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All Change at Synod

Elections Results and Summary of Proposals passed

One of the Ecumenical guests at Synod observed after it was over that 'Synod indicated a remarkable degree of vitality and confidence, and that the Moravian Church continues to punch above its weight'. That could possibly be the view of many of those attending this year's Synod.

The first resolution to be passed on the Friday was the proposal to elect a new bishop at Synod. So, when elections began on the Sunday morning, the first election was that of Bishop. It is a great pleasure to report that Sr Sarah Groves, minister of Gracehill and Ballinderry Churches and a member of the Moravian



*New bishop elect,
Sr Sarah Groves*

© Sr Lorraine Parsons

Messenger Editorial Team was elected Bishop. It was a special moment to witness as Sr Sarah was greeted by members of Synod after the election.

The elections to the Provincial Board followed. It had been previously resolved to increase the number of places on the Provincial Board from four to six with two full-time (stipendiary members) and four part-time (non-stipendiary) members. No one was elected to the full-time post so now nominations will be sought from church members across the Province and a postal ballot will be held in due course, details of which can be found in this issue. Sr Roberta Hoey, who was elected at last Synod, continues as a full-time Board member for another two years.

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

By the time this letter is published, Synod 2018 will be over, hopefully with business completed. Nevertheless I refer readers of The Messenger back to the July pre-Synod issue.

I write in praise of the most informative leader article. Whilst I have attended more Synods than I care to remember, many readers have not, and the comprehensive outline of business and procedure can only be beneficial to those who may often ask, 'well, what happens at Synod?'

Congregation deputies always get an introduction to procedures before the business of Synod begins, but to have information presented in such a concise way in advance must be helpful to everyone.

I want to pick up on one small yet significant slip of the pen in Sr Sarah's article. It relates to the phrase, 'they will be ordained presbyters'.

In the Moravian Church, it has been the practice to refer to the 'ordination' of deacons, and the 'consecration' of presbyters and bishops.

Whilst there is some linguistic confusion here - I'm no classics scholar, but as I understand it, both words in essence mean the same, but one is from a Latin root, the other Greek - the Moravian Church position has always held that we have one ordination and that our deacons are fully ordained. Therefore we have opted to 'consecrate' rather than 'ordain' presbyters and bishops to emphasize this point.

As I say, it is a small yet significant slip of the pen - but that in no way detracts from the excellent article.

Br David Newman

Retired minister, now living in Fawley, Hants.

Dear Editors,

As the last Moravian member at Bedford St. Luke's I was so pleased to find the obituary in respect of the Rev David Bunney in the July issue of the 'Moravian Messenger'. I had sought since February for any mention of his sudden death but found only a reference in the Tytherton news in April.

Recently, on 13th June, I attended the interment of David's ashes in one of the gardens of remembrance at Norse Road Crematorium, Bedford, where the ashes of David's wife, Edna, were interred. (They both originated in Oakley, about three miles from the town.)

Strangely, just a few days ago, (lodged in a diary from 2008 when St. Luke's closed), I found the words of a hymn written by David, which I thought might be of interest to those who knew him:



© Sr Gwen Gribble

**Lord, let me now depart in peace,
for I have seen your grace;
the vision of eternal life
shines from your risen face.**

**Lord, let me now depart in peace,
for I have seen your light;
through all the nations of the earth
its freedom comes to sight.**

**Lord, let me now depart in peace,
for I have seen your life;
I'll bring the promise of your word
to end all fear and strife.**

**Lord, let me now with you depart,
For I have seen your peace;
Which in true quietness of heart
Alone can bring release.**

David Bunney

Tune Common Meter but David chose St Hugh 262 in the 1975 Hymn Book 'O Lord and Master of us all'.

Kind regards,

Sr Gwen Gribble

Bedford

Dear Editors,

I have read with interest the letters in the Messenger on the subject of human sexuality. I attended both meetings in our church and have spoken to others within the congregation who did not attend the meetings. The following is not a report on the meetings. These are my own personal, strongly held views (though I know that many within our congregation agree with me). It should be noted that Northern Ireland is the only place in the UK which does not permit same sex civil marriage and given the fact that (at the time of writing) our local politicians refuse to talk to each other and that we have effectively no government, that situation is not going to change soon.

I understand that there are many who struggle with the subject of same sex relationships and how those within such relationships fit within our church. I believe that everyone who loves our Lord should be welcomed into our church and the door should be shut to no one. I have heard Bible verses being used as ammunition in an attempt to justify a stance which would deny full membership to anyone in a same sex relationship. Yet it is not that simple. The Bible is sometimes contradictory (an eye for an eye/turn the other cheek). We no longer follow the rules on slavery and blood sacrifices. Women play a major part in church life and divorcees are allowed to remarry. Our Lord did not follow all of the religious teachings of the day. He healed on the Sabbath and the priest in the parable of the good Samaritan who blindly followed the religious teachings and walked away from the injured man did not come out of that story well.

When in doubt I turn to Jesus for guidance. At no time did he condemn those in same sex relationships as sinful. If it had been

an issue He would have given us instruction. Instead he gave us the only rules that we should follow in dealing with others - 'Judge not lest ye be judged' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. Jesus did not turn people away. He opened his arms to everyone and if we are to follow him we must try, in our poor way, to do the same.

We are all different. Everyone who has ever lived, is living now or will live in the future is different. It is one of God's greatest miracles that no two people are the same. We have only two things in common. We are all sinners and we have all been created by God. I would not dream of discriminating against others because of race, gender or ability. So why would I discriminate against someone of a different sexuality? One day we will all come before God and have to explain our sins. How can we justify ignoring the specific commands of Jesus or explain why we discriminated against one of our brothers or sisters because of the way God has created them. After all, God does not make mistakes.

I am not a theologian. I do not claim a perfect knowledge of the bible or of God's will. I will leave my final words to those who know much more than me:

'In the very core of Moravian understanding of humanity, the God-given equality of all people is fundamental', Rev Dr Courtney Jarvis and Rev Dr Jørgen Bøytler, President of the Unity Board and Unity Board Administrator - 15th January 2018.

'For God so loved the world... and I don't, then I can't claim to be Godly', Rev David Latimer, Minister First Derry Presbyterian Church, June 2018.

Yours in Christ,

Sr Julie Greer

Gracehill

All Change at Synod Continued



New Provincial Board: Br David Howarth, Sr Roberta Hoey, Br Livingstone Thompson, Sr Zoe Taylor and Br Paul Holdsworth



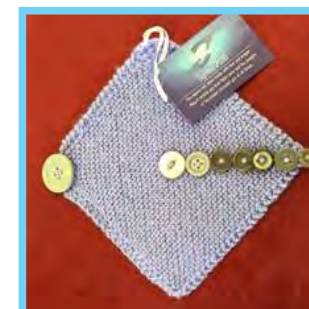
Retiring Board members Br Bob Hopcroft and Sr Gillian Taylor

Three members were elected to serve as part-time members to join Sr Zoe Taylor who has another two years to serve. Br David Howarth, minister of Baildon and Horton and Br Livingstone Thompson, minister of University Road Belfast and Kilwarlin Moravian Churches were elected to serve for four years. Br Paul Holdsworth, minister of Bath Coronation Avenue, Swindon and Bath Weston was elected to serve for two years.

The members of the Provincial Board are both the management board of the Moravian Church and the Trustees of the charity so they lead the Church during the two year period between Synods. The new members of the Provincial Board will take up their new offices over the summer and until then Sr Gillian Taylor and Br Robert Hopcroft will stay in post. When they retire they will, between them, have contributed 28 years of service on the Provincial Board. Speeches thanking them for their service were made by Sr Zoe Taylor and Sr Roberta Hoey.

Standing Orders were suspended on Saturday morning as two sessions on human sexuality were scheduled for this period, chaired by Br Peter Vogt, the co-minister at Herrnhut. The first part was taken up with discussions in small groups and there followed an open debate on the floor of Synod with Synodals sharing their opinions in the second session. The resolution that was passed later was that 'We recommend that the British Province of the Moravian Church should "continue to do theology in an attempt to discern the will of God" on the issue of Human Sexuality'.

Much of Synod is rightly taken up with worship and the Synod Opening Service was led by Sr Gillian Taylor and Br Jørgen Bøytler who preached on John 17:15-23 with the themes of truth, unity and history. His very thoughtful address will be reproduced in later issues of the Moravian Messenger. Bible Studies in the mornings were led by Br David Howarth who used the TV series 'Broken', starring Sean Bean as a catholic priest, to help us examine moral issues in a complicated world. Co-incidentally the Bible passages he used were also from John's gospel and looked at truth. The Evening worship was led by Sr Jane Dixon who thoughtfully brought each day to a close in prayer and reflection. The Synod Communion was led by Br Robert Hopcroft who preached on Hebrews 13:8 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever' and looked back on the changes that we have lived through in recent years. reminder that people had been praying for Synod before we met together and continued to do so throughout, came with the lovely prayer squares knitted by the Moravian Crafters for each Synodal and visitor.



Prayer squares knitted by the Moravian Crafters

© Sr Sarah Groves

This article cannot deal with all the matters that came up at Synod but of particular interest are the following proposals. The first was that 'Be it proposed that the Provincial Board appoint appropriate persons to assess the strength, sustainability and future direction of the British Province, and report back with recommendations to the next Synod'. The idea behind this is that our Province has reached a point where due to its size, administration becomes a greater challenge.

Looking to the past was a resolution that called on the British Province and its congregations to celebrate the work and witness of John Cennick, Moravian evangelist born 12 December 1718. This was passed unanimously.

Another resolution was that 'The Provincial Youth and Children's Committee provide suitable materials and training for each congregation to do a comprehensive audit of its current youth and children's work, human and physical resources, and the needs and opportunities for working with children, young people and families in the communities in which they are located ...' It is hoped that this work will enable the church to be more focused in our families, children and youth work. On the same line was a proposal that called for a Moravian Youth Forum to be held before next Synod to mobilise young people.

A resolution that will really challenge all who work in church catering was 'We propose that Congregations reduce the use of single use plastics in all areas of church life. As a first step towards this goal all congregations are asked to reduce the following items (but not limited to) to 0% by 2020: cutlery, plastic or plastic-coated paper plates, plastic carrier bags, cling film, plastic water bottles, Styrofoam cups, Styrofoam plates and plastic straws.' It was felt that the church could not ask other organisations or individuals to cut back on plastic usage if we did not do the same.

Following on from the resolution on Child Poverty at the last Synod, it was resolved to join the End Child Poverty Coalition and the following resolution was carried 'This Synod requests the PEC and Bishops to: Meet soon with the constituency MP for Hornsey and Wood Green, this being the constituency in which Moravian Church headquarters is located and to initiate an e-petition requesting the British Government to work towards the elimination of child poverty in the UK.'

Finally, it is a joy to report that the resolutions that Sr Jane Dixon and Br James Woolford 'goes forward for consecration as a presbyter,' both passed by enthusiastic acclaim (clapping).

Much more was covered at Synod than can be covered in this article but hopefully more information will be passed on by congregation deputies as they give their Synod reports.

Sr Lorraine Parsons

Vacancy for a Stipendiary (Full-time) Provincial Board Member

Following Synod, the Provincial Board now consists of six members of the Moravian Church in the British Province, elected by nomination and ballot at Synod. Two serve in a stipendiary, full-time capacity and four serve part-time as non-stipendiary members, all holding office until their successors are elected (Book of Order, section 3.1.a).

At Synod, the vacant non-stipendiary positions were filled, however a vacancy remains for a full-time stipendiary position for four years. In order for this vacancy to be filled a postal ballot now needs to be held. This election will follow the procedures outlined in our Book of Order (section 3.1.a.2).

The nomination process:

Those who wish to offer for election to serve as a stipendiary member of the PEC should fill in an official nomination form. Once completed, it should be sent to Sr Roberta Hoey at Moravian Church House, 5 Muswell Hill, London N10 3TJ. The closing date for nomination forms to arrive at Church House is 5pm on Friday 31st August 2018.

The voting process:

Once the closing date is passed, all nominations will be collated and copied for circulation, along with the ballot papers to Church Committees and to ministers. Each Church Committee and each ex officio member of Synod is entitled to one vote. The ex officio members of Synod are: members of the Provincial Board, Bishops who are resident in the British Province, Ministers in active service in the British Province, the PYCO and the two members of the Church holding the posts of Advocatus Unitatis Fratrum in Anglia and Secretarius Unitatis Fratrum in Anglia. To be elected to the board, a two thirds majority must be obtained. The nomination papers must be shredded once voting has taken place.

Once the votes have been made the ballot forms should be returned to Sr Lindsey Newens at Church House for counting. The result of the postal ballot will be sent out to ministers and Church Secretaries by email and will appear as soon as possible in the Moravian Messenger.

Nomination papers will be sent out to

each Congregation and ex officio member of Synod. They can also be obtained along with any information about the role by contacting Sr Roberta Hoey on roberta.hoey@moravian.org.uk or telephoning 020 8883 3409.

Please note:

- Provincial Board members must be members of the Moravian Church in the British Province.

- When a person has been elected to the Provincial Board, appointment is subject to trustee eligibility checks, including a DBS clearance.

- Nominations are for four years. The nominator and seconder may be individual members of the church or a congregation committee as a whole, in which case one member of the committee should sign on its behalf. The nominator and seconder should not be the nominee.

- A house is available in Greater London for the person who is elected to serve in this capacity.

Men's Fellowship Rally - Saturday 23 June 2018 Horton

Welcome and opening worship: the programme commenced at 1pm with a welcome and opening devotions by Br Ken Evans. Br David Howarth welcomed everyone to Horton. Our speaker for the day was introduced as, 'John Tempest, Founder and Director of the Bradford Soup Run'.

Key note speaker: John Tempest thanked Br Ken for the introduction and (as part of his opening remarks) commented on two things that he noticed about the Moravians: they sing loud and have shiny shoes. About 30 years ago he went to a pub for a social with two friends, when someone said, 'I bet there are no homeless in Bradford. A couple of nights later the weather was bitterly cold and John plus his friends went to investigate around the town centre. They carried a flask with food and a loaf of bread. They saw the first person, who was called David, with two of everything on a bench, and went to help and encourage him. The second person was sleeping in a tunnel and turned them away quite rudely. They also noted that a number of people on the streets had dogs, as

they preferred the company of the animals to humans. They continued the rounds around Bradford for a while when they decided it was better for the homeless to come to them on a Friday night, as the council facilities were closed on Friday. They catered for 100 homeless people who came from various backgrounds including former managing directors, managerial staff, shop workers, ex-military personnel, to name a few. He said that there are more men on the streets than women and when a man loses his job it can be devastating.

John Tempest stressed that the soup run was set-up based on the following verses from the bible; Matthew chapter 25 vv 30-40: 'I was hungry and you fed me ...' He said that political and religious views were left at the door, but there were some house rules for the soup runs, particularly for the location that they provide the food from. So no drugs, no alcohol, no photos, no fighting, and no politics are allowed. They accept people as they are. However, there are bouncers on site during the sessions, which will assist them if and when required.

Their menu is the same each week: fruit juice, soup with a soft white roll, stew, tea and coffee, apple, orange or a banana. They also have a rule of feeding the animals first with dog food. They will supply food, blankets, clothing and bags of encouragement.

The land where they operate the soup run from has been sold by the council and they seek other suitable accommodation.

A question and answer session followed which was appreciated by all.

John Tempest was thanked by Br Ken.

Holy Communion: Br David presided over Holy Communion.

Closing for another year: The Men's Fellowship rally closed with refreshment.

Note for diaries - 2019: The Men's Fellowship Rally will be held on Saturday 22 June 2019 at Queen's Park Bedford.

Br Edwin Quildan

Minister at Harlesden and Bedford Queens Park



Rajpur visit

Following the recent visitation to South Asia by the British Mission Board, the report moves onto Rajpur ...

Last month, through Sr Zoe's photo diary, you had the opportunity to experience a little of our trip to Assam. By the end of our time there, we were energised for the next leg of our journey as we hopped onto a plane back to Delhi to catch a connection to Dehradun, taking us to the Moravian Institute and the Moravian Congregation at Rajpur.

The Moravian Institute, and subsequently the congregation that grew from there, dates back to 1963 and was founded by Rev Eliyah Thsetsan Phuntsog. Br Phuntsog had been undertaking work, translating the New Testament into Tibetan when he met Tibetan refugees who had fled into India across the Himalayas. Br Phuntsog started literacy classes for adults and a day school for children, with boarding facilities beginning in 1967 to provide security and food for child refugees. Since then the work has continued to blossom from nursery age to 18 for boys and girls. The work continues to grow under the leadership of Rev Thsespal Kundan and a hard working board of management. The Institute is steeped in Moravian tradition with an objective of demonstrating the love of God in Jesus Christ and ensuring education for all. Students come from all backgrounds, many non-Christian: Hindus, Tibetan Buddhists, Muslims and Sikhs.

Rajpur Moravian Church

Looking out over the Indus River in Leh

© Sr Roberta Hoey

The work is gratefully supported by the British Mission Board and by many more around the Unity.

A congregation was established not far from the school and having opened their new building in the last number of years they are continuing to flourish. Br Kundan is currently serving as pastor in charge of the congregation.

Again our time there flew by quickly, and we spent the majority of it in meetings with the school and church, providing us with an opportunity to review and consider the structures of the ministry in the area. However, it was also an opportunity to spend some time in fellowship with our brothers and sisters from the Dehradun area. Our visit to Rajpur was one marked by great hospitality and enthusiasm from everyone we met from the students in the school, to the vibrant youth in the congregation and the determined committee. The Moravian presence in Rajpur, the education centre of North India, is firmly established with a great reputation and promise as it goes into the future.

Sr Roberta Hoey

British Mission Board



The Girls' new dormitory at the Moravian Institute, Rajpur

© Sr Roberta Hoey



Teachers at the Moravian Institute, Rajpur

© Sr Roberta Hoey

How Safe Are Our Children? Growing up online

Risks of Sexting		
Control	Exposure	Social
No way to unsend something once sent	You don't know who has seen it or not seen it	Might be difficult to face people afterwards
Can't stop screenshots	Could be shared unlimited times, globally or even end up on porn sites	Bullying about sexting is common
Emotional Impact		
Stress Worry Shame		Guilt Fear Anxiety

© Sr Joy Raynor

We can all recognise that the online world is moving fast; things change almost before our eyes but this is a world our children and young people inhabit. Even young adults have no idea what it is like for the 13 year olds, things have changed since they were 13, even if it was only five years ago. The NSPCC recognise the impact the digital world can have on our children and young people, so the focus for their conference and report this year was this online world. The full report can be found at www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/how-safe-are-our-children-2018/ but here are a few facts for you.

Proportion of young people with social media accounts:

Average time spent online in a week

8-11 year olds: 13 hours and 24 minutes - nearly 2 hours a day

12-15 year olds: 20 hours - nearly 3 hours a day

Facing risks

7% of under 13s have been asked for a sexual image or message

24% of young people have experienced an adult that they don't know in real life trying to contact them online

The conference was organised over two days and had a range of speakers, from young people to the Minister for Culture, Media and Digital, covering lots of different aspects of the digital world. Some of the sessions were aimed at schools, others at social workers but the attendees varied and included people from everywhere you might find children and young people.

For me the most enlightening session was led by two ex-policemen talking about gang culture, about the music videos, the abuse within and between the gangs and the inhumanity of the culture, I knew very little about this subculture and had no idea of the negative impact it can make on young people. The tribalism and territorialism is really quite scary and seems to be so important to the young people in these gangs: crossing the street can have serious implications (such as a beating - and not just by the rival gang; or a stabbing, etc.).

There was a vast amount of information but not all of it was gloomy. There are a range of people working to make our children and young people safe online, from legislation, the physical and mental effects of excessive gaming, pressure on the software industry, the police, NSPCC, the internet providers and social media networks (under pressure) and to those educating parents on how to keep their children safe. The best tip for the latter is to keep talking so your children can always tell you about anything they see online that they find distressing, and about how to keep safe together.

It was a really interesting and challenging two days and I came away feeling much more informed of the world our children and young people inhabit.

Finally a challenge for you - how many social media networks can you name?

To check look at www.net-aware.org.uk **Sr Joy Raynor**

Provincial Safeguarding Advisor

Eastern District Conference (EDC)

Fellowship Day Sunday 10 June 2018

The Gathering: Brothers and Sisters from across the Eastern District gathered at Queens Park, Bedford from 2pm for a welcome cup of tea and cake in readiness for the start of EDC. A total of forty brothers and sisters were present. All congregations within EDC were represented.

Welcome and opening worship: EDC commenced at 3.15pm, with a welcome and opening worship was led by Br Edwin. Presentation on South Asia: Sr Roberta gave a presentation on the recent Mission Board visit to South Asia. Photos were shown of the work in:

- Assam, noting their hope to build a new Church.
- Rajpur where their vision to start a University for training ministers was highlighted.
- Ladakh, Leh, Shey and Khalatse, noting that the school in Leh has over 1,000 children and the Moravian Church is

the main Christian presence in the area.

- New Delhi Fellowship, nothing that the Fellowship started with a few people who moved to the city and is currently growing.

Presentation 'Who let the Dads out': Br James gave a presentation on the new project that has recently commenced at Hornsey on the third Saturday of the month. The importance of the Fathers relating to / with their children was stressed. Facebook was used to raise the interest in the area. The idea was also sold to the mums who further encouraged the dads to come along. Most importantly food (bacon rolls) was available for the dads and refreshments for the children. The large hall became a play area with all sorts of toys. Singing of new and different songs was also key. Invitations will be given to the dads in



© Br Edwin Quidan

the Father's day service.

PEC District Conference notes: Sr Gillian Taylor presented the PEC District Conference notes, which was well received.

Synod standing committees: EDC was reminded about the standing committees by Br Edwin.

Prayer and closing worship, was led by Br James at 5pm.

Summary: Those present commented that they thoroughly enjoyed the Fellowship Day, even the delicate movement of the coach into and out of the tight side streets. To God be praised.

Br Edwin Quidan

Minister at Harlesden and Bedford Queens Park

East Tytherton Heritage: An opportunity too good to miss?

© John Young



Br Nigel Pocock tells former slave Leonora Carr's story at a Local History Day at East Tytherton.



In Ockbrook there is this gravestone. Who was Eliza Sophia Thornton? Was she white, or black, slave or free? What is her story? Who will go for her?

© Br Nigel Pocock

On 15th September 2018 there will be an Heritage Day at East Tytherton (part of the National Heritage Day), as well as in other Moravian community centres. This is the second such event at East Tytherton. In this article, I want to explore why this is so important, and also encourage readers to come along and join us, in what was a very successful Heritage Day last year!

East Tytherton Heritage Project was set up eleven years ago as a community history and archaeology project. Since then, around forty volunteers from all around the world (as far away as Australia) have helped on the various 'digs' and working parties. Around two hundred of the four hundred headstones that were buried have

been excavated. Numerous finds have been made, including a George II coin, fragments of an eighteenth-century tea cup, German ceramic beer mug, and much more. In the former Moravian school garden, finds included ceramic water-colour receptacles, graphite, a solidified eraser, face cream jars, and more.

Many, many stories have emerged. Most significantly (in terms of their unique contemporary interest) being those of the former Antiguan slaves Leonora Carr, Ann, Sarah, and Eliza Briggs, with the ex-slave from Surinam, Harriet Maynard, all students of the school, and resident in the settlement. Harriet's story is perhaps of even greater interest, as she may well prove to be the first Black, ex-slave artist in Cornwall, who also exhibited in the famous Newlyn Gallery. We have discovered (for the very first time) a painting signed by her! The gravestone of Leonora Carr is also unique as being the only known gravestone of an ex-slave in the whole county.

Space does not permit us to tell of Bishop George Hanna, who

served 42 years in Jamaica, Charles Lewis Schwartz, missionary in Paramaribo, and Elizabeth Sidnell, who died in the local workhouse, Thomas Stone, John Cennick's nephew, and many more who are buried in East Tytherton.

This is the past. What of the future, and the role that the past can play in it? This, indeed, raises uncomfortable questions, not the least for East Tytherton. Will the community survive for another ten years, and can this historical legacy provide some protection? I believe that it can, but not as we know it.

There is huge interest across the globe in genealogical links with East Tytherton, as people seek for meaning and identity. But the community cannot live on this. The East Tytherton Heritage Day is a very modest seed, planted with the future in mind. This year is a development on last year, with a 'dialogic' exhibition,

© Br Nigel Pocock



Volunteers hard at work at East Tytherton (left) and Malmesbury (right) including Sr Patsy Holdsworth, where the Project is working together with the Athelstan Museum.



guided tours, hands on archaeology, and a working party.

What might evolve from this community history? The USP (unique selling point) is the Caribbean

slave history, which has stirred up enormous interest. If the community were ever to leave East Tytherton, the last thing that believers would surely want is a rapacious developer getting their clammy hands on the properties. How could this Christian witness continue?

One suggestion might be for a Centre for the Study of Black History in Wiltshire. As a part of this, I would suggest that the Black History that is extant in the Moravian burial grounds around the country to be researched by local people, and their stories pooled and gathered together, and their Christian witness made known (as David Killingray and Joel Edwards have done in their excellent book, 'Black Voices').

In the meantime, it would be wonderful if you could attend the Heritage Open Day in East Tytherton, on the 15th September!

Br Nigel Pocock

Project Leader East Tytherton Heritage Project

Congregation News

Letter from a Pupil about a Visit to Fairfield Moravian Settlement

On Thursday 3rd May 2018, Class 4 went to Fairfield Moravian Settlement. We went as we were learning about places of worship and different denominations of Christianity for our RE topic.

Firstly, we went into the church and watched a PowerPoint (slide show) about how it started and where it started. They actually started in the Czech Republic. Then we split into two groups and my group went upstairs through a small, creaky door and looked at the organ pipes. We found out the organ pipes on the outside were fake. After that, we went up some steep stairs to the roof. We got to ring the bell. All we had to do was pull a blue rope. Our group then went back downstairs to do a worksheet about the inside of the church. I really enjoyed doing the worksheet.

Next, we went to the burial ground/graveyard through a gate made by a lady called Lucy Eagle. When we got in we noticed all of the graves were flat. It is because they want everyone to be equal. I think that is really thoughtful, do you? The first grave buried was a lady called Henrietta Delamott. Then we went past the girls' high school through the square and where everyone used to live. They told us

lots of facts about it. I thought it was very interesting.

After that, we went to learn about what they used to wear. We spoke about it for a few minutes and then the lady asked if we wanted to try anything on and I said yes. The girls wore baby blue dresses, hat (red- great girl, pink- sister, blue-married and white- widow), white shawl or apron. The boys wore a white shirt, leather jacket, cropped pants, smart shoes and triangle shaped hat. I got to wear a great girl hat. Shortly after, we looked at some artefacts. We looked at an old kettle and a lot of old objects. I was really interested in it all. Barbara told us a lot of facts. About 15 minutes later, we visited the museum. We did a questionnaire and we went to look at what a bedroom would look like and what is different to our bedroom now. I loved it a lot. We also looked at pottery and an old stove. The bit that I found the most interesting was the telephone. I think the telephone was one of the oldest I have ever seen. It was all amazing.

I loved this school trip and I think the next Class 4 would really enjoy it loads. My favourite bit is learning about all the different clothes that they wore and how it has changed.

By Millie

Fairfield

On 6th May we celebrated our Sister's festival: we celebrated with a Lovefeast and Holy Communion at 3.15pm in church; and then moved into the college to continue our festival. Approximately 40 sisters sat down to enjoy tea together and afterwards to listen to our visiting speaker, Sue Turner from the W.I., who talked to us about their history and the type of events they now enjoy. The theme for this year's festival was 'Extraordinary Women', and we were all given a lovely pen as a souvenir of our time together.

We had a short Café Church on the following Sunday (13th May) and then at least 80 members, friends and the band of St Johns had a Whitsuntide Walk around the local area.

Envelopes were distributed and collected from 13th to 19th May for Christian Aid week raising £267.95.

We continue to collect for the food bank and regrettably the need seems to continue to grow rather than diminish.

On a brighter note a newer group 'Fairfield Tots Time' seems to be flourishing and the Youth Club is still popular as is Messy Church. However, our Sunday School numbers continue to decline, and we ask friends to remember us in their prayers as difficult decisions are considered regarding its future. This would seem an appropriate time to express the congregations sincere thanks to all those past and present who have given their time so generously for the continuance of our Sunday School.



The good weather has already lasted longer than usual and we have managed to take some advantage of this with sunny days for our Sisters Tea and our Whit Walks. Then in June, on Saturday 16th, another good day for our congregation outing to York; some rain at the end of the day but not enough to spoil the trip.

On 17th June Fairfield hosted the Lancashire District Gathering on another sunny day. This started at 11am with an act of worship followed by a presentation from Br Phil Batelle on the recent Unity Mission Conference in South Africa. We then had lunch together and finished by sharing another act of worship and communion.

From May, every Saturday between 1pm and 4pm our museum is open to visitors, so if you haven't scheduled your visit yet you have until the end of August to come and visit.

Sr Margery Sutcliffe

Heritage open days

Ockbrook

heritage open days

Come join us to see our heritage

Saturday 8th September 10am-4pm
& Sunday 9th September 12 - 4pm

Ockbrook Moravian Church
The Settlement, Ockbrook DE72 3RJ

Kingswood

UNITED CHURCH KINGSWOOD
(Moravian/Whitfield URC)
Regent Street/Moravian Road, Kingswood
Serving the area since 1738

HERITAGE WEEKEND & FLOWER FESTIVAL 2018

Saturday 8th September 10am to 4pm
& Sunday 9th September 2 to 4pm

Presenting some of Kingswood's long & varied history, from the King's Forest to the present day
With words, pictures, artefacts & floral displays.

Free entry Refreshments on sale
Donations invited for church funds

& Talk by Gary Best
Monday 10th September at 7.30 pm

Gary is a Methodist historian & current warden of the New Room in Bristol. He will talk about the four evangelists John Cennick George Whitfield and John & Charles Wesley who are such an important part of Kingswood's history.

Entry free

Fulneck

heritage open days

Fulneck

'Peace at Last'

Peace time progress after WW1

SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2018 10am to 4pm

FREE ENTRY

REFRESHMENTS RECITALS ACTIVITIES

MUSEUM EXHIBITION DRAMA

GUIDED TOURS

www.fulneck.org.uk postcode LS28 8NT

Fairfield

heritage open days

FAIRFIELD MORAVIAN CHURCH, SETTLEMENT & MUSEUM, DROYLSDEN

Saturday 8 September 11am to 5pm
Sunday 9 September 1pm to 5pm

As seen on Great British Railway Journeys & Peaky Blinders
Exhibitions - Extraordinary Women, 1911 Census,
Ring our bell - wind the clock (restrictions apply), Tours,
Museum, Stalls and Refreshments

Free Admission
(All parking in Fairfield High School off Fairfield Avenue M43 6ED)

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

[@heritageopendays](https://twitter.com/heritageopendays) facebook.com/heritageopendays instagram.com/heritageopendays

Fetter Lane

Celebrating heritage: Open Weekend at Fetter Lane

Once again, the Fetter Lane congregation will participate in Open House London on Saturday and Sunday, 22nd and 23rd September with Moravian Close open from 1pm to 5pm on each day. Open House started in 1992 to promote public appreciation of building design and architecture in the capital.

As well as giving an historical overview of the Moravians in London, past and present, visitors will learn about the site's evolution and special features including the renovation of the Tudor wall surrounding God's Acre and the restoration of the Gillick Pageant, a set of heraldic shields showing the ownership of the estate from Sir Thomas More in 1524 to Sir Hans Sloane in 1737. Sculptors Mary and Ernest Gillick lived and worked in the Close from 1914 to 1964.

Fetter Lane Moravian Church is located at 381 King's Road, London SW10 0LP. Please note that there is no parking inside the Close but pay and display can be found in the immediate area.

Lower Wyke

The congregation at Lower Wyke will again be open to visitors over the Heritage Open Days weekend on **Saturday 8th September 10am to 4pm** and on **Sunday 9th September from noon to 4pm**.

This year our theme will be the Yorkshire District with photo displays and information relating to the congregations in Yorkshire. The church registers will be available for anyone wishing to trace family history; walks around the settlement will be included together with displays of photographs and memorabilia of the life of the Lower Wyke congregation over the years. We welcome members of the Yorkshire congregations and anyone else who would like to visit us during the weekend.

Gracehill

On Friday 27th April the Youth Fellowship (The Lounge at Gracehill) organised a great fun event to raise some money to help pay for the end of the year outing to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum at Cultra. This was a very different kind of Beetle Drive with a football theme based on local NI teams! Competitors came from a wide age range and the rivalry was fierce and fun filled. Over snacks and tea everyone enjoyed the laughter and raised a wonderful £254! It has been a very successful year for the group led by a dedicated team of Leaders and it was wonderful to have Br James Johnston help out in the latter part, bringing his own contagious brand of energy and fun to a well planned and varied programme. Sadly Joanna Clarke has stepped down after six years and Sr Sarah paid tribute to her commitment, experience and sense of humour.

Fifty small yellow plastic ducks floated away in the sunshine down the River Maine on Saturday 28th April. This joyful event was organised by the Boys' Brigade company and raised £550 to cover the costs involved in the Summer Outing to the Fun Factory and Dundonald Ice Bowl. They held their Display on 13th April when parents and friends gathered in Cennick Hall to watch the outcome of a year's work on the theme of 'Helping Hands'. The audience watched a PowerPoint produced by Evan McCullough and admired the beautiful ceramic work done by the Junior Section and the wonderful wreath of poppies made by the Company Section for use in the Church on Remembrance Sunday. There was as always a great sense of fun with games, keeping fit training, including circuit training, skipping and boxing and an amazing display of Drill carried out meticulously by the Company Section. There was a real sense of pride among

Dukinfield

Dementia Warriors - singing from the same hymn sheet!

A great new outreach has started at Dukinfield Moravian Church - led by Sr Dorothy Evans and supported by the congregation.

Most of the congregation have personal experience of close family, friends or community members that need a safe place to go to receive support, understanding and love when Dementia is diagnosed. Individuals and carers now get this in the form of a Monday afternoon club that started on 26th September 2017 at Dukinfield Moravian Church.

Open to all and freely available the club has been a great success with 16 members so far.

Activities include table tennis, bingo, reminiscence, and thanks to recent fundraising from Dukinfield Rotary club and Dukinfield Astley Gym this has meant that a Karaoke machine has been bought to enable everyone to have a good old sing-a-long! Much fun and laughter is had as well as giving vital inclusion to all who need it.



© Sr Roberta Gray

the audience when Thomas Boville and Robbie Gray were promoted to Staff Sergeant while Adam Mairs and Evan McCullough received their President's Badge.

Another enjoyable outing was held on Wednesday 9th May when members of the Men's Fellowship, accompanied by some of their wives, went to Carnlough to walk up the path following the line of the old railway, where limestone was brought down from the quarries to the harbour. The walk was enjoyable with water coming over the Cranny Falls, at the end of the wooded glen, and the walkers enjoyed seeing the wild garlic, bluebells, cuckoo pint and primroses in bloom with vivid yellow gorse along the bottom of the limestone escarpment. A really enjoyable walk of Fellowship

Sr Sarah has organised a regular fortnightly Bible Study which has proved to be very successful and well attended. The aim is to look at the Big Story of the Bible using Scripture Union's Essential 100 Bible Readings and members are enjoying learning in the relaxed environment created by our Minister over a cup of tea.

Sr Roberta Gray

In the past, the group have been entertained by local choirs and bell ringers. In the pipeline Clog dancers, a classical guitarist and the Crown Green Bowling club are also generously donating time to add to the experience. Congregation members also use their skills which include flower arranging, garden planting and playing the clarinet - Dorothy said it is great to have such a willing band of helpers and this has helped to make the club so enjoyable.

Such has been the success that Srs Dorothy and Kate Barber recently gave a talk to other Churches in Tameside explaining the need and how the club was run so others could look at rolling the scheme out.

A Tale of Two Quiz teams

Last year the first challenge between the Men's Fellowship and the MWA was a fun quiz night - men vs. women. The men were victorious in 2017 but so much fun was had that the night has been booked again for Thursday 26th July 2018 with food on hand and BYOB if required.

Sr Penny Weir

Harlesden

St Margaret's and St George's United Reformed and Moravian Church:

On Sunday 17th June 2018 we had the joy of welcoming Rev Edwin Quildan as our new minister and also his family. The visiting preacher was Rev Edward Sanniez: our previous Minister of 13 years. Rev Dr Andrew Prasad, URC Thames North Synod Moderator was also present at the welcome service and offered prayers for Rev Edwin and his family. The service was followed by a bring and share lunch which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We pray that as we embark on our new and refreshed journey as a church that Jesus will be at the centre of everything we do.

Sr Sandra Bailey



© Sr Sandra Bailey

Leominster

There was great excitement when we learned that our needlework club, Busy Fingers, would be included in the market set up especially for the Duke of Gloucester's visit to Leominster on Thursday 10th May. It was a pleasant day of scudding clouds and fitful sunshine when we heard 'Oyez, oyez' from our fully costumed Town Crier and there he was: the Royal Personage.

I had been dozing in my chair, minding my own business, when all the ladies suddenly lost their nerve and pushed me to the front to meet him. I had my little speech prepared according to what we had been told but he didn't give me a chance, coming in with an immediate question 'So who are the Moravians? Part of the Reformation?' He wanted to know how old the local church was and admired our work. I gave him a leaflet, but I'm afraid he left it behind, so I hope he is now sufficiently informed about us.

Sr Dilys Howard



© Sr Glynis Ashfield



© Sr Linda Haggis

Horton

Yesterday, on 13th June, we had a celebration at church for Br and Sr McOwat's Diamond Wedding.



On their wedding day 21st June 1958

The service was led by Br Howarth and there were many members of Horton and friends and relatives of Beth and John's. As part of the service we all planted sunflower seeds to see how they would develop and blossom.

All Beth and John's family were in attendance apart from one granddaughter Kelsey who is away studying in Siberia!

In Br John's little speech he thanked Horton for the celebration and for his wonderful wife Sr Beth, who has always been a member at Horton, and Horton is where they were married and holds a special place in their hearts.

Sr Linda Haggis

From Church House

Provincial Diary for August

The date of the next Provincial Board meeting in August will be confirmed at their previous meeting which will be held after this goes to print on 31st July.

13	Manifestation of the of the Spirit in 1727
21	The beginning of the Moravian Missions in 1732
22	Eid-al-Adha - Muslim
23	UNESCO International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/srd/)
26	Raksha Bandhan - Hindu

Dates to remember!

Congregational Register

Baptisms

24th June 2018	Sofia Pearl Eccles	Fairfield
24th June 2018	Jemima Olivia Baines	Fulneck

Reception

24th June 2018	George Courtney	Gracehill
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Deaths

9 March 2018	Joe (Joseph) Green	Dukinfield
15th June 2018	Enid Betty Throup	Fulneck

From the Sanctuary



Recently, I have had the delight of seeing a hedgehog in my garden - and a badger. Then, a few days ago, I woke up to find a dead hedgehog where I had previously seen the badger digging under the hedge. I was dismayed! Having dug a hole for the burial, and with my spade tentatively at arms' length away from my nose, I attempted to pick up the hedgehog. However, it felt unusually heavy on the spade. On taking a closer look, I discovered that it was, in fact, a concrete hedgehog (a garden ornament) that the badger had dragged through the hedge from next door. How silly I felt! I filled in the hole, minus the hedgehog, and the concrete hedgehog was duly returned to my neighbour. The episode reminded me of this little parable I wrote a few years ago:

Once upon a time, there lived a hedgehog who felt 'called' to go on a journey to serve the rabbit world. He was well-established in the hedgehog kingdom, but the rabbits, who appeared kind and supportive initially, convinced him to join them - but become a rabbit. The hedgehog felt flattered and affirmed, his ego suitably 'stroked'. He would go on the journey to become a rabbit. It seemed 'right'.

So, he left everything, and did everything that the rabbits asked of him in humility, even though it meant them ignoring that he was a hedgehog, with all the gifts that being a hedgehog gave him. He tried his best to become only a rabbit, but something just didn't feel right. So, he tried to explore his struggles with the elder rabbits, but all they did was to belittle his hedgehogness, and try to convince him that what he had as a hedgehog had no relevance to him being

a rabbit, or serving the rabbit world.

Try as he might, it was difficult. 'I am a hedgehog - and a gifted hedgehog at that! Why should I ignore what I can bring as a hedgehog to the rabbit world, and deny who I am?' thought the hedgehog. 'There are many gifts that I bring that are useful in the rabbit world.' But the rabbits simply couldn't (or wouldn't) see it. The more he argued and bristled his prickles, the more they ridiculed and humiliated him among themselves.

At last the hedgehog stepped back from his growing sense of rage and frustration. 'Do you know...' the hedgehog thought to himself, '...I am not generally an

angry hedgehog, nor am I usually a frustrated hedgehog. Actually, being a hedgehog is great, and a real blessing to others! I can't just be a rabbit and deny my other gifts, or who I am'. So, against the climate of ridicule and disappointment expressed from the rabbit world, the hedgehog once again became who he really was, and who he felt God needed him to be - all the time wondering if he needed to make that journey to see what a blessing being a hedgehog really was - and wondering why he needed to become only a rabbit in order to serve the rabbit world, anyway, because God can work with who we are.

Br Peter Gubi, Dukinfield

British Mission Board (BMB) News



© Sr Roberta Hoey

- Br Ezekiel Yona from the Tanzania (Western) Province was consecrated a Bishop of the Unity in July. The British Mission Board sent their warmest greetings. The occasion was celebrated with a day long service in Tabitha, with eight different choirs and the sermon from Ezekiel 37 was given by Br Sam Gray, a bishop from the USA.
- The annual European Mission Conference will be held in Zeist on

4th and 5th September.

- Sr Roberta Hoey will be visiting Leh, India from the 20th-27th August 2018. Please pray for the ongoing work in Leh. Sr Hoey is looking forward to sharing more on their ministry and mission with the Moravian Messenger later in the year. Fun fact: at 3,500m (11,483 feet!), Leh is the highest Moravian congregation in the world.

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