

moravian messenger

APRIL 2018



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Seeds to Eternity

This morning I have been sowing sweetcorn seeds and the pots are now sitting on my kitchen windowsill. The broad beans, planted two weeks ago are breaking through the soil and the potatoes, chitting in the porch are starting to sprout. It has been a long cold winter and now spring seems to have come in with a tremendous rush and as usual the race is on to get all the seeds sown and then planted out before we miss the opportunity of lengthening days and warming soil.

Gardening is a very visceral activity, touching the soil from which we come from and to which we will return, and which nourishes us through life. It is very profound to push shriveled seeds into dark warm damp compost or to stand over a potato trench and place the potatoes into the cold soil and then cover them over wishing for new life to emerge. It often takes more time than we would want for these signs of new life to emerge, the seedlings in the seed tray or the potato haulms emerging from the trench; but the waiting is part of the process. The old life of the seed or tuber is discarded for the prize of new green growth pressing upwards.

I am of course writing this a few weeks before Easter but it has struck me how

much of the Holy Week and Easter narrative is set in the context of plants and gardens. Jesus rides up to Jerusalem on a donkey to the accompaniment of waving palm branches; the disciples question Jesus about the fate of a fig tree, there is a parable about a vineyard and Jesus compares himself to a vine; he spends the night in prayer before his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane; his body is laid in a tomb in a garden and on the resurrection morning Mary Magdalene sees him in this garden and presumes he is the gardener.

The ancient world was much closer to the mystery of gardening than we are so it was natural for St Paul to explain Christ's resurrection to the Church in Corinth in terms of a bare grain of wheat

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Seeds to Eternity continued

being sown but being unable to rise to new life unless it dies first. So for us in the Northern Hemisphere we see the mystery of the resurrection being enacted around us as spring takes hold and the apparently dead earth springs to new life with seeds in the garden and daffodils around the hedges and lawns.

Zinzendorf too saw burial grounds as a garden in which the body is laid out as a 'seed to eternity' and so in each garden plot these 'seeds to eternity' were 'sown' in orderly rows to await the Resurrection Day (C. H. Shaw, 'Moravian Messenger', March 1930). This idea can be clearly seen at Gracehill where on 14th April 1761 the diary states that a baby girl was buried, 'in extraordinary stillness' and 'We sang then that verses in the Liturgy approved for the sowing of the first grain and at the final verse laid it to rest in its repository'.

For those of us with Moravian Burial Grounds near to hand we go out on Easter Morning and name our beloved dead in the peace of the Burial Ground. For other Moravian Churches the names of the departed may be read out near a children's Easter Garden or vase of flowers. It is one of the most meaningful and

poignant parts of our Easter Celebrations. It highlights the fact that whilst we celebrate Christ's resurrection with real joy we recognize that death still exists and still impacts directly on us.

Celebrating Easter is not just about the resurrection of Christ from the dead, but it is also about Christ being the first fruits of the harvest of the dead. It marks a past event and looks to a future hope where the dead in Christ will rise too. We don't understand how or when this is or what it will look like, but our hope of eternal life is vindicated because of his rising. Because he rose we believe that in and through Christ our loved 'seeds to eternity' will rise in glory and that we will follow them as part of the harvest.

Have a wonderful Easter and I pray that all your gardening efforts this spring will also be crowned with great fruitfulness later in the year.



Sr Sarah Groves
Gracehill and Ballinderry

Letters

Dear Messenger Editors,

Last Sunday (11th February) the Ockbrook congregation held our first discussion on the topic of human sexuality. I was asked to share our thoughts with you.

We quickly came to the conclusion that the British Province needs to commission the writing of a liturgy to be used at a service of blessing on a civil, same-sex marriage. We would be happy for such a blessing to be carried out in our church.

We debated the idea of same-sex marriage, and we currently do not have a consensus on whether or not this should be permitted in our church. We will be discussing the subject further at a later date.

What we do agree on, however, is that we should treat everyone with love and compassion; regardless of their sexuality, everyone is welcome in our church.

Yours,

Sr Julie Hague

Ockbrook correspondent

Dear Editors,

We, the undersigned, read with interest and not a little dismay the four papers on human sexuality, particularly paper three which would seem to cast doubt on the absolute integrity of certain parts of Scripture. We believe in the absolute Holy Spirit inspired integrity of the entire Scriptures; its doctrines holy, its precepts binding, its histories true, and its decisions immutable. In relation to human sexuality we firmly believe that the only sexual relationship permitted by Holy Scripture is that between a man and a woman within the bond of marriage. From the point of view of Scripture all other sexual relationships are sinful, and we believe that when sin enters by one door the Holy Spirit departs by another.

One of the questions at the end of the above mentioned paper three was as follows; What would Jesus do? We believe His answer would be exactly the same as that given to the woman taken in adultery; 'Then neither do I condemn you, Go now and leave your life of sin.' Our approach, as followers of the Lord Jesus should be the same as His. He is our Example. Our approach to any who may seek our help and advice should be; 'speak the truth in love', the same kind of love that our Saviour displayed when he went to our cross in our place.

Sincerely in Christ,

Br Desmond Quaitie and Br William McCormick.

Gracehill



© Sr Roberta Hoey

Young People's Missionary Association News

The Young People's Missionary Association (YPMA) of the Moravian Church regularly collects money for good causes around the world and last year this wonderful group of people raised £8,611 for some great projects. This money is sent to Church House and put into a reserve fund from which selected projects are supported. However, not all of the money received is spent in one year but can be distributed in subsequent years because of the differing needs and issues that Moravian Churches across the world face e.g. more money was spent in 2017 than was collected.

Some money from this fund is set aside every year for the Moravian Schools in Ladakh, a region of Jammu Kashmir in Northern India. Last year £500 was sent to Leh School, £500 to Shey School and £2,000 to the school in Khalatse. Leh is the capital of Ladakh and our Church is the only Christian presence there. Ladakh has in the past been a very isolated area because of its altitude and the extreme cold in winter, but it is now visited by many tourists. However, Ladakh is also an area of great tension as the Jammu Kashmir region borders with Pakistan and China and some of the territory is disputed with both countries, so nearly one third of the Indian Army is stationed in the state.

In 2017, a further £4,000 was paid to Khalatse School to pay for a minibus to bring children in to school from the village of Lamayuru. Safe transport for the children is very important and no buses more than 10 years old are allowed on the roads.

Some YPMA money is also set aside every year for Elim Home in the Western Cape of South Africa: a home for young adults who live with severe handicaps; and £1,000 was sent to Elim Home last year.

One of the YPMA projects in 2016 was the Burren Chernobyl Project: an Irish charity which supports the Goradiche Orphanage in Belarus. Radioactive material fell across eastern Ukraine and Belarus following an explosion at the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant on 26th April 1986 which was one of the most disastrous nuclear power plant accidents in history. Amongst the casualties were many who suffered long-term health issues, disabilities, poverty

and evacuation from their homes. Many children were looked after in Children's Homes and Orphanages. The money that we sent in 2017 to the Burren Chernobyl Project (£1,360) helped them to buy some new wheelchairs for the children with disabilities who endure the effects of exposure to radiation and the other social and economic problems facing them. More about this charity can be found at: <http://www.burrenchernobyl.ie>

Although not originally selected in advance as a YPMA project, £2,365 was sent to Western Tanzania in 2017 to help buy new motorbikes for the Moravian Evangelists in the Province. This was done in partnership with the Moravian Church in America and will help the evangelists travel to some very isolated rural villages.

In total, the YPMA funds sent out £11,726 in 2017 for these wonderful projects.

You might remember that one of the projects for 2017 was to help pay for a new washing machine to help washing the clothes of the children at Star Mountain, a centre for children with handicaps in Ramallah in Palestine. However, a new machine has not yet been purchased so the money to help with this remains in our reserves until it is needed.

The last project that we had for 2017 was to help provide books for the Moravian Church in Burundi, East Africa. The Moravian Church there really needs theological books in the native languages to help with their growing mission, and £4,574 was paid out in 2018 so does not appear in the total sent in 2017. We hope to have more information and pictures on this later in the year.

Thank you to everyone for all for the amazing work, donations, collections and the special events that you do to support YPMA.

Sr Sarah Groves

Ballinderry and Gracehill

Based on an article written for Gracehill and with very grateful thanks to Sr Roberta Hoey for recent information.



Jennifer R. Marsland



© Sr Gwen Meyers

Memorial Moravian church in St Thomas, USVI in 2000.
Back Row: Ishmael Meyers (Senior Judge of the Territory), Arthur Marsland, Al La Borde, Rev Leon Matthias (Church Minister)
Front Row: Ed LaBorde, Jennifer Marsland, Lola Richards, Mary Francis

Sunrise: November, 1940

Jennifer was born into the Moravian church in St. Thomas, USVI, where her father, Rev. Edward Lewis, was the minister at the Memorial Church. Since the mid 90s we have visited St. Thomas several times meeting some of those she grew up with and Mary Francis for whom Brother Lewis took the wedding service.

When the family of three girls and a boy returned to Britain via service in Tobago, they settled in Oldham; Mum and Dad's home town, in 1946 just in time for that notorious winter.

Jennifer began her lifetime of service when she joined the Girl Guides at secondary school. Apart from a two year break while training to be a teacher she gave much of her time to the organisation. She even went to Sangam, The Girl Guide and Girl Scout's World Centre in India, for a month as a Tare - volunteer to you and me.

After retirement her other voluntary work included Age Concern, Meals on Wheels, Books on Wheels and Barnardo's.

Her teaching career took her from a classroom in Oldham to Deputy Head in a large Manchester Girls' Comprehensive. Many of her colleagues from those days have spoken of the respect in which Jennifer was held by both teachers and pupils.

Ever the practical person Jennifer had most of her funeral arrangements in place well before she died. Early on in her illness, myeloma, she told Sister Jane Dixon what she wanted - 'just in case'. A service of celebration was held after her cremation. All I had to do was choose a closing hymn and the music for before and after the service. The closing music was the Hallelujah Chorus played by a pan (steel) band from Tobago.

Our nephew's wedding took place in South Africa at Marica's home Church. While there we took the opportunity to visit Elim and especially the Home, where Jennifer sponsored a girl. As a result another of Jennifer's 'celebratory' requests was that any donations in lieu of flowers should go to Elim Home. Including a donation from Memorial - still recovering from last September's visits by Irma and Maria - the total donated in Jennifer's memory is £1,450.

A sorely missed, loved, and respected lady who faced her long and sometimes painful illness from April 2017 with grace and fortitude.

Sunset: January 2018

Br Arthur Marsland (Husband)

Memories

Wistfully

The man gazed from bright eyes beneath silvery brow

Through the big modern window

Over the sea swept by gentle drizzle and mist

That seemed to draw a veil over his previous life.

He wandered in his mind back nearly seventy years

To the farm at the edge of the sea on the island.

The long days walking the moors with his dogs

As he lovingly tended his sheep

Arriving home to a warm meal to share with Joan

Who had done the washing by hand and tended the garden.

Then children came - now all far flung around the globe

None staying close to their native land.

The excitement of the autumn sale still made his heart race.

Carefully chosen members of his flock guided to the first ferry crossing,

No longer a challenge due to the bridge

But back then it was slowly over the water and down the lane

To the next crossing. Then across the field, and lanes for several miles

To the final ferry. Then onwards to the town.

The whole process took three days.

After the sale, necessary items to buy and always a gift for Jean and the bairns.

Then home to the welcoming fireside and Jean's bannocks

The last time had been hard and no welcome at home for Jean had passed.

The only solution was the newly built home where he arrives with

Two black bags of possessions, a treasured photograph

And memories, so many memories and none to share them with

Except the lord above.

This is a poem I wrote for Christmas. I got the idea when on holiday in Shetland. I had passed a modern old people's home and then a ruined farm that was once on an island but there are now bridges to the mainland. It may resonate with many of the readers.

Sr Claire L. Summers
(Diaspora - Cumbria)



19th February 2018

Dear Friends,

You will be aware of the facts published over the past week or so relating to the issue of sexual abuse in Oxfam's programme in Haiti and the wider safeguarding risks this has highlighted in all international aid agencies. I'm sure that I'm not alone in feeling dismayed as news reports have unfolded.

The accounts of a group of individuals who have betrayed the trust of the people they seek to serve in Haiti reveal behaviour that is inexcusable. Their actions have undermined the life-saving work carried out by Oxfam and all aid and humanitarian organisations, including our own.

You may have also heard Christian Aid's name mentioned in news reports. Last week, The Sunday Times asked our media team to inform them of any reported sexual misconduct amongst Christian Aid staff in the past year. We told them that two staff members, nationals overseas, had been found in breach of our strict code of conduct. These incidents were not in Haiti. Neither individual had acted criminally nor had their misconduct been directed towards anyone who is supported by Christian Aid. In both cases we took swift action and investigated which led to a dismissal in one instance, and a full report to the Charity Commission. Please see our website for a more detailed public statement:

<https://mediacentre.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-statement-on-sexual-harassment-claims-in-the-sector/>

Please be reassured that Christian Aid takes safeguarding incredibly seriously. We recognise our duty to protect and safeguard vulnerable communities. We believe that any abuse of power, including sexual violence or harassment, is totally unacceptable. We will always investigate allegations

and report safeguarding breaches to the relevant authorities, including the Charity Commission. As a sector, we need to be willing to recognise that this is an issue that affects us all. We will continue to work with staff and our local partners to root out any attitudes and behaviours that support such breaches of trust. There is no excuse for hiding abuse or failing to act when vulnerable people or staff are put at risk.

Christian Aid has been working in Haiti through our local partners since the 1980s. We support people to earn a living, and prepare and respond to disasters. Poor communities find it hard to cope with the effects of natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes. We cannot turn our backs on them now.

Our partners' work in Haiti has saved thousands of lives and helped build hundreds of houses for people affected by disasters. But there is still much more to be done. Currently, there are around 38,000 people still living in tents in Haiti, and according to the United Nations in Haiti there are still around 2 million people in need of humanitarian support. This Christian Aid Week, 13-19 May 2018, we're asking you to help support displaced people in Haiti, and elsewhere, so they can live in safety and withstand the storms of life.

Please continue to remember Christian Aid and our staff in your prayers. We, as a faith-based organisation, are firmly committed to protecting the most vulnerable and upholding the dignity of the individual person. Please pray that the God will guide and strengthen Christian Aid, for the sake of those we seek to serve in the world's poorest countries.

With every blessing,

David Pain

Director of Supporter and Community Partnerships

Elections to Provincial Board and Standing Committees at Synod 2018

There will be elections for the following positions on the Provincial Board and the Standing Committees at Synod 2018:

- **Provincial Board** One full time member for four years / One part time member for 4 years
- **Church Service Committee** Two members for four years
- **Finance Committee** Three members for four years / One member for two years
- **Church Book Committee** Two members for four years / One member for two years
- **Faith and Order and Ecumenical Relations Committee** Two members for four years
- **Mission and Society Committee** Two members for four years / One member for two years
- **World Mission Committee** Two members for four years / One member for two years
- **Youth and Children's Committee** Two members for four years

Those who wish to stand for election to any of these committees or to the Provincial Board should fill in a Nomination Form which is now available from your congregation or from Moravian Church House.

Nomination forms should be sent to the Provincial Board by 25th May 2018. However, late nomination forms will be accepted at Synod up to 1pm on the day before elections are due to take place. Elections will take place at the 2018 British Provincial Moravian Church Synod which opens on 6th July 2018.



Ockbrook's Twerts

© Sr Claire Maxwell

The Ockbrook's Twerts is a group of 18-40-year-olds who meet together for discipleship and fellowship regularly. The name 'Twert' or 'Twerpy' comes out of the group's more 'formal name' of 20s & 30s as we tend to be folks in this age range. We have been meeting since January 2017 with regularity - switching our times about to work alongside folks in their 20s and 30s work and family life patterns.

What are we?

Currently, there are around 16 active members of the group, which grew from an initial conversation I had with a member of Ockbrook Moravian Church in their 20s. In this conversation, we talk a bit about how much churches value folks in their 20s and 30s, with churches often giving roles and responsibilities to those in this age category who are regular Sunday worshippers. One other reflection was how often churches perhaps don't realise the need for continuing discipleship in this age category as faith matures and life occurs. We also chatted about how Sunday wasn't always the best time for this for those in this age category. From this initial conversation, a group of around five of us met and planned the first set of discipleship and social settings together.

Membership has been steadily growing. We are made up of people who have and do regularly attend Sunday church but also people who haven't been regularly connected to the church before this group. We also have those who come on a Sunday when work allows. The beauty of the Twerts

is that it recognises that Sunday morning is not always possible for folks working but values that there is a desire for people in this age category to still engage with God and that this can be done in a different way in small self-led group sessions and socials.

Topics relate to different aspects of life but also peoples interests and passions. Discipleship sessions are organised and led by different folks in the group. For instance, our next set of series is to be coordinated and led by Phill Battelle on Mission following his trip to South Africa. Each Discipleship revolves around a meal, with food and drink brought by different people. Socials are varied and have included a film night, board game evening, bowling, ice skating, meals out and a trip to Rend Collective. In the next few socials we are going to see Nottingham Panthers (Ice Hockey) followed by burgers, have a goodbye party to one of our members who is off for a few months in Australia and a Pancake Party!

How do we relate to Ockbrook and the wider Moravian Church?

The 20s and 30s do have a number of members who can be seen with regularity on a Sunday worship. However, for many of our members who have busy lives with family or being a student or working weekend jobs or jobs with shift patterns, it will never be the case that everyone can attend a Sunday service.

However, that does not mean that those in the Twerts don't feel connected to

Ockbrook or the wider Moravian Church. Over the last year members have helped at the Autumn Fayre and participated in the Christingle Service either in the Nativity Play or in the planning and distribution of Christingles. In the next few months the Twerts are planning to lead a Sunday morning worship service and are aiming to do some teas, coffees and cakes as part of a Table Top event to raise funds for the Moravian Summer Camp. All of this activity is being driven by Clare Battelle's passion and the willingness of the rest of us to assist with the wider church work that is ongoing.

Are the Twert's replicable?

Maybe ...but I say this with caution. The Twert's as an idea came out of a voiced and identified need. There were already a few loosely linked people in their 20s and 30s to the church. As a student minister in training I had the space, time and energy to work with this need and these people. When I go, the group will continue because the people are there with the passion already and who value what happens. This group came out of a particular context.

However, if there is another congregation who have a similar profile and similarly passionate people then maybe it could be replicable. I know many in the Twert's would be happy to enthuse to anyone who is interested.

Search on Facebook
Ockbrook20sand30sGroup

Sr Claire Maxwell
Ockbrook



Left to right;
Grace Shorten,
Eleanor Hollindrake
and Joy Raynor

ahead, not even sure it was 'my thing', while Eleanor knew all the songs from the sound track.

What can I say about it? It was amazing. I laughed and cried (something I rarely do at the theatre) and I want to see it again. I was concentrating on the plot, the story of a poor boy who became one of the founding fathers of the United States, betrayed his wife, was forgiven and shot by a rival but I was aware of the fantastic dancing, the skill of the musical score, the little touches that make it so special. For a more complete review go to

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Past-Issues/2018/March-2018/God-Hamilton-The-spiritual-messages-behind-the-musical-everyone-s-talking-about>

If you get the opportunity go and see this musical. The themes are those of human kind, how it fails but is then redeemed, the poor boy made good, and love, not mushy love but real lasting love.

Sr Joy Raynor

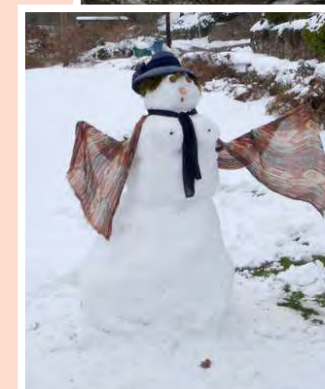
Congregation News

Brockweir

*'And time remembered is grief forgotten,
And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins.'*

March certainly came in like a lion as the 'beast from the east' met storm Emma in Brockweir as in much of the United Kingdom. We had to cancel Soup Lunch, Church Committee, and our Holy Communion Service. The River Wye began to freeze despite being tidal and the roads were impassable and caution prevailed. Brockweir is by nature a friendly village but people seemed to chat more as bonhomie broke forth. Some church members and friends built a snow woman to raise moral and gales of laughter broke the air as people took a double take at Miss Underhill 2018. Praise must go to Sr Pat Boden for the idea!

We've recently received a grant for £500 from the Village Shop to upgrade the lighting in the Sunday School as well as doing some wiring. We are very grateful for the grant and it will benefit



Moravian friend hails from Fairfield as he or she sent a Christmas card from the settlement. Once again, our grateful thanks.

Sr Judith Ashton

Gracehill

What a blessed time we enjoyed during the Winter Season at Gracehill! A real feeling of anticipation began to ripple through the congregation when the scene was set at our 'Carols by Candlelight', when we enjoyed the hauntingly beautiful music from both keyboard and Irish Harp in the warm glow of candlelight.

The MWA held their annual Christmas Fair when, in spite of the inclement weather, it was well attended and included a visit from Santa, sparking that wonderful feeling of expectation for both adults and children!

The Boys Brigade added to the moment when they collected toys for children who may have very little, and the Girls Brigade, along with everyone from the Village, enjoyed the Switching on of the Christmas Lights with the Deputy Mayor in attendance.



Anchor Boys (from the Boys Brigade) with the toys they collected

The Christingle Factory swung into action as always, and along with our gifted team of Flower Arrangers, cast their spell to ensure a magical atmosphere pervaded the church on Christmas Eve, when a packed congregation enjoyed the 'Sunday School Players' act out The Christmas Story in the presence of a little black lamb named 'Faith' watched over by Sr Rhebe Clarke from Riverdale Farm.



© Sr Judith Ashton

all the groups that use the hall. Property, as always, remains a concern and we are busy fund raising all year. Our latest idea is to produce a cookbook and we are busy looking for recipes if anyone would like to donate some.

Our Christmas services were popular and we must thank our Mystery Moravian once more for providing refreshments for the Nativity Walk. Over 100 people and children attended and it seems to be more popular each year. We think our

It was lovely to welcome Sr Lucy and Sr Sylvia Launder, along with Br and Sr Andrew and Vivian Wigglesworth and family, back with friends at our Christmas Morning Service. The sound of our magnificent organ played by our gifted organist Sr Allison McCullough and Br Sean Trantor's magical touch on the cornet filled the Church and everyone's heart with a true sense of thanksgiving.

Sr Sarah was pleased to welcome Br Ryan and Sr Laura Flynn into full membership of the Moravian Church. Sr Laura was baptised on profession of her faith, and Br Ryan was received by the Right Hand of Fellowship.

We are now privileged to have two new projectors and two retractable screens, one at each side of the pulpit. Thanks to the work done by Br Raymond Kitson, who installed them, and Br Josh Barr who does all the project work from the organ balcony, the congregation can now follow the Bible readings, see the hymns and watch the items used in the All Age Talk.

Looking forward, Br Chris and Sr Sarah Groves are organising a trip to Bristol in April, to learn more about John Cennick, and visit some of the places where he preached.



Men's Fellowship quiz team

Lastly, the Men's Fellowship once again hosted the now annual Quiz Night inviting the women to take part, and once again the women won! Keep trying gentlemen!! A great night was had by everyone taking part!

Sr Roberta Gray

© Sr Sarah Groves

Congregation News



Photos from the top and left to right
The chair was there but Vanessa Redgrave wasn't - as Lowry's mother was bedbound, her scenes were filmed in the studio.
Brethren Street.

Lowry leaving the (fibreglass) 'telephone kiosk' at the side of the Manse.

Track for the moving Camera.

Timothy Spall.

The Crewe adding new 'bay windows' to houses 47 & 48, which represented Lowry's house in Prestwich.



© Br Anthony Torkington

Fairfield

In January 2018, Fairfield Settlement was used in the filming of several scenes of a new British Feature Film about the artist L S Lowry and his relationship with his mother Elizabeth.

The film Location Manager said that Fairfield had been chosen 'to give our film a fantastic 1930s look and feel'.

Here is a synopsis of the film which is scheduled for release later this year: when his father died in 1932, Lowry became responsible for the care of his bed-ridden, 73 year-old mother Elizabeth. She proves to be the catalyst and curse of his career. Elizabeth was a depressed presence in her bachelor son's life and a negative voice, criticising his every move whilst spurring him on to create something that would impress her.

Spending his days as a rent collector, Lowry took art classes by night, painting into the early hours of the morning when his mother was asleep, honing his craft as he aspired to have his work appreciated by the art establishment. During this period, he painted many of the works that would later make him famous.

The residents of Fairfield seem to have taken a good deal of interest in the proceedings and where time allowed, can be seen standing with girls from Fairfield High School, trying to get a glimpse of the stars during filming. Over a period of two and a half days filming, five locations around the settlement were used; and for several days before filming and a day after filming, sets were assembled and then disassembled. Throughout the period there was a considerable amount of inconvenience to residents, for example they had to move cars out of camera shot and of course the film crew used large trucks for all their

gear, which took up a lot of space in a confined area. Furthermore, residents may not have been able to access their own front doors, and as you can see from the pictures some had new temporary structures or frontages added to their homes; all the while the location managers for the filming company did their best to keep everyone happy.

For the most part, the residents took the disruption in their stride - they are after all old hands at this now having been used for filming over many years. In the 1990s, scenes for Sherlock Holmes were filmed with Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke, then for episodes of Foyle's War. A BBC drama named '32 Brinklow St' was filmed in Br Derek Ellwoods home in the Square in 2011, and he and Tash (his dog), spent several weeks living in the study at the back of the house. Manchester United filmed parts of a video here to launch their new home kit in 2014, and then donated fruit and vegetables used on the set, which we sold at the Craft Fair that weekend. In September 2017, scenes from the Square were used in Peaky Blinders. It also helps that the congregation who appreciates the income this creates as film companies hire the college for welfare facilities.

As a non-resident myself, I am a little surprised that none of our members have yet managed to get a role in any of the filming (although I may be corrected on this by someone who has caught a glimpse of themselves on TV). Oh, and one final snippet: a rain machine was used to help to create the right atmosphere as there were long pauses in the filming waiting for blue skies to cloud over! Now who would have expected that in Manchester!

Sr Margery Sutcliffe

Hall Green United Community Church

Show The Love

On a cold and wintery Valentine's Day Chris and I hung hundreds of little green hearts around the railings of the church. (see photos)

The hearts were made by Hall Green Ladies Craft Club and Hall Green Brownie pack. Some were knitted, some crocheted and some were made of green card. They were all made with love and shared with the



community. The campaign asks people across the country to use the power of green hearts to begin conversations about the things we love that climate change threatens and the opportunities for a world powered by clean and secure energy.

We often see headlines in the news and ask ourselves: 'What can I do? I am just one person'. With this campaign we have been able to answer this question, and by making little green hearts we are joining in with a much larger community who are committed to making a change for the better in our world. Individually we may be only one voice, but when we are united it becomes a roar!

A knitted green heart was posted to our MP, Mr Roger Godsiff, and also to the three local councillors.

For more information please visit www.theclimaticoalition.org.uk

Sr Lorraine Shorten

Tytherton

Once again I bring you my yearly news update from East Tytherton.

Our monthly community lunches continue to be popular and people genuinely seem to look forward catching up with the latest local news over homemade soup!

Patsy organised an Easter egg decorating afternoon, which was enjoyed by all who attended, so we plan to do this again this year and hopefully attract more participants.

We held the Weston District Rally in August, although not as many as we had hoped came, it was an enjoyable day.

We invited a local Baptist church minister, Sam King, who sometimes joins us on Sunday mornings on the rare occasions he gets a Sunday off, to preach for our Harvest festival.

We have lost two dear friends from Malmesbury over the past year. In September, Mollie Batstone, our oldest member died at the amazing age of 102 years. On a most beautiful warm and sunny 5th October we gathered to celebrate her long life. Peter Gubi, at her request, kindly made the journey to deliver the eulogy. He recounted her early life in London, as spoken by her, that he had recorded on the occasion of her 100th birthday party. We also relived, again in her own words, her account of the day a 'little old lady' went for a walk and became lost and stuck in muddy fields around Malmesbury. The alarm was raised and she was spotted by a helicopter. While she was most grateful to have been rescued, she remained somewhat indignant that she was taken to hospital in an ambulance and not airlifted by helicopter! Such a character, we won't forget her.



© Sr Anne Waldron

Shortly afterwards we lost Margaret Simpson, who died after a short illness. Her eulogy, written by her children and delivered by Patsy, gave a rich account of her life. We will miss her.

On a happier note one of our tenants, Laura, gave birth to Libby Rosabelle, a sister for Ellia. Congratulations to Laura and Josh.

This Christmas saw the best attendance for our village Christingle and Carol service. Once again we are so grateful to Nic Pillow for putting on a great performance by the two, junior and professional, choirs. This raised £121.

Like so many we were saddened by the death of David Bunney and give thanks for the many occasions he came to take our Sunday services.

Our poplars have been a major topic of conversation over the past months. Following an inspection by a local tree surgeon it was decided that the best solution, in order to maintain this famous

landmark, was that they should be pollarded to one third of their height. This took place over four days and, as you can see from the photos, it was an impressive, and scary, process. Certainly for my part, having watched the whole operation between making coffee and homemade soup to keep spirits high in the freezing temperatures, it was an experience I will

continued over

From the Sanctuary

A few months ago, I went away for a weekend. On my return, I discovered that my neighbour had torn up part of the hedge between her property and mine, and had installed a wooden fence to border a newly created patio on her side.

Although it didn't come as a complete surprise (for she had asked me how I would feel if she did it - but hadn't indicated when it would be done), I was left with some temporary feelings of bereavement. Although it is a small hedge, sparrows fly in and out of that hedge. What would happen to them? I miss seeing them in that part of the hedge, although much of the hedge, further down the garden, remains. I prefer natural barriers, like hedges (although I hate cutting them). Wooden fences seem largely 'characterless' to me, although I understand the practicality of them. Had she made that part of my garden into something featureless, I wondered?

After my initial loss, my attention then turned to concern about my electricity supply to 'The Sanctuary'. It comes from the main house, and is channelled through reinforced cable which runs on the surface of the garden at the base of the hedge (so that I know where it is when I am digging in order not to electrocute myself when gardening). 'Had the cabling been spared in so rapid a fence construction?', I wondered. Fortunately, to my relief, it had survived intact.

Two spiritual reflections came from this event for me: the first is that, in my experience, it feels as though life sometimes conspires against the things that we hold to be precious. It feels particularly so to me, sometimes, in relation to faith. There are so many 'rational' arguments and scientific reasons why faith is questionable, and so many people saying it is 'stupid' to believe ('I can't believe that someone as intelligent as you still believes that rubbish!'); but faith is not from a rational or scientific domain. It reflects a mystical, spiritual and largely inexpressible dimension to life. It is a dimension that we can experience, but cannot always put into words; and when we try to explain, it is immediately limited by language - yet it is precious, because it is deeply meaningful. The second spiritual



truth was around the vulnerability of our connection with God. Living with that day-to-day connection with the source of our being, and with our life energy, is fundamental to me in my life. Yet, how easy it is for others to metaphorically put a sledgehammer (or garden fork) through it - and threaten it. However, as people for whom faith is meaningful and precious, the importance of maintaining that connection to God is crucial - and needs nurturing and protecting.

I am glad that my cable was spared, as I am glad that my faith is still strong after the ravages of continual attack. I rejoice that I am still connected. I have adapted to the new fence, as I seem able to adapt to challenges of faith. In fact, I am now able to see benefit in my new outlook, as I have planted a Clematis on it. Sometimes, what can feel like drastic challenges to faith, can enable new and valued perspectives to emerge; and my garden, and my faith, are still beautiful and precious to me.

Br Peter Gubi, Dukinfield

British Mission Board (BMB) News

Thank you for the generosity shown for the Unity Prayer Day offering on 4th March. Funds raised will go towards the purchase of land in Peru, one of the newest mission areas in our worldwide Unity. We are continuing to receive funds that can be sent to Church House.

If your congregation or any individual member are looking to support new projects can you please let Roberta know at roberta.hoey@moravian.org.uk. We have some projects in mind and more details will be following soon.

The consecration of Br Ezekiel Yona as a bishop of the Unity will take place in Tabora on 1st July 2018.



© Sr Roberta Hoey

The South Asia Moravian Church Development Conference took place on 27th February-2nd March 2018 in New Delhi and was facilitated by the British Mission Board. Reports on the conference and the trip will follow very soon.

Unity Mission and Development Board took place on 6th-8th February 2018 in Winston-Salem and the BMB was represented by Br Bob Hopcroft. The meeting was an opportunity to consider mission work that has already been established, review funding, raise issues at Unity level and enable cooperation between mission agencies and mission areas/provinces.

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