



## Christian Aid Week 2018

This year Christian Aid Week will take place from 13th to 19th May 2018. As they have done for more than 60 years, supporters, including many Moravians from congregations across Great Britain and Northern Ireland, will be taking part in a variety of activities to promote and raise funds for the work of Christian Aid throughout the world. Some of those activities will be the traditional house to house and church collections, while others will be innovative and zany, such as Big Brekkies and sponsored abseils.

The Moravian Church was one of those which helped establish Christian Aid to support refugees and displaced people in the aftermath of the Second World War and remains one of its 'sponsoring churches' today. So as we prepare for Christian Aid week it is perhaps worth reminding ourselves that Christian Aid is not 'just another charity'. It is in fact the official relief and development agency of some 41 Christian denominations throughout Britain and seven in Ireland and has a deep and accountable relationship with those sponsoring churches. From its foundation Christian Aid has been and remains motivated by faith in Jesus Christ and a deeply held conviction that each and every person on earth is a treasured child of God, and each is of equal and infinite worth. The organisation works with partners across the globe to strive for the profound changes which can eradicate poverty and promote equality and dignity for all. In doing so it supports those most in need,

whoever they may be, people of all faiths and of none, reflecting God's unconditional love and great mercy.

### Haiti: the focus for Christian Aid Week 2018

In Christian Aid Week 2018 the focus will be upon Haiti, a nation bordering the Dominican Republic on an island in the Caribbean. It is a beautiful place with strong tenacious people, but they have had to repeatedly face some of the worst natural disasters on earth. Those disasters have resulted in thousands being forced to flee from their homes, often being unable to return for many years. Seven years on from the devastating earthquake in Port-au-Prince in 2010, an estimated 38,000 people were still displaced. Many tried to resettle in the Dominican Republic but after facing systematic discrimination there, they had to return to Haiti but unfortunately had no homes to which to return.

In November 2016, Hurricane Matthew slammed into the southern coast of the country, killing 546 people and destroying homes, businesses and infrastructure. In some areas up to 90% were destroyed. The hurricane was the fiercest the Caribbean has seen in nearly a decade. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world and its extreme poverty makes it harder for its people to cope with and recover from the relentless earthquakes, storms and hurricanes they have to endure.



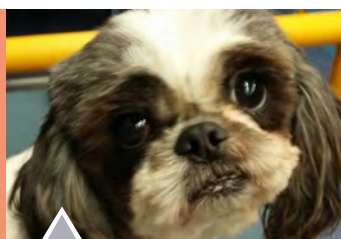
Marcelin

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### Marcelin's story

Marcelin is typical of many Haitians. He has been hit by earthquake and by hurricane after hurricane. Over time he has lost everything: his livestock, his house, and his few pieces of furniture. He still hasn't recovered from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. He has become poorer and more vulnerable and although he is, like most Haitians, resilient he has begun to feel that if he is knocked down again he will not get back up. Just looking at Marcelin's current home shows how vulnerable he is. He lives in a 2 x 2m block of concrete: about the size of a four

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# Christian Aid Week 2018

person tent - which used to be a communal shower. There are no windows or door and the only furniture he has is a single bed. It is a tiny, claustrophobic space which Marcelin shares with his three teenage daughters. He can no longer afford to send all his daughters to school and fears that poverty and hunger could lead them to be exploited by predatory men.

In the immediate aftermath of a disaster the world comes together to help the survivors. As time goes on however the attention shifts. Eighteen months after Hurricane Matthew the cameras have left Haiti but Marcelin's struggle continues.

## Christian Aid in Haiti

Christian Aid has been working in Haiti for decades. It has not just 'parachuted in' following a disaster and left when the worst was over. After the earthquake in 2010 it worked with a local partner, KORAL, to distribute shelter kits, hygiene supplies, food, seeds and cash. It then began to build disaster resistant homes, and of the dozens of new houses built after the earthquake in 2010, only one lost its roof when Hurricane Matthew hit in 2016. It has been working to help people prepare for disasters. Ahead of Hurricane Matthew, partner KORAL and Christian Aid were able to warn local communities, helping evacuate 5,000 families and saving many lives.

## Vilia's story

Vilia is one of those who has been helped by Christian Aid. She, her husband and their seven children were left homeless by the earthquake in 2010. As she walked



Vilia © Christian Aid

the streets, she no longer even recognised her home or neighbourhood - it was just a tangled mass of crumbling buildings and falling wires. Devastatingly she lost her mother in that disaster. In the aftermath, however, Christian Aid and its local partner reached out to Vilia and built her a new home which was safe, stable and strong enough to withstand future disasters. In the 2016 hurricane, Vilia's home sheltered 54 people over several days: so not just one but many families were able to benefit from Christian Aid's forward planning.



**Sr Carol Ackah**  
University Road Belfast  
Vice-Chair Christian Aid Ireland

## Appeal

Christian Aid has been able to repair hundreds of houses and to build dozens of new homes which can weather storms in Haiti, but there are still thousands of people like Marcelin who have not been reached. Christian Aid needs our help to do more. We as Moravians have, I believe, a special place in our hearts for the people of Haiti. In a statement issued by the Worldwide Moravian Unity on 15th January this year, and published in the 'Moravian Messenger', the President of the Unity Board stated 'As the second country in the Western Hemisphere after the United States to have gained independence in 1804, we believe that Haiti has a lot to teach us all. They have been a resilient and strong people who continue to defy the odds'.

Please help to support those brave people by responding to the appeal in Christian Aid Week in whatever way is best for you, whether that is by taking part in or giving to the house to house collection in your area, organising events or donating on the Christian Aid website, and please continue to pray for the work of Christian Aid, not just in Christian Aid Week, but throughout the year.

## Editorial

It was delightful to learn that a newly discovered plankton had been named after the television documentary series Blue Planet. The plankton will be known as *Syracosphaera azureaplaneta*. Plankton are an incredibly varied group of organisms. Those that can be classified as plants are known as phytoplankton and those that can be classified as animals are known as zooplankton although many cannot be so easily classified.

Plankton are very small, some can be seen by the naked eye but many, the nannoplankton can only be seen under a microscope. The tiny size of plankton means that they are not able to swim against a current but instead drift in the water.

Yet these tiny organisms are, according to Prof Paul Bown of UCL 'the unseen stars - hidden in plain view because of their minuscule size - but representing the beating heart of the oceans'. Sir David Attenborough believes that the phytoplankton, the green oxygen-producing plankton in the oceans are more important to our atmosphere than the whole of the rainforest.

These tiny, unseen and mostly unknown organisms are a vital part of the aquatic food cycle and produce oxygen for our planet. In short, they are a huge part of our ecosystem.

St Paul writes in I Corinthians 12 about a body and describes it as being God appointed in its make-up. Each part is indispensable even though it may not be given honour and may be hidden away. He notes that if one part suffers then the whole body suffers. Anyone with a broken toe can testify to that! He goes on to apply that picture to the members of the Church describing them as the body of Christ.

Surely this analogy can be applied to the world in which we live, the world that God made and that moves to the rhythms and tides that he dictated. It is one whole and each part of it is indispensable. As Christians we ought to be at the forefront of the ecological movement recognising that damage to one part of our world will ultimately affect us all and that each part is an integral part of the whole. And on a spiritual level the plankton teach us that it is not always the great and the good that is the most important - it may be those unknown people and unseen deeds that have the most to teach us.



**Sr Sarah Groves**  
Gracehill and Ballinderry



© Sr Sarah Groves

This was the title of the Anglican Children's Ministry Advisors' Conference 2018 and didn't really give anything away about the content of the 48 hours we were together. It certainly didn't give any idea of the emotional rollercoaster that was to follow.

Paul Butler started the conference off with a short look at what it means to be 'blessed', and the different ways of looking at it: are we blessed by God, bless God or speak well of one another? Why use blessed in the Beatitudes? And how do the different interpretations affect the way we look at them? As a vision of God's rule it was pointed out that being blessed by God doesn't mean all goes well all the time.

A theology of grief and trauma was presented by Anne Richards. Anyone who has heard this respected theologian speak will know that she squeezes a lot of material into her talks, far too much for my brain to take in: I will be processing it for weeks. She looked at how a death in a family affects a child particularly. If death is a spiritual experience for everyone involved in it why do we shut children out, especially as Christians when we look at it as something to look forward to? She linked the fact children may never come across a dead body if they spend their childhood in front of a screen, but see lots of 'death' on TV and in games so may never know what death actually means. Explaining about the death of the physical body and what it means helps children move on, using euphemisms can cause distress, think about a child who is told a loved adult has 'left the room', 'passed on', is 'sleeping' etc. Equipping children's leaders to cope with the questions a child may have about death can make a huge difference to the impact that death may have on them, but too often we are coy and afraid, but what can happen? The worse has already happened! Anne finished her session by posing two questions for us to ponder, perhaps you too can think about this.

How do we make the resurrection relevant for children in their grief?

How do we allow children to bless us with their experience of death and dying?

Blessed are those who mourn - spiritual needs and care for long term sick and dying children was part of the next session presented by Paul Nash, a chaplain from Birmingham Children's Hospital. Paul talked us through some of the ways that the hospital chaplaincy team help families get ready for a death and help them with the experience. He also pointed out that much of the work is about lifting children's spirits.

The second speaker in this session was Alison Perry from the Childhood Bereavement Network. One in 29 children will experience the death of a parent or sibling before they are 16, this is approximately one child in every school classroom. So although we may think this is a rare event it actually isn't. It is recognised that bereavement increases the risk of mental health problems, but this depends on the support network, other adverse situations the child is in and the network around them. As children's workers we can find ourselves faced with helping a child or family at this difficult time so what can we do to prepare? There is local provision for supporting bereaved children in most areas; do you know what is available locally to you? How do you feel equipped to answer questions? Have you ever thought about this? Alison finished her session with saying that the important things for many children, is hope and belonging, something the church can offer.

This was the content of the first day. Emotionally exhausting so the evening session was a quiz and a chance to relax and network - much needed.

More difficult subjects followed, and I shall give you this in a second instalment.

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



### Qualities that we look for:

Passion for young people and for God, regular church attendance (ideally a Moravian Church but we recognise that for many people there isn't one near where they live), adaptability, team working, empathy with young people, energetic and enthusiastic, creative (this doesn't mean just the arts), willing to attend training and have a DBS/AccessNI. Experience of working with young people is desirable.

Summer Camp 2018 is August 4th-11th but if you are not available then we may want you to join a weekend camp staff.

To apply contact Joy Raynor via Facebook messenger, email [joy.raynor@moravian.org.uk](mailto:joy.raynor@moravian.org.uk) or by phone 01753 553549 or 07713853184 (leave a message if I don't answer)

Applications welcome from everyone who has the energy required. Please let me know if you have been a leader at camp in the past and would like to be considered.





# Care Home Visiting

Some years ago I started volunteering in care homes on a new project that was set up by The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). They were spearheading a three year project funded by the Department of Health that was essentially a befriending scheme, but the difference was that each of the volunteers was paired with one resident according to their mutual interests. So, each week after work I would travel to west London and sit knitting for a couple of hours, and drinking tea with my new friend. We started knitting squares for blankets for an orphanage in South Africa and each week she would produce a huge pile of neatly knitted squares to which I would add the one or two I had managed to complete. Being able to help others in a practical way gave her back a feeling of worth that had long since left her. Although moving from her native Chile to London as a young woman, and living and working in the UK all of her adult life, her dementia had taken away her ability to speak English very well, and she would revert to her native Spanish, which she found very frustrating and isolating. Having me to talk to helped her to regain a lot of her English language as my command of Spanish was minimal! She loved knitting but couldn't understand English patterns, so I arranged for books to be sent from Spain, which increased her production no end. We went together to the Knitting and Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace, which was her first day out in years, and became very close friends.

The staff at the care home were wonderful - I can't speak highly enough of them, but they were very busy and short staffed, so inevitably, my one to one role expanded to include visits to five other residents. We had received first class training when we started on the project, and guidelines on what we could and could not do, safeguarding issues, health and safety and so on, but I soon realised that dementia sufferers are all still individuals, with very different needs, and cannot be put into a one size fits all category. Some wanted to talk, some to help tend the plants, some just wanted me to sit and hold their hand, but they all wanted tea! Each and every one of them enriched my life and I valued the time I spent with them.



© Sr Lindsey Newens

When my son left home for university I had to stop my visits as I couldn't leave my dog, Basil alone at home for such long periods. I missed it a great deal, and all the friends I had made. I then discovered 'Pets as Therapy', a charity that provides therapeutic visits to hospitals, hospices, nursing and care homes, special needs schools and a variety of other venues by volunteers with their own dogs, and began a long process of registration. This involved references for me, a vet's examination and vaccinations for Basil and finally an hour long assessment of both of us, which we passed! The process is long and thorough but finally we were accepted.

As a dear friend and neighbour of mine for over 30 years had recently been diagnosed with very advanced dementia and transferred from hospital into a care home, I was keen for us to start visiting him to see if Basil really would make a difference. Since a little puppy, Basil had always had a great affection for my friend, they were both so pleased to see each other, there was much tail wagging and delight whenever their paths crossed. Over the last two years my friend has increasingly been losing the ability to speak in sentences, and is now no longer coherent. On our first visit, Basil spotted him straight away, and ignoring all the other residents in the day room, he bounded over and took up his usual position on his knee without a moment's hesitation, and it was a lovely moment when they were reunited, just like old

times. My friend's reaction was remarkable, he remembered Basil's name (having long since forgotten mine) and I was astonished to hear him speak again in complete sentences. He smiled and giggled and played with Basil, who of course was only too happy to be with him again.

Basil is now also a friend of the other residents, who have differing degrees of dementia. Some are very happy to greet him, talk and play with him, and ask when he will be visiting again, and some just quietly stroke him without any verbal communication, but the smiles they give him are genuine and make me realise how important a role he plays in bringing some light into what can be a very monotonous day for them. Many residents will have been pet owners previously in their own homes and really do miss the companionship of a faithful loving animal. Some residents are unable to leave their beds, and fortunately, Basil is small enough to be picked up and held whilst he enjoys a little stroke. Basil loves the attention he receives so it is very much a two way thing, and he needs to earn his dog food somehow!

If you would like to learn more about Pets as Therapy, please check their website at: <https://petsastherapy.org>

**Sr Lindsey Newens**  
Church House



# Wrightbus groundbreaking collaboration at Gracehill

There cannot be many major engineering collaborations that begin at church social events. However, for Wrightbus founder Sir William Wright and Professor Roy Douglas from Queen's University, Belfast, a Gracehill Social Event in the Old Church Hall in Gracehill was the start of great partnership.

Many years previously, Sir William had met and married Ruby Kernohan, a member at Gracehill. After their marriage, they both attended Sir William's home church, but they remained good friends with the Gracehill congregation and eventually moved back to Gracehill to live. Roy has been a member at Gracehill for over 30 years. So, it was in the early 1990s that Roy and Sir William were chatting at an event in the Old Hall about research and development challenges regarding buses. A few years later at a Christingle Service in Gracehill the conversation developed further and Roy suggested making simple computer models for Wrightbus to test new powertrain design ideas and was given the go-ahead by Sir William. A couple of PhD students from Queen's University were then sponsored by Wrightbus to build sophisticated models of various concepts that Sir William and his team at Wrightbus had been developing to improve fuel economy.

About that time there was talk of a new electrical hybrid bus for London and Wrightbus decided to compete for the contract. So, Roy and his team at Queen's University used the modelling techniques to refine the specifications for all the different powertrain components of the bus. The awarding of the contract to build the new London Bus was to be based on a strict marking criteria with around 70% based on technical performance and emphasis on fuel economy and exhaust emissions. Sir William decided that Wrightbus should aim high with an improvement of over 80% on fuel economy versus a standard diesel bus. Roy and his team built full virtual models of the proposed powertrain and bus control systems to tweak every component part and to optimize fuel economy and exhaust emissions.

Wrightbus won the contract for the new Boris Buses in London in 2012 supplying 1,000 new buses which had close to twice the fuel efficiency of the standard diesel bus and emitted less than half the CO2 and NOx emissions. New designs, based on the London Bus hybrid powertrain have also been developed using the same techniques and are now exported to many other countries worldwide.

Since 2012, the relationship between Wrightbus and Queen's University has expanded considerably with the opening in 2017



Gracehill Men's Fellowship on a visit to Wrightbus. Sir William is centre and Br Roy Douglas is on the right.

© Br James Hamill

of a new research centre, the Sir William Wright Technology Centre at Queen's. The Centre is based in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Queen's and is lead by Roy as Centre Director. There are currently 15 members of staff (PhD students and post-doctoral research fellows) with supervision provided by an additional 12 academic staff from the Engineering Faculty. It is planned to double the size of the Centre by 2020.

As well as the original powertrain modelling, the Centre covers a wide range of research themes relevant to bus technology: including, life cycle modelling, vehicle light-weighting, vehicle dynamics, battery technology and autonomous vehicles. For example, the life-cycle modelling consider all of the energy costs and emissions produced over the full life of the buses from manufacturing through to end-of-life recycling: from dust to dust you might say. This information can be linked to information from the World Health Organization to evaluate the full impact of buses and to indicate the benefits of new technologies such as hybrid buses.

Mr Wright became Dr Wright in 2010 following the award of an honorary doctorate from Queen's University and in 2011 he was awarded a CBE. He continues to take an active role in Wright Bus, which remains a family owned business, and in 2017 he celebrated his 90th birthday. To everyone's delight, he was awarded a knighthood in this year's Queen's New Year Honours in recognition of his services to the bus industry and the UK economy. The latest honour for Sir William Wright is to be made a Freeman of his home Borough of Mid and East Antrim and the last man to have that honour here was the famous actor Liam Neeson!

Both Sir William and Roy are passionate about their Christian faith and both are involved in leadership in their own churches. They believe that their faith is a roadmap for everyday life at home and at work. Sir William implements this through a caring and ethical approach to business and to the running of his companies. Roy applies this to running of the research centre and in his research looking for new and better methods to improve transport systems for society and to reduce the impact of transport on the environment.

**Sr Sarah Groves**

Minister at Gracehill and Ballinderry



# Ministry to Fathers



© Br James Woolford

On Thursday 2nd November 2013 at 2am my life changed for ever. That was the moment I became a dad. My son, Edward's arrival into the world had been far from straightforward but now, after many anxious hours, he was here in my arms. I'd dreamt about this moment for a long time. I've always wanted to be a father and to have a family and, as I looked down at this new life, I felt a huge cocktail of emotions. Of course, chiefly among them was love but I was also struck by a sense of the enormous responsibility that now lay upon my shoulders. I'm lucky, I know, that I haven't had to walk this journey alone as my wife Annette has been with me all the way as well as my family and friends but becoming a parent, and in my case a father, turned my world upside down. A couple of years later, I remember having a conversation with a friend who had just become a mother and said, 'being a parent is ...', and at this point I'm sure she expected me to say, amazing, wonderful, the best thing to ever happen or other such words of encouragement, but what I really said was 'hard work'. You see, nobody ever tells you that as an expectant parent and whilst it is true that being a parent is a wonderful thing, there are many times when it is also really hard work. It's not just the sleep deprivation but the emotional stress and pressure put upon you by other people and crucially by yourself to be a 'good' parent. Therefore, the church has a vital role in supporting families because there are many times when parents really need that support.

Over the years the church has been at the heart of supporting families with various groups and ideas but there has been one crucial part of family life that many of our church's family work has failed to reach - the dads. Up and down the country there are parent and toddler groups, music groups, art groups etc., where the only parent present is the mum. As a dad, this is very off-putting. Walking into a room as the only man there, seeing all eyes upon you as you're not only new but 'A MAN', is discouraging. The result of this, though, is that many dads are left without somewhere to play with their children and crucially meet with other dads to share their common experiences. This is the experience of many dads and it is contributing towards

a breakdown of the father to child relationship for many people. Our churches need to be places where we can 'turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers' (Malachi 4:6).

On the 10th February, I had the privilege of attending a training course in the Nazarene College in Manchester on Ministry To Fathers and it was organised and led by the team who created Who Let The Dad's Out, which was set up to combat this problem by creating a group specifically for dads and their children. WLTD was founded by Mark Chester who, as a dad himself, was all too familiar with the isolation felt by many. His church had a thriving mums and tots group but provided nothing for dads. And so, Who Let The Dads Out? began at Hoole Baptist Church, Chester in March 2003 when 20 dads turned up to the first session with their children. Whilst numbers are not the key factor in this kind of group, having such a positive turn out affirmed Mark's vision and sense of calling to this ministry.

The key facets of a WLTD group are that it is created with dads in mind. Mark recalled a conversation he had with one person from a church, 'We do ministry to dads. We have a parent and toddler group.' Mark said: 'great, how many dads do you have?' 'Oh none, why?' was the reply. 'Well we don't run it at a time they can come to!' This is why WLTD groups are held on a Saturday and generally in the morning. Saturdays are a day when many dads don't work and if you're a dad where your relationship with your child's mother has broken down, Saturdays are generally the day you have the children and so this time and day generally suits most of those it's aiming at. The groups are aimed at children from birth to 5-year olds although the WLTD team have since come up with Schools Out Dad's About which is aimed at older children. The sessions feature a number of toys, games and crafts for the fathers to play with their children. Jane Leadbeater, who leads a WLTD group in Liverpool, told of one dad who had no idea how to play with his children as 'my wife plays with them!' So this forms what is for many a vital chance to play with their children. On the face of it, it seems simple, but this can have a profound

effect on their relationship with their child. The session also generally includes the serving of bacon butties for the dads and this is one thing that is useful in keeping dad's coming back and it also provides a key chance to chat to them as they are served their food. These are the only key aspects, however, and many other groups add different elements depending on what they can offer.

Inspired by my experiences and hearing about WLTD, we have started a group at Hornsey which began on the 17th February. Initially we are holding these groups once a month but if you have the ability and the need then you can meet more frequently. So far, our experience has been fantastic. Hornsey is in a very family centred area with lots of young families around and plenty of activities but, as if often the case, this is the only

dad specific group in the area. When I began to promote it, I received hugely positive feedback from the mums of the area who said that it was about time someone did something like this. At our first session we attracted 14 dads, two grandads and 16 children and in our second session that went up to 22 dads and 26 children. I feel very positive about the

future of this group and it is a great sight, seeing our church offer something the community around us actively needs and seeing the children playing happily whilst the dads also have chance to chat. It has been important as well that we have included grandfathers, male carers and male guardians within our advertising so that we encompass all that have a fatherly role in the lives of their children. We are building bridges and forming new relationships but most importantly of all, we are helping to 'turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers'.

I believe in the importance of family for the future of our church and our society and that church needs to find itself back on the frontline of our communities offering the help and support that is so desperately needed. This is simply one more way of doing that. Mothers, of course, play a huge role in a child's life but when we are reaching out into our communities let us never forget the often ignored and unintentionally shunned role of fathers. In all that we do, let us display the love of God our Father, to all whom we can reach and especially those who feel ignored and unloved by the church.

**Br James Woolford**

*Minister at Hornsey and Harold Road*

## Br Dick Porter reports from the Spring Conference of the Yorkshire District, held at Fulneck

An acute shortage of lay preachers was reported at the conference. Sr Gillian Taylor, from the Provincial Board, described the situation as 'desperate'. She said some areas, including the whole of Lancashire, has no registered lay clergy. The problem was created by those who stood in for ministers becoming more elderly, compounded by the fact many had taken up the role around the same time and were now looking to stand down. She urged every congregation to ask if anyone in their midst could take up such a challenge.

A training weekend for lay preachers and worship leaders will be held on 25th-28th October.

When it came to the election of officials, three roles were deliberately left in abeyance - those of Renewal Secretary, Youth Secretary and Mission Secretary.

They were left unfilled for now after Br David Howarth, the minister for Baildon and Horton, suggested a new approach to strengthening and renewing the Moravian Church.

He said the city of Bradford, for example, had many empty shops and the church could be taken to the people in the form of a coffee shop or library.

He said money for such a scheme was available from the Provincial Board and told delegates: 'We are restricted only by our own imaginations.'

The idea is to be looked into further by ministers, who will make recommendations later.

Officers re-elected were Br Kenneth Evans as chairman, Br Michael Newman as vice-chair, Sr Diane Thornton as secretary, Br Porter as Messenger correspondent and Br Les Machel as treasurer.

The Provincial Board sent a 'massive thank you' to congregations who contributed £10,000 to an appeal for emergency aid for the Caribbean in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

In total, the Moravian Church has sent £30,000 to the east West Indies, £15,000 of it from the Women's World Day of Prayer.

Much of the money went on rebuilding for those made homeless. On the island of Tortola, evacuees were given accommodation at Church House itself.

And, closer to home, it was announced the mission flat at Church House, London, has been refurbished and is available for short-term letting again. The rate is £50 per person per night for up to two nights and £40 per person per night for stays of three days or more. Contact Church House if you are interested.

**Br Dick Porter**

*Fulneck*



# Saving lives with 5ps



© Sr Julie Greer

5p: the tiny little coin that gets stuck in the corner of your pocket or bag. They get dropped in the street and no one bothers to pick them up. It is only 5ps - what use are they?

Would you believe that, in the last 32 years, thanks to the prayers and the actions of one man, the humble little 5p has saved millions of lives!

The story of the Mite Scheme begins in 1985. News bulletins were full of emerging reports of a devastating famine in Africa. Millions of people were dying. Watching those bulletins was Bob Geldof, who went on to organise the Live Aid concerts which raised millions of pounds to help the people who were suffering.

Also watching the news was Roy Barnett, an elder at Badby United Reform Church. He listened in horror to news that five million children a year were dying from diarrhoea. He wanted to help but the problem was so great he didn't know where to begin. And so he prayed for guidance.

In February 1986 he was again watching the news when the answer came to him. The newscaster referred to the original bulletin and then announced that a cure had been found. Research had shown that it was not the diarrhoea which killed the children but the loss of body salts and fluids. The cure was a simple sachet of rehydration salts which cost 5p.

At that time Mr Barnett was preparing an address for a service in his chapel. The subject was to be the story of the widow's mite. He supported his reading of the story with 1 Corinthians 13 saying: 'The value of the gift is not measured by the size or value of the coin but by the measure of love that prompts the gift.'

At the end of the service he spoke of the news reports and the 5p cure which had been discovered. A collection was taken up, and from that congregation of twelve people, fourteen 5ps were donated. And the Mite Scheme was born.

As the money came in week after week, Roy Barnett realised that he needed help

to get the money to the people who needed it most. So he picked up the phone. Within a couple of hours UNICEF had called back to say they would distribute and administer the medicines the 5ps would purchase.

What Roy Burnett was doing seemed like such a small thing, but in the 32 years the scheme has been running, enough money has been raised to buy 8,156,188 sachets (as at 09/03/2018). In 1986 the cost of a sachet was 5p. With inflation they now cost 8p. All monies raised by the mite scheme go directly to UNICEF. No money is taken for administration costs.



In Gracehill we began collecting for the Mite Scheme in 2009. In our first year we collected £210. Our congregation are very supportive and not a week goes by without someone handing me a bottle or a jar filled to the brim with 5ps. The children in particular have taken the scheme to their hearts and they can usually be found at the front of the church filling our collecting tin with handfuls of 5ps.

With all this wonderful support, both from our congregation and the local community, in 2017 Gracehill raised the magnificent total of £1,027.25. That is a staggering 20,545 5ps!!!! Since everyone has a half-filled jar of 5ps at home it is safe to say that there is hardly a five pence coin to be found in Ballymena.

I consider myself blessed to be involved with the Mite Scheme. Every week, I see the generosity of people, even in these uncertain economic times. I see the pleasure they also obtain, knowing that

their contribution will make a difference. Jesus said 'Love your neighbour as yourself' and in our own small way we are doing just that.

Sadly the need for the Mite Scheme is as great as ever. In the months up to June 2017, UNICEF delivered 750,000 oral rehydration sachets to Yemen. The charity established 65 Oral rehydration treatment centres in Sudan. Oral Rehydration therapy, along with other high impact, cost effective solutions, contributed to a dramatic reduction in deaths in the under-fives in 24 low/lower-middle income countries including Ethiopia, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Uganda.

I will finish with the words of Roy Barnett MBE on the 25th anniversary of the birth of the mite scheme:

'Twelve of us began the journey in 1986 but have been joined by tens of thousands since. It feels like I have journeyed with a company of angels.

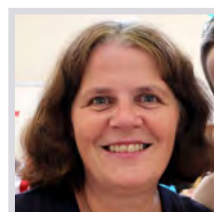
The parents of these children (we have saved) were strangers. Now they pray in thanks for the healing of their children and they also pray for those who provided that healing. Once we were strangers, now we pray for each other.

As the journey goes on; our gifts of love go on. I pause at 25 years and look back and I see an earth now looking more like heaven with each little child we heal. Thank you for your loving company and may the same spirit guide us on our onward course'.

If you would like to start collecting for the Mite Scheme further information can be found on line or by contacting Keith Garner, Mite Scheme Coordinator, 39 Trinity Close, Daventry, NN11 4RN. Please include a stamped addressed envelope. Keith can also be contacted by email at: LesandKeith@talktalk.net.

**Sr Julie Greer**

Gracehill



Binnikandi Moravian Church

© Br Joachim Kreusel



## Visitation to South Asia



L-R: Br Jørgen Bøytler, Sr Roberta Hoey, Br Robert Hopcroft, Sr Zoe Taylor and Br Joachim Kreusel

Valentine's Day - a time to spend with your loved ones and show them how much you love them? Maybe buy a gift and go out for a meal? Well, for three members of the British Mission Board, one bishop and the Unity Board Administrator, this year it was interpreted as making their way to an international airport for an unromantic 8+ hour flight to New Delhi to spend three whirlwind weeks in South Asia.

This article is really just a little introduction to our South Asian visit and what you will find below is answers to some of the questions that I have been asked a few times since I got back. Over the next five months, more in depth profiles will be written about the work being undertaken in each of the regions of the South Asia Mission area.

### Where exactly did you go?

During the three weeks our delegation visited all the main hubs of work in South Asia and some of their outposts as well, our itinerary:

- Assam (India) - Binnakandi Congregation and Haflong outstation
- Dehradun (India) - Rajpur Moravian Congregation and The Moravian Institute (school)
- Ladakh (India) - Leh Congregation, Missions School Leh, Shey Congregation, Khalatse Congregation and Moravian Academy Khalatse
- New Delhi (India) - Delhi Fellowship
- Kathmandu (Nepal) - International Kindergarten, Lalitpur and Khokana

### What were you doing on the trip that required five people to be in attendance?

Moravian work in South Asia has been steadily growing for a long time and it has now reached a critical point where more formality and structure is needed to meet the demands of a growing church. Rather than just try to impose structures from around the unity the British Mission Board held a two day conference for all ministers and ministerial students in South Asia. During the two days the following topics were covered: the structure of the Unity; how South Asia fits in that; what the current challenges are; models of ministerial call systems, provincial governance and how these could be applied in the region. This was a part of the reason that so many people were needed: to lend their expertise to developing a new sustainable model for the future. In addition, during the trip it was known that certain issues would be tackled that required strong pastoral support whilst the Mission Board dealt with the 'business' aspects. Lastly a handover of knowledge was necessary on the Mission Board: Br Hopcroft, who has serviced the area faithfully, will retire from the board in July, and it was important that his knowledge was passed on, and two continuing members of the board built good working relationships with people in the area.

### What are the next steps and how can I get more involved?

Using the momentum gathered during the conference with the ministers, a further conference will be held later this year. As well as the ministers, representatives from each congregation will also be invited to attend with a view to making an initial draft of a constitution and working towards setting up an official 'Conference' as defined in COUF - this essentially is the Mission Area's version of synod.

With regards to support, at this stage most of the work to be done is about setting up governance structures and succession planning for ministry, and will be largely driven by those inside the region. What I will ask from you and all our Brs and Srs, is your prayerful support for this mission area; I would ask that you pray for all the on-going work with a special focus on the building of a self-sustaining future and for the encouragement of those who feel that call of God to offer themselves in service.

**Sr Zoe Taylor**

Provincial Board and British Mission Board



# Congregation News

## Gracehill

An Ulster Scots Evening in the Church hall helped to lift the spirits in the midst of the cold dark evenings when Willie Drennan and his Band, along with children from Longstone Primary School, Cherith Knipe on the Irish harp, and local storyteller Margaret Cameron, who read from her latest book written in the local dialect 'Ower the Tuppenny' entertained the audience with wonderful stories and songs recalling the local heritage. Thanks to Br Raymond Kitson and Sr Vera Montgomery, whose son Derick plays in the band, a marvellous total of £1,183 was added to the Building Fund.

This year Gracehill sent £3,125.42 to the YMPA, the highest amount any congregation has raised. Thanks to all the collectors, and all who support the great work of the YMPA.

Sr Julie Greer, who looks after and counts all the monies, explained that 2017 was an excellent year for the Mite Scheme in Gracehill as Gracehill children, along with some adults, collected £1,037.25 in 5p coins for this small charity which makes such a difference to children.

The Girls' Brigade ended this year's session with a well prepared and full display of the valuable work carried on during the year. Along with drill, music and scripture, there were games, parents' races and a great Talent Show! The evening ended with the distribution of awards given for attendance, drill, friendships and endeavour.

This year, as an age appropriate and interesting way for Primary School children to learn more about the last week of Jesus' life and His death on the cross, the Children's Church Leaders hosted a 'Getting Ready for Easter' day which included crafts, construction, Bible Stories, stories, songs and refreshments.

© Sr Sarah Groves



Gracehill YMPA collectors



Palm Sunday

© Sr Daphne McDonald

Springtime is a very special time in Gracehill when, as small signs of green appear, the village comes to life again after the long dark winter and the Church family look forward with a real sense of hope and love to Lent and Holy Week.

On a mild, calm Palm Sunday morning, we paraded around the beautiful square waving our palm crosses and singing. The Holy Week Services were well attended, as members engaged in the readings each evening, sharing in Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday and the Good Friday Liturgy.

This year the cold weather seemed to go on for ever, and even though Br Donnie Montgomery does a great job throughout the year cutting and trimming, the Burial Ground Working Party had a really tough job preparing God's Acre for the Early Easter Morning Service. Throughout this past year Br Anderson Weir worked patiently cleaning the old headstones, some of which had been almost hidden, and researching long forgotten names, so by Easter the Burial Ground looked amazing.

One of the most poignant parts of the whole Easter Celebrations is the Early Morning Easter Day Service, when in the peacefulness and beauty of God's Acre, we remember our beloved dead, and, while celebrating the resurrection of the Master, we also share the hope that the dead in Christ will arise again also.

As everyone looks forward to enjoying fellowship over a tasty Full Irish Breakfast in the Church Hall, prepared as always by Trevor and Barbara and their wonderful team, we hold on to that real feeling of joy, as in the early morning air we gather at the highest point in the Burial Ground and once again feel the true joy of Easter in our hearts.

Sr Roberta Gray

## Ockbrook

During Lent we had two very different services at Ockbrook. On 11th March Br Phill Battelle talked to us about the Unity Mission Conference that he attended last year in South Africa, and showed us some of his slides. As well as taking part in the conference, Br Phill was able to visit different places, including the Moravian Settlement at Mamre.

On 18th March two of our members, Br Tony Harvey and Br Greg Maskalick, led a Singstunde, on electric guitar and piano respectively. We sang many new songs,



Br Phill Battelle © Sr Julie Hague



Br Tony Harvey and Br Greg Maskalick

© Br Joachim Kreusel

as well as a couple of old favourites. Some of the new songs had familiar words, set to new tunes by Br Greg, for example 'Abba, Father', whilst some had been composed entirely by Br Tony, both words and music, for example 'New Life'. We are lucky indeed to have such talented members in our congregation.

Sr Julie Hague

## Peter Hammond, remembered

Peter Hammond worked at Church House in accounts from 2002 to 2009 and will be missed by his colleagues here. The following is a tribute from Churches Together in England.



Peter was CTE's Treasurer from 2003-2018. An accountant with wide experience of the charitable sector, we came to rely on his skill and wisdom. He gave of both with gentleness and generosity, and became a friend to many in the ecumenical world.

We learnt that he died on 26th March at St John's Hospice Moggerhanger, at peace, and surrounded by his family after a short illness.

## From Church House

### Provincial Diary for May

30th April-3rd May	Ministers Retreat at High Leigh, Hoddesdon
4th-6th May	Irish MWA Retreat
15th-16th May	PEC, BMB and Estates at Church House
25th May	Nominations for PEC and Committees to Church House
26th May-2nd June	European Continental Province Synod - Sr G Taylor

## Congregational Register

### Deaths

2nd February 2018	Bridget Joseph	Hornsey
10th February 2018	John Henry Derbyshire	Fairfield
16th February 2018	Elsie Bolton	Fairfield
21st February 2018	Sylvia (Ivona) Edwards	Hornsey
5th March 2018	Sarah E McCoy	Hornsey
10th March 2018	Gloria Riley	Hornsey

10	Ascension Day
13-19	Christian Aid Week ( <a href="http://www.christianaid.org.uk">www.christianaid.org.uk</a> )
16	Ramadan begins - Muslim
20	Pentecost
	Shavuot - Jewish
21	Whit Monday
27	Trinity Sunday

Dates to remember!

## Summer Camp 2018



A faithful and committed Salvationist, Peter lent his support to many charities which sought to advance the kingdom of Christ. He will be sorely missed.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Sue and his family.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

A celebration of Peter's life will be held at 2.30pm on Thursday 3 May at The Salvation Army Bedford Congress Hall, Commercial Road, MK40 1NY for anyone that wishes to attend.

Donations received will be shared between a school in Zimbabwe, in which Peter was actively involved, and the SA Emergency Response Units which are involved in emergency situations such as Grenfell Tower. Anyone wishing to donate should make a cheque payable to 'The Salvation Army' and can either post to Lorraine Shannon at the CTE office or give directly on the day.

## Notices

### 6<sup>th</sup> Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History & Music

THE WALTER VIVIAN MOSES LECTURE IN MORAVIAN STUDIES

Dr. Willel Kirton-Roberts  
"Evangelical Protestantism In Antigua And Barbados, 1834-1914"

THE MORAVIAN MUSIC FOUNDATION PRESENTS  
A Night of Chamber Music

MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL LECTURE  
Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood  
"Creation of the Modern Moravian Unity in 1957"

October 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

[moravianconferences.org](http://moravianconferences.org) | 610.866.3255

The conference is sponsored by the Moravian Archives, Moravian College, and the Center for Moravian Studies, in partnership with the Moravian Music Foundation, Moravian Historical Society, and Moravian Theological Seminary.



## 17th BAILDON MORAVIAN BEER FESTIVAL

Moravian Church Hall, off Westgate, Baildon

20 REAL ALES  
3 REAL CIDERS  
WINE SOFT DRINKS

Friday 4th May 4-11 pm  
+  
Saturday 5th May 12 noon-11pm

ALL WELCOME!

When > 4 - 11th August

Where > Dovedale House

Cost > £325 with £25 reduction for booking before 1st June

For > All young people connected with a Moravian church ages 10-17

Includes > all meals and accommodation in shared rooms; outings included to Alton Towers; and other activities. It's loads of fun and an opportunity to make new friends from across the church in the UK.

More information and booking forms from your minister or Joy Raynor ([joy.raynor@moravian.org.uk](mailto:joy.raynor@moravian.org.uk) or phone 01753553549)

More information about the venue at [www.dovedalehouse.org](http://www.dovedalehouse.org)



# From the Sanctuary

Nature has much to teach us that is of spiritual benefit. That is why I love being in, or working in a place where I can see into, my garden (i.e. my sanctuary). However, now that summer is approaching, as well as the glorious nature of the flowers I have encouraged and let self-seed, have also come the weeds.

My most disliked weeds are dandelions, sycamore trees (which seed aplenty in my garden beds) and bindweed. Yet, driving along the other day on a sunny day, the roadside was carpeted in a mass of dandelions - it was incredibly beautiful and gave me a new appreciation of dandelions; the sycamore seeds that take root in the garden beds come from a wonderful tree in the copse at the bottom of the garden, which I wouldn't be without as it is a wonderful sculpture in the winter, and offers shade in the summer; and the bindweed - well they came with the many bluebells that were given to me by my parents - they are beautiful, and the bindweed is a small price to pay for the beauty of the bluebells. So, as I got to thinking about my weeds (although the bindweed isn't around at the moment), which I'd rather be without, I began to see them in a new - and more appreciative - light. After all, a weed is simply a wonderful plant that is growing in the wrong place (and it is only the 'wrong place' because it doesn't meet my 'wants' [or values about what should be in a garden] at the time)!

I think the same is true for any community, or group, of people - including a congregation. It is made up of people whom we value more, because we like, connect with, have more in common with, or maybe we appreciate their contribution more; and it is made up of folks that we value less because we don't agree with them, we find them obstructive, or they do things differently (or less perfectly) from how we would do them or like them done. Our challenge, as a Christian congregation (and as spiritual people) is to find ways of seeing value in everyone - of finding



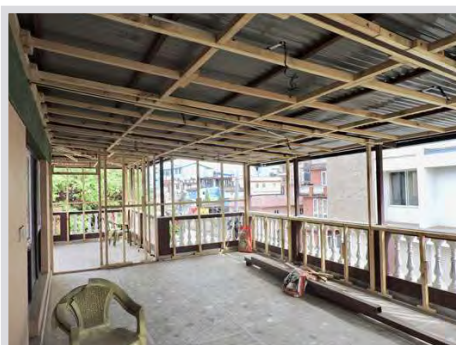
a place in the garden for each plant, so that each can grow to its potential. Sometimes that means encouraging plants to grow where they can flourish, but can also be contained because they benefit by being contained.

Each of us has a place in God's garden (or congregation). We each have our gifts and talents to bring to the garden. I can't do electrics and I am certainly rubbish at lighting bonfires with petrol, but I have found that I can flourish and use my gifts for the benefit of the Church in other ways, and I can help nurture other plants by making way for the sun to shine on them, or by offering shelter and support when needed. The same is true of all of us. We all have our gifts (talents) to offer. So how can we learn to see the value in each other, and help each other grow - including those we might think of as 'weeds'?

*Br Peter Gubi, Dukinfield*

## British Mission Board (BMB) News

Br Thsespal Kundan, the Principal at the Moravian Institute in Rajpur and pastor at the Rajpur Moravian Congregation visited England for a teacher training conference organised by TeachBeyond. Whilst he was here he had the opportunity to meet with some members of the board and also link up with Fulneck and Ockbrook Schools, strengthening their partnerships.



*Shristi Academy Renovations*

© Sr Shanti Pradhan

Sr Shanti and Br Vani Pradhan who run the International Kindergarten in Kathmandu have been developing a junior school, Shristi (Creation) Academy, and are currently working on opening third grade. Extension work has started to add extra class rooms (pictured), with support from the Nepali Outreach Committee. More information on this project and mission will appear in the Messenger soon.

***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](mailto:roberta.hoey@moravian.org.uk). We have some projects in mind and more details will be following soon.***

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