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up, so beautiful and meaningful was the singing and there was real joy on everyone's faces as we recited the familiar words: 'May the Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.' After a hot drink and a slice of cake we were on our way home and onward to MWA Day 2018 when we will gather on 14th April at Swindon with the theme of 'The Power of Living Water.'

Two other MWA events are held each year - the annual Irish District MWA Rally and a retreat - this year in June at Whitby and next year at Larne, N. Ireland.

I hope this article has given you a flavour of MWA. MWA has given me so many wonderful opportunities to serve God, church and society and to meet so many Sisters from all over the British Province. I would love you to join us - there's always room for more. If reading this has raised your interest, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (janet.cooper@moravian.org.uk) or phone (0161 370 1856) to find out how you could be a part of MWA. All our monthly papers are on the website (www.moravian.org.uk/index.php/members/mwa) and there is an MWA Facebook page.

Sr Janet Cooper
President of the MWA

My Heart Strangely Warmed



Four speakers, who gave talks on behalf of the three churches in the morning: Martin Clarke (Methodist), Christian Devantier (Lutheran), Lorraine Parsons (Moravian) and Roberta Hoey (Moravian). © Br Philip Cooper

On Saturday 20th May at Fulneck Moravian Church and School, the Moravian Church, the Council of Lutheran Churches and the Methodist Church in Britain held a conference, entitled 'My Heart Strangely Warmed,' to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The theme of the conference was hymnody.

A total 108 people attended, plus a number of others who came either to lead, present a workshop, paper or take part in the worship service at the end of the day.

The day began with light refreshments, followed by three very interesting half hour papers. Christian Devantier presented a paper on the subject of congregational singing in the Lutheran tradition; Lorraine Parsons and Roberta Hoey presented a paper on hymnody in the early and renewed Moravian Church; and Martin Clarke on Moravian influences on Methodist hymnody.

Following these talks it was time for half of the people present to go for a delicious lunch in the school dining hall, while the rest of those present had already chosen beforehand one of four papers to attend. David Bunney presented a paper which addressed the way the Reformation gave impetus to the vernacular translation and printing of the Bible, to art, to hymnody and to music. Margaret Morey gave a paper on Catherine Winkworth, focusing on Catherine Winkworth's two English versions of Johann Frank's Holy Communion hymn 'Schmücke Dich' (1649) - the English title is 'Deck Thyself'. Walter Riggan gave a paper on the Psalms in which he argued



Moravians from Hall Green © Sr Sarah Groves

that the Psalter is a biblical model for a hymnbook, expressing the painful experiences of life and faith as well as the joys, thus enabling us to be more honest and holistic in our expression of faith. Martin Clarke presented a paper considering the various historic musical settings of the iconic hymn 'And Can It Be,' its place in hymnbooks and why this hymn is so influential today.

Following these papers it was time for the second half of the people attending to have lunch, while those who had already eaten had also chosen beforehand one of four different papers and workshops to attend. Clive Barrett considered the role of Christian pacifism in Britain during the 1914-18 war, with reference to the music of Protestant, especially Methodist, conscientious objectors and also considered the leadership of the Lutheran bishop, Nathan Soderblom. Marylynn Rouse, in a paper entitled 'John Newton's Hymns: The Workings of the Heart of Man and of the Spirit of God,' look at the background to some of Newton's hymns, supported by images from his unpublished manuscripts. Joanne Cox-Darling presented a paper on the increasing use of weather imagery in Western evangelical song writing and what this imagery may say about the fear and violence present in society and also in a world of superheroes and global terrorism. There was also the option to attend a workshop led by the Methodist Grove Choir. The choir has more than twenty members and sings each Sunday at worship services. They have sung at various

Opening of the Conference

© Br Philip Cooper



© Sr Sarah Groves

venues around Leeds and in the North of England, including three visits to the Beamish museum.

Following these papers and workshops, people had the opportunity to attend one of two more papers or workshops. James Woolford presented a paper seeking to answer the question, 'How do we introduce singing in worship to people, who we are called to reach, who have largely forgotten the joy of communal singing and enable them to be comfortable in singing a joyful song unto the Lord?' There was also a workshop led by a Danish choir. The choir addressed questions such as how can we make hymn singing and our voices work better?

After these two papers and workshops there was a plenary session, where people had the opportunity to share the thoughts and insights they had gained during the day. This was followed by light refreshments in the school dining hall.



Moravian singers at rehearsal

© Sr Sarah Groves

The day finished with a wonderful act of worship conducted by Bishop Walter Jagucki and Br Michael Newman. Our Guest Preacher was Rev Dr Roger Walton, President of the Methodist Conference, whose sermon was extremely inspiring, Roger reminded us that the words of hymns can express deep matters of faith and spirituality that cannot adequately be expressed in prose. The Bible readings were read by representatives from the three churches - Rt Rev John McOwat, Rev Libby Toomsalu and Rev Dr Roger Walton. We were extremely fortunate to have Dr Simon Lindley playing the Fulneck organ throughout the service. The two choirs - the Singkreis Martin Luther Kirche and the Moravian Singers - sang beautifully during the service. The Moravian Singers sang two anthems - 'Love Divine' by H Goodall and 'A Gaelic Blessing' by J Rutter. The Singkreis Martin Luther Kirche sang an introit - 'Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist' by M Praetorius - and was involved in other parts of the service. We also had a wonderful soloist - Rev Paulina Hlawiczka - who sang beautifully while the offering was taken and also contributed to other parts of the service. The offering raised £420 for Christian Aid.

We are very grateful to the Fulneck Moravian Church and School and all those who helped in any way preparing for the event and on the day. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day and we have received some very positive feedback.

Br Philip Cooper

A conference in Albania



© Sr Joy Raynor and Sr Elisabeth Hollindrake

'How exciting' was the response when we told people we were off to Albania, quickly followed by 'Where's that?' It is north of Greece and famous for Mother Theresa and being the first country in the world to declare itself as completely atheistic. But we discovered there was more the Albania than this - hub cap shops, unfinished buildings, fantastic scenery and friendly welcoming people, to name but a few. During our stay we were fortunate to be able to worship with two of the five congregations, in Tirana and in Pogradec. The services, both led by lay women, included plenty of singing in English and Albanian, prayers, bible readings and a short message. The love of the congregation members for each other was very evident, and all of the group were included in that. The Lovefeast we attended in Tirana consisted of a bread roll with cream cheese and a cup of mountain tea, a local speciality.

At this point you may be asking who is 'we' and what group? Elisabeth Hollindrake and Joy Raynor joined youth workers from Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and Albania. We meet together annually to discuss youth work across Europe, share good practice, look at new ideas and encourage one another. Meeting old friends and making new ones is an important part of the conference.

The Albanians were obviously delighted to host this conference and went out of their way to make sure we were comfortable and looked after. The service in Tirana was attended by all the leaders of the congregations so they could meet us. The youth camp was put at our disposal along with the services of Alma and Rosa who were wonderful cooks, providing us with traditional Albanian dishes.

The theme of the conference was 'The Reformation' - an excellent presentation about the English Reformation was a quick history lesson, complete with gory bits. It explained how the reformation in England was different from the rest of Europe. Another session was watching the film 'Luther'. We also had a presentation on the history of the Albanian Moravian church. Time talking about the best evangelical tools in each country contained a variety of methods - but applying them to the British system might not be viable.

Discussions about the future were exciting - more about this at a later date.

Sr Joy Raynor and Sr Elisabeth Hollindrake



Beneath the Facade: Honesty in Suffering

of life; many exhibit an outward demeanour of confidence and contentment with life, but behind the mask, constructed to please others, or even to convince themselves, there is much suffering and pain struggling to find an outlet. As a Minister I know that those who care for others are sometimes the hardest hit and feel under the most pressure to retreat beneath the facade they have either carefully constructed and cultivated, or has been projected on to them.

But society is changing, and I would contend, very much for the better. No doubt you are aware that recently in their quest to encourage us all to tackle the stigma and prejudice that still sadly accompanies mental illness, the new generation of the royal family have been very proactive in encouraging us all to step from behind the facade and to talk openly of our emotions. That can only be a good thing, for individuals, but also for wider society. The typical 'stiff upper lip' approach of our culture has been advantageous in displaying fortitude and stoicism, but leaves us ill-prepared to deal with the emotional health and wellbeing of ourselves and others.

As a community of faith, we should be especially alert to these messages of openness and honesty. After all, Jesus himself was a master of seeing beyond the facade and engaging with the real person behind it. When we consider those many awe-inspiring and life-changing encounters he had in his earthly ministry - reaching out and touching the spiritual core of those on the margins. We read of a Jesus who could see the pain of the Samaritan woman, the struggles of the sick man at the Pool of Bethesda, and the spiritual distress of the woman who was haemorrhaging and ostracised from her community.

Also as a community of faith, we are reminded in an equally important manner of the Jesus who saw beyond the legalistic and pious mask of the Pharisees, and found within a dearth of spiritual connectedness with the God of grace and love for all.

Thomas Merton, in 'New Seeds of Contemplation' got it right when he wrote: 'We have the choice of two identities: the external mask which seems to be real... and the hidden, inner person who seems to us to be nothing, but who can give himself eternally to the truth in whom he subsists'. That truth is God himself in whom all reality is grounded, acknowledged or not.

So what do we do? Where do we go from here? Well, it is no small step to admit our

vulnerability, to each other as a loving, Christian community; it is no small step to open up and admit when we need help or support, emotional or otherwise. It can be hard too, to see those around us in the light of their own struggles. Remember those words of the famous Lutheran Minister, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who wrote in his book 'The Cost of Discipleship': 'Suffering, then, is the badge of true discipleship. The disciple is not above his master. Following Christ means *passio passiva*, suffering because we have to suffer.' And I would add, not being ashamed to own that suffering and to let others enter into our emotional and spiritual lives to share in all that we go through; we can only do that by ridding ourselves of the 'all is well' mask.

Bonhoeffer did of course put this more poetically than I ever could, when he observed: 'We must learn to regard people less in light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer.' And we can only do that when we begin to chip away at that facade and reveal our true selves to those we live in community with, and to live honestly in the light of God's love.

We all have burdens that we carry - some less significant and disabling than others - but they are burdens nonetheless that prompt us to turn to God. We all know those immensely powerful words, uttered by Jesus and recorded in Matthew 11:28, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest'.

But as we turn to God, we need to be cognizant of the fact that he works through others in their vulnerability, and opens us up to new possibilities through our vulnerability. Here, I want to finish this short reflection with the words of Teresa of Avila:

**'Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours,
no feet but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which to look out
Christ's compassion to the world
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about
doing good;
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.'**

So I look now at my magnificent souvenir mask, as an object of beauty and a reminder of new cultural vistas explored, but also as an aide memoire that the mask is not always meant to be worn - the contours of our true selves is infinitely more cherished and loved by God than any facade we may construct.

AMEN

Br Scott Peddie

Quite a few years ago now when I travelled extensively with work, I would often pick up items of interest from the countries, town or cities I visited. One of my favourite items is a Malaysian painted facemask I bought whilst visiting the Johor Bahru region, a few miles across the causeway from Singapore.

These masks, I later found out, were historically tribal attire that was used in a range of ceremonies, in addition to decorating homes. I was struck by the intricacies of the hand-painted design and the beautiful mixture of vibrant colours that really brought an inanimate object to life.

And so this 'souvenir' sits proudly on a display shelf in my sitting room; the colours catch my eye each and every time I walk into the room. It is a welcoming face that reminds me of an earlier period in my life, filled with travel and the joy of learning about new and diverse cultures, some of which are significantly different to our own.

The mask is an item known to many cultures throughout antiquity. In our own contemporary society, we frequently 'put on a mask', although in a metaphorical sense. We hide our true emotions behind that mask, which can be multifaceted and ever changing, but however it manifests itself, it always has a spiritual dimension at its core.

How many times, I wonder, do we hide our true emotions behind a smile or an upbeat demeanour? How often do we say 'I'm fine', when the truth is somewhat different, or even radically different - when we are struggling to cope with a painful life event or series of perceived failures? Or what about those instances when we wrestle with a spiritual malaise that there seems to be no answer to?

In truth, we can never really tell at first glance whether or not the facade is real or forced; it can take some time to unearth emotional turmoil and pain bubbling underneath the surface. And that is why we need to take to heart that aphorism attributed, sometimes to Plato, but by others to John Watson: 'Be kind; everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle'. How hard that battle actually is we can only guess at, in each individual we meet, from an emotional and physical distance.

As a therapist I see people from all walks

Congregation News

Bath (Weston)

Even though we are nearly halfway through the year, I am starting with our Christingle service which is always well attended on Christmas Eve. Junior church gave us a presentation of Christmas linked to Easter, it tries to put the Christmas story into the context of the bigger picture of God coming down to earth as Jesus, not just born but also to die for us. As you see in the picture, planks were used, to create two stars, a manger, a table, a cross and a cross and star together. The different shapes were created as narrators read out passages. Also one side of the wood was brown, showing the light going out and the other side yellow for light - bright, clean and pure. According to the passages read out, was to which side the planks had to be. All went well and enjoyed by all.

The Women's World Day of Prayer service was held at our church this year and was led by Sr Patsy Holdsworth. Sadly the MWA group is very small now; recruiting new members is not easy! Easter services all went well, Maundy Thursday, members from Swindon and Coronation Avenue joined us, this was led by Br Paul Holdsworth. Following the service we all enjoyed a buffet supper in the cold as the old boiler refused to work. Good Friday is the cross-walk from our church to Weston All Saints, followed by an open air service, luckily it was a fine day, and Br Paul Holdsworth took part in the service. Sadly, the Easter Day service was held in the hall as the old boiler decided to play up again - hopefully we will have a new boiler for next winter!



© Br Dylan Borck

Wednesday lunch fellowship is still going strong, all enjoying a well substantial meal and of course catching up on all the news. Boys Brigade boys and girls (senior) are enjoying all their activities, outdoor and in, it is still very well attended. Love Weston Cafe which is on a Friday 9-3pm held in our hall, run by people from the surrounding churches is very popular: it is busy right from opening to closing. We are still alternating on the second Sunday of each month with our friends at the Weston Methodist Church, which boosts the congregations and the singing which is great!!

Sr Carole Young



© Sr Margery Sutcliffe

Spring in the air

What better way to start the month than with a Daffodil Tea and Chocolate Bring and Buy. This proved to be a very popular afternoon on Saturday 4th March resulting in a complete sell out of teas and raising £575 for church funds!

On more positive notes; Br Cooper started a course of Confirmation classes on 9th

March and our Café church on the 12th was led by GAP and IMPACT from St Mary's Houghton Green, who it is always a pleasure to have visit us at Fairfield.

Another successful fund raiser was held on 7th April: a jumble sale which raised £580. Then of course onto the Easter services. At a special coffee morning on 15th members and friends were invited to help celebrate the 90th birthday of Sr Ethel Hales. Then of course on Easter Sunday we held the 7am Service and Communion followed by the 11am Easter Egg Service - all eggs were sent to the Mary and Joseph House in Manchester, where they provide support to men trying to get back on their feet. On the 29th April the Youth Club rounded off the month with a smile when they held a coffee morning that raised £235 for the Neo Natal Unit at St Mary's hospital.

Just a reminder that our museum is now open each Saturday from 1-4pm up until 26th August.

Sr Margery Sutcliffe

Fairfield

Attention! February is often seen as a dark cold month by many of us, mitigated only slightly by its brevity. This year was a particularly dark month at Fairfield as we lost a lifelong member, Br Allan Clapham. Allan died on 23rd February at the age of 93, after a period of increasingly poor health. Allan had no blood family nearby, but I know he took great comfort from his church family and those closest to him took great care of him not least of all visiting regularly to keep him up to date with all that was happening in and around the church. His funeral was held here at Fairfield on 7th March. I for one feel his loss most keenly when I am in the college kitchen; Allan had become a well-known figure at the washing up sink - a post he volunteered for when his wife Maureen died. During his time in the kitchen we had many interesting conversations and lots and lots of laughter. I'm sure all Fairfield members will have their own very personal memories - we will not forget our Captain!

Ballinderry

Ballinderry Moravian Church is now a certified Fair Trade Church and we are committed to using Fairtrade produces where possible. We will also promote Fairtrade goods as often as we can and support Fairtrade Fortnight.

We also have a page on Facebook 'Ballinderry Moravian Church'. If you are on Facebook then please like and follow us.

It was wonderful to welcome so many to our Church Anniversary Service on Sunday 19th March. The Rev William Hazlett led the service and we enjoyed two beautiful solos from William Sibbert who began his singing career in our Church many years ago. The service was followed by refreshments and much chat.

Br Henry Wilson researched and gave a fascinating series of three illustrated lectures on the Royal Jewel Collection over three Tuesday Evenings. The freewill offerings at these lectures were given to charity with £120 going to the Unity Prayer Day appeal and £230 going to the Christian Aid Appeal for



© Sr Sarah Groves

East Africa. We are grateful to Br Henry for his wonderful lectures which uncovered not just the jewels but the fascinating human stories behind them. We also thank Sr Ann Wilson who spent ages putting the illustrations on PowerPoint.

There was a full Church on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. During the service was the blessing of James McKeown, the infant son of Rebecca and David McKeown and the grandson of George and Bernie Stevenson. The children decorated a large Easter banner which is now displayed in Church. As always at the end of the service we all got Smartie Easter eggs.

We have been saddened by the death of Br Ken McRoberts, one of our members, who died on Saturday 29th April. There was a very large turnout for his funeral and our sympathies are with Aileen and all his family.

Sr Marilyn Marshall

We ended our afternoon together with cakes - what else? - and a good chin-wag, catching up with our news. (Some of us had to stay longer than planned, due to the arrival of the Ice Cream Salesman who plies his trade from the car park of church on sunny days. He did offer us a '99' Cornet as compensation, however!)

The following Sunday the M.W.A. took the annual service, again keeping to the theme. Two of the devotional notes from the year - the journey of Mary and the journey of the Disciples, provided the bible readings and we were delighted to welcome Sister Collette, a nun who works in the local community and also at Tameside General Hospital, giving comfort to those in the last stages of life. What a treat it was to listen to some of her anecdotes as she has travelled her journey of life. She said that every morning she views the day as a plain piece of paper and by night-time she hopes she has filled the page with good, useful and amusing deeds. She also asked us to remember to be kind one to another, as all our journeys are so short, and to be proud of our children and grandchildren.e.

The photograph attached to this article shows the 'Come, Journey with Us' banner that Sr Glenys Marshall, among others, has stitched. We wish Glenys a speedy recovery from her recent surgery.

Sr Sue Selby



© Sr Sue Selby

Dukinfield

On Wednesday afternoon, 10th May, it was Dukinfield's pleasure to host the second annual Moravian Women's Association get-together of the Lancashire District. We continued this year's theme 'Come, Journey with Me' and the sisters of Salem, Royton and Dukinfield enjoyed hearing the news in the President's Letter and the Home and Overseas paper. Of particular interest was Sr Wendy Hopcroft's Devotional Note, telling of her parents' journey, as missionaries, to the Caribbean just after the second world war. What a harrowing journey they experienced - it made touching reading.

Fulneck

The Saturday after Shrove Tuesday the Junior Church celebrated a 'Flippin' Marvellous Pancake Tossing Experience' in the Boys' Brigade building. Around ten youngsters were given a few words from the Minister to explain the meaning and purpose of Lent before the fun began. Games were played, pancakes were tossed with varying degrees of skill and artistry and these delicacies were consumed with great pleasure.

The Lent Lunches on Fridays this year raised £716, which was split between the Adi Eblal Charity and Church funds. The organiser, Sr B. Pearson, wishes to thank all helpers and has announced that last year's donation allowed the villagers to put the roof on the school library before the rains came,

© Sr Maureen Ingham / Br Michael Newman



thus saving all their work from being washed away. This is the sixth year of the Lent Lunches and she hopes they will continue in future.

On Saturday 20th May, a conference was held in Fulneck which was shared by Moravians, Methodists and Lutherans on the subject of hymnody and its development in Non-conformist Christianity since the European Reformation. Several delegates found time between workshops and lectures to drop in at Fulneck Museum which had an extended opening on that day to accommodate these visitors. Kind comments were made about the museum which has new exhibits and displays recently added.

Sunday 21st May was the Fulneck Sisters' Festival. It began with breakfast at the cafe No. 54 followed by Morning Worship in Church. It was well attended.

Br David Ingham

Horton

The New Year started with 'Branches of the Vine' pulpit interchange and our minister led the service at St John's in Bradford on Sunday 22nd January. We were pleased to welcome the local Anglican Vicar Rev Stephen Treasure.

Moving on to March Sr Maureen Colbert led our Cafe Church on 26th March which was also Mothering Sunday and Maureen based the service around this, which was well thought out and we had a good number joining us from the local area. It was good to see that members of our congregation all took part in the service.

We then celebrated Easter. We joined with Baildon Moravian Church for the Maundy Thursday service in the evening of 13th March. We celebrated Easter Day at 8.30am and 10.30am, services both led by our minister Sr Lorraine Shorten.

We are constantly grateful to all lay preachers who quite often are working full time and have busy lives but always seem to be available when called to lead our services. We have welcomed Sr Diane Thornton, Br Ian Haggas, Br Paul Greenhough and Sr Ruth France. We are also grateful to our retired Moravian ministers as they continue to serve our congregations. We have welcomed Sr Kathryn Woolford, Br Robert Hopcroft, Br Kenneth Evans and Sr Hilary Smith who have all led our Communion services.

Paul Parker led our service on Sunday 23rd April. We have



Horton - Prayer Walk 2017

© Sr Elisabeth Hollindrake

always been fortunate to have Paul visit our church for numerous occasions over the years. Paul always puts a smile on our faces when he leads our worship. Sadly at the end of this service Paul announced his retirement. We will miss his services and the messages he brought to us with his unique presentation. Paul's daughters attended our Girls' Brigade for many years and it was through this that Paul formed a close tie with us Moravians. We hope Paul finds other ways to serve our Saviour and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Other events held so far this year are a Prayer Walk around the local Canterbury Estate on Tuesday 11th April. The Prayer Walk was led by Sr Lorraine during lent. It took about an hour and the walkers stopped at key points and prayed for the area. (They also collected litter as they walked).

On Wednesday 23rd April we held our Chapel Servants Lovefeast. It is an opportunity for the Church Committee to

serve the Chapel Servants and for us all to join in fellowship and discuss any issues within the church.

We are now, at this time of writing, into the month of May and have recently held our Sisters' Festival. This year Sr Wendy Hopcroft was our speaker. Her message was very well received by the Sisters and the Brothers that were in attendance. Following the morning service the Sisters held a cup of covenant. This was followed by a lunch prepared by the Sisters but excellently served by the Brothers.

Br Jamie Spencer

Congregational Register

Baptisms

14th May 2017 Lily Knowles Fulneck
11th June 2017 Archie Flint-Bush Ockbrook

Deaths

12th June 2017 Evelyn Hipwell Royton

Funeral

5th June 2017 Elliot Sheard Fulneck

From Church House

Provincial Diary for July

15 Youth Review Meeting at Fulneck Sr Ferdinand and Sr Hoey
17-19 PEC, BMB and Estates Property Meeting PEC



Dates to remember!

- 6 Martyrdom of Jan Hus at Constance in 1415
- 9 Sea Sunday (www.seasunday.org)
- 16 Disability Awareness Day (<https://www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk/>)

From the Sanctuary

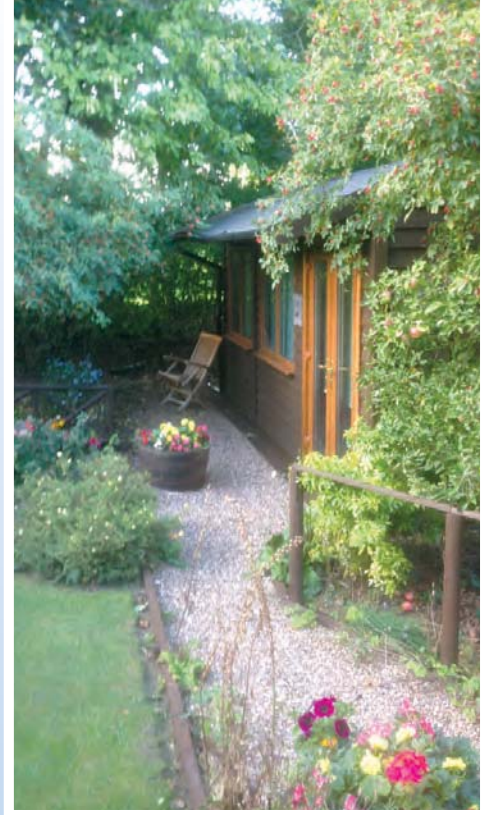
A recent trip to a tidal river, on the coast of North Wales, brings to mind the constant flow and ebb of life - the times of coming and going; of decline and regrowth. Like the sea and the river, our life does not stand still. Sometimes things are going well. We feel blessed. It is easier to have faith in these times of 'flow' (although sometimes God may feel less relevant as we are more able to stand on our own resources than trust in Him/Her/It). Then 'ebb' occurs; when life is experienced as more fragile, and we feel more vulnerable. Our sense of God can get lost in a descending fog. Life seems less sure. Sometimes, if we stand in a place on a tidal river where the outgoing fresh water competes with the force of the incoming salt water, we see how this flow and ebb creates turbulence and eddies, currents and disturbance. Which will prevail - the flow or the ebb?

Such flow and ebb is a natural part of all human life; and of the Judeo-Christian story. Studying the plight of the Israelites at the time of Moses, we see destruction and genocide, followed by rescue and then a wandering in the wilderness; then they enter the Promised Land.

Throughout, God provides. This pattern of orientation, disorientation and re-orientation is played out time and time again. But what is the point and purpose of it? Where is God in it?

Looking at the effect of this flow and ebb on the many stones that line the shore, we can see a reshaping caused by this process. Some parts of the shore are transformed (especially by strong storms and tides); other parts remain firm but are tested (like the granite cliffs). The rough edges on the stones are made smooth by the to-and-fro abrasive action of flow and ebb. Seaweed is plucked up by the force of the tide, but although it causes destruction for the seaweed, it creates easy, essential and life-giving 'pickings' for wading birds and other sea creatures.

So it seems important to trust in this life-transforming process of flow and ebb; and to learn to wait on God in the times of ebb, trusting that eventually the time of flow will come. But waiting is frustrating, and we are not required to wait passively. Prayers of lament and complaint pervade the Book of Psalms and the Book of Job in the Old Testament.



We have permission to lament and complain - and to be angry with God. But if we can try and see these times of ebb and flow as 'growthful', and as a necessary process for the next stage of our journey, then that can help us to stay with the process and to adjust ourselves appropriately - and keep faith.

Br Peter Gubi, Dukinfield

Notices



Would you like to get to know more about a different part of the Moravian Unity?



Perhaps you have a skill that you might offer or perhaps you are simply ready to do what you can where you are needed?



Have you considered a period of voluntary service in another part of the Unity?



18>

If you are aged at least 18 (*no upper limit!*), are self supporting and willing to be DBS checked and can offer at least a month of your time, it might be possible to arrange a period of service somewhere in the Unity.



Please contact the
World Mission Committee
(wmc@moravian.org.uk)

in the first instance - we're waiting to hear from you.

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