

moravian messenger

JULY 2019



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MWA Day

There are so many bible verses that encourage us to meet as one body, as one unity, to work to God's praise and glory. The most famous is probably the following: 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them' Matthew 18:20.

This bible verse I find to be true and feel to be true. I feel it to be true every Sunday morning when I am with my congregation as I feel God's presence there. I felt the same when attending the MWA Day. God's presence was there.

The day began with tea, coffee and biscuits. That I find is the best start to any day. I sat talking to the wonderful ladies who are a part of my congregation whilst other familiar and friendly faces arrived. I caught up with friends and excitement and happiness was felt in the room as other people did the same. This feeling of fellowship continued during the singspiration as we all sang in unison to the songs we have grown up with and loved. People were still arriving, but it did not matter, people joined in when they

could and it was a fantastic start to the day. Following on from this the reports were read, and it was interesting to find out more about the developments in the MWA, how much money had been raised and where the money was going. The guest speaker, Sr Dolvis Ferdinand was inspirational. She spoke about her pastoral work within her local shopping centre, which involved listening to people within her community and offering support. It related to the theme of letting our gifts shine and working to God's praise and glory. I could tell that Dolvis had the gift of love, kindness and patience. Her very presence when speaking was calming and approachable and I understood that she was carrying out God's calling to her by completing the volunteer work. It made me consider what my gifts are and what God calls me to do.

The service was enjoyable and related to the theme of letting our gifts shine. Some people's gifts became apparent when taking part in the workshops which were varied and inclusive to all. I took part in

the Dance workshop which I thoroughly enjoyed. It was led by an external member and despite there only being a few within the group, I laughed so much. I found it challenging, enjoyable and great exercise. After the workshop had concluded we finished with Holy communion, sharing in the body and blood of Christ, celebrating the time we had shared together. The day concluded with cake, tea and coffee. Again, the perfect way to end an incredible day of fellowship.

I found the day to be enjoyable and reflective. I felt that not only had I understood the theme of letting God's gifts within us shine but had gone one step further by acknowledging my gifts. I have always considered my calling to be my ability to work with and get along with young people, but I don't think I have ever acknowledged it properly. I have been a summer camp leader for seven years and during that time I have always felt like I belonged. At the MWA day I met a young girl who joined us in the dance class and from that moment,

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Editorial

Since the end of Lent, I have continued my mission of reducing purchases of plastics with my shopping. What it has left me with is a deep cynicism about the behaviour of our supermarkets and a realisation that there must be significant legal changes and massive consumer pressure to reduce the amount of plastic that is used in our retail chain. Part of my strategy has been to buy from the counters at the supermarkets rather than just taking items counters in rigid plastic containers off the chilled food aisles. However, this has been an eye opener.

Two recent examples: at Tesco's I wanted to buy some olives and went to the counter to buy them loose in a bag as I had forgotten to bring a tub with me. However, they would only sell the olives by volume in their own small or large tub which were bar coded on the base. I declined and went to the customer service desk and explained I was trying to reduce my use of plastics and so wanted to know why I could not buy the olives by weight in my own container. The staff said that they would pass the message on to the manager and I could speak to him when I next came in. I then asked if I could hand back some of the packaging, I did not want to take home and they said I could give the excess packaging back to them and they would put it in the company waste disposal system. At Sainsburys my husband went to the meat counter and asked for chicken breasts and to his amazement the staff at the counter went to the back and pulled out plastic boxes of chicken, exactly the same type as on the shelves, and opened them up to serve the chicken breasts in a plastic bag. We then realised that the chicken breasts and probably many other meat items come fully pre-packed from the processers. But in this instance, there was a small victory as Sainsburys must pay for their waste disposal and the opened plastic container of chicken had to go back into their waste disposal rather than our bin.

There are of course other supermarkets and I am sure that similar issues arise with them. Supermarkets exist to make a

profit and the packaging they use are designed, of course to protect the product but also to enhance the product and encourage impulse purchases. Another benefit to them of pre-packaging is that staff interaction with customers is reduced so you can run the shop with fewer staff. Supermarkets will not change their ways unless laws are passed forcing them to reduce unnecessary packaging. Consumer pressure can aid this by customers refusing to take excess packaging home.

The frightening thing is that the growth of the use of plastics shows no sign of slowing; Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall says that the volume of plastic waste is predicted to rise three-fold in coming years. The economic and environmental cost of the disposal of plastic is not built into the cost of its production so it can be churned out by producers and used by supermarkets and the rest of us without any thought of where it will finally end up, in the oceans, the atmosphere, in illegal dumps and in poorer nations. We are polluting and destroying the world that as Christians we believe God created.

I am going to continue shopping at local butchers, and using service counters in supermarkets, handing back packaging I don't want and discussing it with shop managers. I want to see less packaging and more staff in our supermarkets. I will be working to reduce plastics in all areas in my home and I have been so heartened to find others who are much further on this path than I am so please write in if you feel the same and share your experiences with us.

You can start to help buck the trend by ditching plastic water bottles and seek alternatives to all those goods that come to us in plastics - how did it happen that overnight we stopped using bars of soap and moved to plastic bottles of soap?

Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team



Letter to the Editorial Team

Dear Editors,

We Christians must all agree that God's world, our home, is experiencing troubled times but not just in what is called the third world, and we expect their leaders to aspire to be as developed as we are with the fifth richest economy in the G20 down to G7 membership.

What kind of example are we offering the citizens of the countries the Unitas Fratrum supports? Do they see the same situation the U.N. Poverty Commissioner saw when he came to the U.K. last November: deprivation, inequality, homelessness, injustice and high levels of poverty? I don't know if the Commissioner is a Christian but for one moment imagine Christ walking with him last November.

As Christians, do we consider whether Christ approved of what he saw in our country?

One example Christ would consider is why is the ever-increasing number of food banks alongside the ever-increasing mountain of food waste so widely tolerated in what is a Christian U.K.?

Do you think Jesus might say it is time to seriously review our fully exploited wealth creation and distribution system? If not what, bearing in mind Christ's teachings, do you think he might say? Answers in letters to the Editors.

Br Alan Holdsworth

Godly Play Enrichment Day



© Sr Joy Raynor

Every year Godly Play practitioners gather to talk, learn, share and worship spending a day together. I have been unable to attend due to other commitments (usually PYCC) and the same applied this year BUT I could attend the enrichment day before the main celebration. This year there was a choice of four different days looking at different aspects of Godly Play. I decided the best one for me was to look at the revision of the standard volumes of stories.

There have always been a few problems with the scripts: some didn't flow very well, others have inaccuracies and

sometimes there seemed to be something missing from the core teaching, but the revisions were meant to address some of these issues. There have been some stories added to the basic books, two of which we had during the day, as well as changing which stories are 'core'.

The first was a presentation about the bible. I'm still undecided about his one but if you have a Godly Play classroom then it would be a great addition, but if you just bring the materials to each session you might need to change the words slightly, and do some other teaching about the bible. We had a very good discussion about this afterwards and about the bible used: all of us agreeing it must be one that is used and available during usual sessions, in church and in Sunday school.

After lunch we had a second presentation, about the conversion of Paul. There was much discussion about this one, whether it flowed properly, how useful it was, whether it really meant you avoided doing the old presentation about Paul - this new presentation is the first section of that. The consensus was that we felt it wasn't quite finished, it was a bit wordy, and we were not quite sure we could use it.

We divided into groups for the next part,

each group looking at two updated scripts. The feedback to the whole group was great. Some of the changes were very minor, others changed words to make them more meaningful, others we disputed and felt we would stick to the old script. We spotted a couple of corrections where the script wasn't in line with scripture. There were observations about the pictures and diagrams (still not enough) and directions. The group I was in reflected how unrealistic it is to try to light a piece of frankincense from a candle flame and wished they had been given better instructions!

Finally, we had a side by side presentation, done at lightning speed with no words. Having the parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the great pearl done next to each other gave us an unusual opportunity to reflect on what was similar. A great tool for experienced Godly Players and something I might try more in personal reflection.

All in all, it was a very useful day connecting me again to Godly Play and helping me to reflect on how I use it and the value of the words and actions. Perhaps next year I might make the general celebration day!

Sr Joy Raynor

Provincial Youth and Children's Officer

MWA Day continued

continued to talk to me and showed an interest in me. I felt I had finally acknowledged my gift from God and I will continue to let it shine.

Overall the MWA day was inspiring, enjoyable and important. Using the scriptures and some verses I found more suitable to what I experienced at the MWA day. It is important to meet as we need to: 'consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the day approaching.' Hebrews 10: 24-25

Sr Hannah Cooper
Royton



MORAVIANS @ GREENBELT

Calling 18-30's! Fancy trying something new?

A group of us are going to Greenbelt Festival this year. Greenbelt is a Christian Festival that believes that things such as **artistry** and **activism**, **spirituality** and **politics**, **faith** and **justice** belong together.

It is a space where all are welcome.

Fancy coming? Please contact Sr. Lol Wood:

laurawood027@gmail.com or

Rev. James Woolford:

james.woolford@moravian.org.uk

for more information.



Greenbelt website: www.greenbelt.org.uk



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Michael John Rea Obituary

25 October 1934 - 16 May 2019

Michael John Rea, known to many as Mick or Mike, but to me he was always Michael. Br Tony Harvey presented this wonderful (abridged) tribute to him at his funeral, bringing to life a wonderful man who I have known and loved since 1979.



© Sr Jane Dixon

Mick was born 25 October 1934, older brother to Brian, with father Les and mother Lillian. Mick went to Long Eaton Grammar School and there met Janet Smith who lived in Long Eaton. They were married at Long Eaton Methodist Church in 1956 and they took up residency in 'Hillside', Ockbrook.

Apart from Janet there were two things in Mick's life which consumed him; his work and his church. Mick pursued a path in engineering, studying at Derby Tech and later employed by Celanese in Spondon which became Courtaulds and began a career working in machine shops, the drawing office and progressively into the world of textile engineering. He then took a post at Slack and Parr in Kegworth and ultimately became a director. His work took him to Sweden, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and India.

Mick and Janet worked with children and set up a youth fellowship for teenagers called Meeting Point. They did many things; pushing a bed around Ockbrook and Borrowash to advertise the church garden party; bowling, cinema, ice-skating, midnight hikes, Harvest Suppers, even a sponsored walk to help purchase a tractor for Kudjugalo in Tanzania.

An opportunity opened as the Church introduced what was then called the Supplementary Ministry, now non-stipendiary. Mick was accepted and ordained in 1974 and accepted a call to serve the Priors Marston congregation. Each Friday, Mick and Janet would pack their car with everything needed (including the cat) and drive down to take services, run Sunday School, visit members in the village and those in hospital in places like Banbury, Rugby and Coventry. Mick and Janet served Priors Marston from 1974 right up to its closure in 2003. Along the way Woodford and Eydon were added and then Mick's final call was to Leicester.

Mick continued as a director of a company, travelling abroad, whilst serving congregations some sixty miles away. Mick also served on the Finance Committee for many years, on the Provincial Youth and other committees. Mick and Janet were also on Summer School staff for several years. He was active in local ecumenical groups, pioneering the Christian Fellowship in the villages of Ockbrook and Borrowash and was also a magistrate.

In his sixties Mick set up his own consultancy business and found preaching appointments in the South Derbyshire Methodist circuit and assisted at the Methodist Church in Ticknall. In Ockbrook, he took on the work of property steward for the congregation and Unitas property agent on the Settlement. He fell ill in Spain requiring surgery to his heart on his return. He slowly recovered but sadly Janet was diagnosed with a liver condition and after a hard-fought battle Janet died in 2009. Mick was determined to carry on anything that he and Janet had been involved with: the luncheon club that had been running in Ockbrook and Borrowash for many years and lifts for the Women's Fellowship. After some time, he found companionship with Kathy and a relationship blossomed and Mick

found himself doing things which his previous hectic schedule had made difficult; more short breaks away from home definitely did him good. It seemed that Kathy was someone he would actually listen to and take some advice from. But sadly his health declined.

In his final days in hospital his last words to me, as we shook hands, were, 'Be Strong'. I loved him dearly, but Michael Rea could be an infuriating man. If things weren't perfect then they had to be made perfect. He was an avid hoarder and took 'Don't throw that away, there might be a use for it', to a new level. But I would like to think that if someone were standing at my funeral and if that person were to say, 'You know, he was a bit like Michael Rea', I would be immensely proud.

Br Tony Harvey

For me, Michael was the one who brought me to faith, through his love of nature and the created world and he helped to show me how my life could be transformed by the unconditional love of Christ. He and Janet nurtured me through my faith journey to the point where, 30 years on, I discussed with him my sense of call. His encouragement and wisdom remain with me now and it was a great joy to me that he was present at my consecration in March. In 2013 he offered me the opportunity to travel with him to one of his favourite places, India, and I have wonderful memories of sharing this experience with him, visiting Rajpur and many of the places he had travelled to for his work. Many may think of Michael as a very serious person, but to me he was a father, a colleague and a mentor for 40 years and two things will always remain with me; his wonderful dry sense of humour and his sense of caring for the least and the lost and those he chose to call family.

Sr Jane Dixon

Minister of Lower Wyke and Wellhouse Congregations

© Lutheran and Moravian Church in Albania



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We would like to share with you information regarding two activities we had during this month.

On 3-5 May we had a youth seminar, with the support of the Moravian Church in Gothenburg, Sweden, and Mike Boije as the main leader. The seminar was held in our church in Burrel, with the participation of 20 young people from Burrel, Bathore and Tirana. Our topic was Creation and it was the perfect place where we could talk about God's creation, in the nature and surrounded by mountains.

Kathmandu Retreat, April 2019

Following the very successful conference at the Greenwich Hotel in Kathmandu a retreat was held in the same venue, to which all serving, retired and trainee ministers were invited. The retreat was well attended and I had the privilege of leading it. Over the course of a couple of days I was given free range as to what topic to use. It occurred to me that it might be a good idea to work on the headship of Christ and the equality of all Moravians under his leadership as our Chief Elder. And, in order to do this, I decided to 'borrow' the way that Patsy's approach to theology is though art, both of her own creation and also from the wider world of art.

With this in mind, I chose works of art that represented various images of Jesus throughout the ages and artistic genres, from the Lego Jesus through to Salvador Dali's Christ of St John on the Cross. These pieces of art were complimented by scripture that gave a flavour of what and who Jesus was, is and will be, from creation through the present and into the future. We began with the delegates sharing images of Jesus that the participants had created themselves and then we continued with small group and plenary discussions about Paul's ideas of Christ being the visible likeness of the invisible God in the first chapter of Colossians. This was presented with an Orthodox Church icon featuring Jesus as creator of the universe. The rejected Cornerstone from Psalm 118 came next with an appropriate painting, followed by Paul's writing about Jesus as the ruler of nations from the first chapter of Ephesians, with a picture of Jesus and the UN building in New York. Paul's ideas of us all being united in Jesus in Galatians 3 was considered next, supported by Disputa by Raphael.

We dipped into the Old Testament next, with the rules about how to treat foreigners in Leviticus 19 up for contemplation. With this came two depictions of 'First Fruits' by John Valentine Haidt, showing Jesus and Moravian missionary interactions with

Youth Seminar - Leaders and Potential Leaders Seminar in Albania

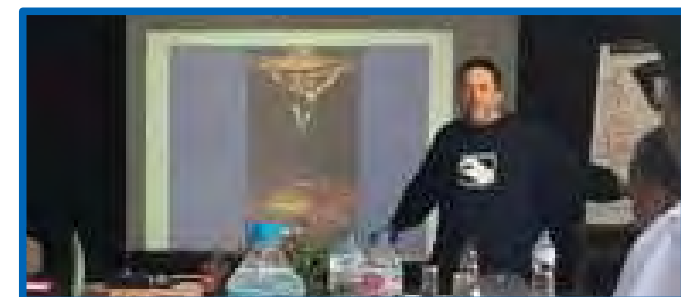
On 10-12 May we had a leaders' seminar, led by our pastor Jørgen Bøytler, with all leaders and potential leaders of our congregations in Bathore, Burrel, Pogradec, Elbasan, Lezha and Tirana. The topic was Liturgy and we talked about the importance of Liturgy in the church and how we, the six congregations, can create an identity in the near future. The seminar ended with the Sunday morning service, where we celebrated Holy Communion.

Both seminars were very blessed and we witnessed how the Holy Spirit worked in us and through us, as we talked, discussed, prayed and worshipped together.

Thank you for always keeping our work in your prayers.

God bless you all!

Kisha Luterane e Moraviane, Shqipëri
Lutheran and Moravian Church in Albania



© Br Paul Holdsworth

God's peoples on their missionary journeys. We stayed in the Old Testament with Psalm 67 and the idea that the nations should rejoice because the Lord brings justice to all. This was presented with a rather tacky painting of Jesus wearing a coat made of the flags of nations by Deborah Zeller. The final session brought us back to Paul's writings in Colossians 2, where he warns us to share only God's wisdom and not mere human wisdom with others. We also tackled the idea of the Hypostatic Union (the relationship between the human and divine Jesus) and also the idea of The Purple Headed Mountain. This led me to wax lyrical about Rhododendron not being native to the UK and bringing a false 'purple' to our hillsides, when it really should be heather - don't ask; just an old bug bear of mine. In addition to all this we also examined a series of pictures by Patsy that lead us through Passion Week, with opportunities for the delegates to ponder each of the stages of Jesus' journey to the cross and beyond.

When the retreat came to an end one of the ministers attending the retreat, who shall remain nameless, said, and I quote, that 'I had taught them nothing, but that they had learned a lot'! I am not sure whether this was a compliment, but it does seem that the participants were able to take something away from the retreat. I would like to thank my fellow members of the BMB for the opportunity to go back to Nepal and to take part in the very positive conference and to lead the retreat.

Br Paul M Holdsworth
Minister of Bath Weston, Bath Coronation Avenue and Swindon Congregations

The Beginning of Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, Genesis 1.1

The Holy of Holies in the temple was screened from human eyes by a great curtain, and the area beyond the curtain represented the presence of the Lord, invisible at the heart of creation. In the Genesis story of creation, this is Day One, the beginning of all things, the light Genesis 1.3-4. This heavenly light is sometimes called the uncreated light.

***Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes.***

'In the beginning God created', means that all creation comes from 'the beginning', the Holy of Holies. It is called Day One because it is the state of Unity. All the ancient versions of Genesis in Hebrew and in Greek say 'Day One', not 'the first day' because the presence of God in creation is not part of a sequence - first, second, third, and so on - with the Creator somehow in the past 'before' all creation.

The Holy of Holies is the ever-present state beyond time and matter, undivided. In contrast, time, matter and the divisions they make possible, belong to the creation outside the veil. Within the veil, however, there is no division in the presence of the Creator: no time, no change.

***Change and decay in all around I see,
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.***

Holy of Holies, sometimes translated 'most holy' did not mean 'very holy'. It meant a special quality of holiness that was infectious. Those who entered the Holy of Holies 'caught' the holiness. Those who were granted the vision of the Lord in uncreated light were transformed by that experience and became holy ones. They were themselves a part of the Unity of divine light. In Christian tradition, these could be angels or saints, and so both are depicted with halos to show they were light bearers.

Jesus emphasised to his disciples after the last supper that they should be one, to show that they were part of the divine Unity and thus prove that Jesus had come from the uncreated light, John 17.2-23.

In Solomon's temple there was a huge throne in the Holy of Holies, representing the throne of the Lord, the state where he ruled. The Holy of Holies was 'the Kingdom'. When Jesus said 'the kingdom of God is in the midst of you', Luke 17.21, he was reminding people that the Lord was at the heart of creation, not in the past, or the future, or remote in heaven. When Jesus taught about the kingdom, he was applying to this world in

practical ways the ideal of heavenly Unity, and how to bring that into being through the words and works of healing.

The prophets glimpsed this in their visions, as did the disciples at the Transfiguration. The sages warned that when people lost sight of it, everything disintegrated. People on earth were able to learn something about God from the angels [meaning 'messengers'] who were themselves part of the Glory and Unity of God. The angels were not just the bodiless spiritual beings who from time to time appeared on earth; they included the 'born again' Christians who were already living the life of the Holy of Holies.

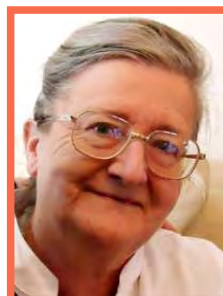
If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth ... Colossians 3.1-2.

The song of the angels symbolised the harmony of all Creation centred on God, and when people on earth praised the Creator, they joined with the angels in their music and became part of the great pattern of the Creation. The harmony and shalom of Creation were maintained by the obedience of the angels, and humans had to be obedient to God if they were to preserve the Creation. An old legend said that when they had left Eden, Adam and Eve no longer heard the song of the angels.

The mis-named 'enlightenment' thinkers in Europe believed that God was irrelevant to human progress. They imagined a world without the Holy of Holies, that is, with no presence of God in the midst. They turned their backs on the uncreated light, and soon found themselves looking at the shadow of a human figure falling across the rest of creation. They aspired to be the masters and owners of creation, using it as they wished. But with no vision of God at the centre, the warning of the wise teachers in the Bible has come true: everything is disintegrating, things are falling apart.

At Bethlehem, the shepherds received again what Adam and Eve had lost: they saw the glory and heard the song of the angels, which had not changed.

***Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among people of goodwill, Luke 2.14.***



Dr Margaret Barker
Methodist Preacher and Theologian

'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10)

Lancashire District Conference Retreat Day 2019

This year's Lancashire District Conference Retreat day was on Saturday 13th April 2019 and was held at Chester Cathedral Retreat House. The theme was an Introduction to Christian Meditation, and this was hosted by David and Christine McKenna, Benedictine Oblates of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM).

I, along with several members from Dukinfield Moravian Church attended, as well as individuals representing other congregations within the district.

From my personal perspective I have practiced 'Mindfulness' as a relaxation device in this busy world for many years - the definition of 'Mindfulness' is; a mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment, while calmly acknowledging and accepting one's feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations, used as a therapeutic technique. In effect the ability to cease your racing mind from jumping from one topic to another and making you able to stop and smell the roses.

The WCCM's definition of Christian Meditation is 'coming to stillness of spirit and body'. Despite all the distractions of the modern-day world, this silence is perfectly possible for people today. But to reach this stillness we have to devote time to the work of silence. The practice seeks to be with God in the mind of Christ; meditation is not concerned with thinking but being. Meditation is a direct pilgrimage to your own centre, to your heart.

The experience was explained within the first session with use of the teachings of John Main OSB (1926-1982) who had opened the first Christian Meditation Centre at his Monastery in London in 1975. Christian Meditation was shown to date back throughout time and was even quoted to by St Anthony of the

Desert in the 4th Century: 'When you know you are praying you are not totally praying. When we do not know you are praying, you are truly praying.'

Again, from my own feelings I looked forward to the actual practice of the meditation - we were led into this with a prayer and the sound of a gong to start our experience. A mantra was recommended by the WCCM - 'Ma-ra-na-tha' to be said in rhythm with your breathing and repeated. This mantra is Aramaic and means 'Come Lord'; though I am told by other attendees that the word 'Hallelujah' is also something that helps you to chant silently to enter into your own space. I was concerned about carrying out this encounter in a room filled with up to 30 adults - though I love fellowship at Church I was unsure how distracting this would be for the meditation. I soon found my own inner rhythm and the capability to concentrate on my mantra; my concern then was the ease of feeling that may lead me to sleep as I felt totally relaxed in my body and mind. This didn't happen - but a purely personal profound refreshment of my senses did which is hard to describe. A feeling of being part of something bigger than my immediate thoughts and concerns washed over me and though I was aware of noises around me and slight movements this was at a lesser level so it was almost like I was sat on a hill looking down on a busy road but not taking part in the traffic rushing along it.

We were brought out of the state after 15 minutes - a normal meditation can last over 20 minutes.

Dinner time led to conversations about the morning sessions and the chance to share in everyone's own feelings around meditation - some of this took part in the grounds of the Retreat house whilst others made for the Chapel for both silent

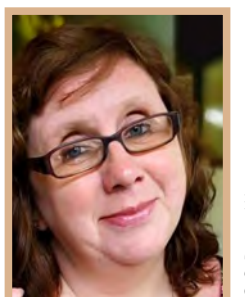
reflection and quiet discussion.

The afternoon started off with a session of Contemplative Walking - again defined as '... practice where close attention is paid to the action of walking. It is not thinking or contemplating while walking (which is also delightful), but being mindful of the muscles of the body, the placement of the feet, balance, and motion.' This was not for everyone where some members did feel slightly dizzy - however I did recognise that often when I walk home from work through a local park I had unknowingly been linking into this to help relieve stress from the working day.

We were able to hear more about the WCCM movement internationally and the day ended with a further period of meditation which was welcomed as another opportunity to sense the stillness. A prayer was given before all left for the day.

Thinking about this retreat day in hindsight I feel that in an world with ever increasing diversions and needs pulling at our lives there is very much a place for Christian meditation - stillness can be uncomfortable to start with but is now necessary to me to help to restore my faith and need in God. Members from Dukinfield also felt that there is a place for this in our Worship and hope to consider this in the future.

<https://www.wccm.org>



Sr Penny Weir
Dukinfield

Baildon

90th Birthday Celebrations

Many congratulations to Sr Libby Mitchell of Baildon, on reaching her 90th birthday on 30th May. The previous Sunday, around 70 members and friends gathered in Church for our Ascension Day service, led by former minister David Newman. After the service we all moved across to the Church Hall where we were treated to food and drinks, and to chat and renew old acquaintances. Many people had travelled long distances to be there.

As well as a magnificent cake, Libby was presented with a framed collection of photographs, which represented many happy memories. Altogether a joyous occasion!

Br Paul Snowden



© Br Paul Snowden

Fulneck

In the weeks leading up to Easter the popular Lent lunches took place each Friday in the Boys' Brigade building. It was feared that not enough helpers would step forward to provide meals each week but fortunately they were successfully covered and attended. The organiser, Sr Pearson, announced that the total to be shared between the church and the Adi-Eblal project this year was £700.80. In a plea for more helpers next year she stressed that the lunches should be plain and simple.

On Monday 29th April Bishop John McOwat gave an interesting and entertaining talk to the Fulneck History Group on the life and work of John Cennick. Relevant conversation and discussion followed the talk before refreshments were served.

Fulneck Moravian Museum is now open for the summer. This is a special year as in July it will be fifty years since its opening in 1969. This is reflected in a display telling the history of the two cottages which house the museum and the story of the museum since its opening.



© Sr Maureen Ingham

Invitations to past and present museum volunteers, relatives of the founder members and Committee members have been sent out for Sunday 14th July when there will be a service to commemorate the opening of the museum followed by a lunch for the invited guests in the Boys' Brigade building. The museum will be opened for the occasion.



The most recent event in Fulneck was the Sisters' Festival on Sunday 19th May. It started with a Breakfast and Cup of Covenant in Number 54 for a goodly number of ladies who had the chance to catch up with others they had not seen for some time. The guest was Diane Thornton who led Morning Worship later in the church. Her theme was about women who had inspired or been inspired themselves. She told us of an early 18th century West Indian lady who had inspired her fellow slaves to turn to Christ and of modern athletes who had been inspired to do well.

Br David J Ingham

Bedford Queens Park



© Br Edwin Quidan

After a decade of trying to upgrade our kitchen and several false starts we have now a brand-new kitchen that meets health and safety regulations. It was no easy task. At the onset we found a gas leak and had to disconnect it and bypass the old lead pipes with brand new ones. We were able to go the most direct route through the kitchen which saved thousands of pounds. It was also suggested we have a hot and cold water heater put in which could be used in all parts of the church and hall. The floor was in a worse state than expected, 4 inches lower at one end. This is the first purpose built kitchen we have had and will mean we can reach out to the community. During a quote

for some building work we had the opportunity for a roofer to come and survey our premises which will result in work being done in June and July on replacing broken and cracked tiles with new ones and other work.

In May we held an open day for children and a bring a friend service on Sunday 9th June. We received into membership by the right hand of fellowship Br Moses Ayinde and Sr Kathy Friend. On 22nd June we are hosting the Men's Fellowship for the first time. Preparations are well in hand. The opportunity to visit John Bunyon Church before the service is available.

Br Eric Moore

Fetter Lane

Marking 300 years of the King's Road

Fetter Lane member Sr Loretta Bass took her place in a 1926 Bentley during a recent parade of vintage cars, one of a number of events this year to mark 300 years since local tenants and landowners were granted permission to use this royal thoroughfare. The King's Road in Chelsea stretches from Sloane Square to Fulham, with Fetter Lane Moravian Church and God's Acre located just over half-way along, a logical stopping off point for the parade. We were also pleased to be the venue for an exhibition - King's Road 300: 1719 to 2019 - curated by local historian and friend of Fetter Lane, Ian Foster.

In 1750, just 31 years after the opening of the road, Count Zinzendorf purchased from Hans Sloane the land between the Embankment and King's Road, with plans for it to become a Moravian settlement in London. King's Road is renowned as a centre for art, fashion, music and originality. We ourselves contributed by providing the home and studio of the sculptors Mary and Ernest Gillick, and the exercise ground for Christian the Lion in the late 1960s. We'll be telling more of our own history during London Open House weekend on the 21st and 22nd of September.



© Ian Foster

▲ Sr Loretta Bass leading the parade

◀ Vintage cars at the Close



The Fetter Lane congregation, although small and dispersed, is very much a part of Chelsea, past and present.

Sr Cynthia Dize

Tytherton

It seems impossible that a year ago we celebrated our 275th Church Anniversary which was combined with the annual Western District Conference. Peter Gubi was our guest preacher for this occasion and we were grateful that he made such a long journey to be with us. It was lovely too that his father, Peter, was also able to be present here again. We all enjoyed the service and tea afterwards.

Now this Sunday it is Anniversary again and this year we will welcome Richard Law, a lay preacher from Kingswood, and our friends from Congregation Avenue, Bath.

Last summer we welcomed many visitors from near and far, who were all impressed with our lovely buildings and burial ground. Many remarked on the beauty and serenity of the location. One of these visitors was Michael Jones from Auckland, New Zealand. He was on a mission to search for information on one of his relatives, John Cennick. Michael is related on the side of Cennick's wife. He joined us at church on a couple of Sundays and hopes to return this year.

On 20th June we celebrated the life of Kate Denton, who died 27th May 2018 aged 102. Pat Holtham paid tribute to Kate in her eulogy, enthralling us with Kate's interesting life including her experiences in Kenya.

After our morning Remembrance service on 11th November, we joined the other local churches and villagers on the village green for afternoon service of dedication to mark the 100 years since the Great War. Short accounts of all the local servicemen who lost their lives were read out. Brigadier Powell, a war veteran,

(sadly since deceased) helped to plant a tree next to a memorial stone. It was a very moving moment in time. Patsy closed the service by playing the last post.



© Sr Lynda Gulwell

Our village Christingle service organised by Nic Pillow was, as usual, a very popular occasion with late arrivals having to stand.

More recently we have had a visit from the Chippenham and district metal detecting club. They found some very interesting relics on the lawns in front of the church. We discovered from their finds that a great deal of sewing took place there in the past, judging by the number of thimbles found. Other items of interest included a Saxon stirrup mount, some silver King

George V coins, a King George IV marriage token and a 2nd century Roman coin.

In April we held a small concert with two choirs, Nic Pillow's local children's choir and the Kingswood Community choir led by Paul Holdsworth.

Our lovely poplars have recovered and our resident woodpecker has decided they are good enough to make a home there again.

As always our thanks go to all those who help and support us, Paul Gubi, our friends who join us every month for our soup lunches, Nic Pillow, Nigel Pocock and his team who help me keep the burial ground looking at its best and Patsy, our minister.

Sr Anne Waldron

Hall Green

Our minister Rev Lorraine Shorten, continues to challenge, lead and surprise us!

On Palm Sunday, to emphasise the surprise that the arrival of Jesus on a donkey must have been to the people in Jerusalem, she entered church on a scooter! Much laughter and a great way to get into the joy of the day.

Other things are also progressing. We have begun monthly evening worship. A quiet, contemplative 30 minutes for those who can't get to morning service or just want something different. We are already attracting double figures and those who come are saying that they enjoy it.

Our renovated buildings are attracting more and more local people and our bookings for all the rooms are growing. We host clinics for the local GP surgery, Stay and Play groups for small children and the parents, fitness classes, our Ladies Craft Club as well as our Community Cafe (Friendly Corner), Brownies and Youth Club. With so many 'outsiders' now using our premises we thought that it was good to make sure that there is a welcome from members and so we have set up a Reception Rota to greet people as they arrive and answer any questions that they may have about our church.

We have been blessed with three new members in the last few months and will be welcoming three more very soon. Our Leadership Team has recently been strengthened by the election of Lester Bertie and Jenny Dryden to replace Peter Astarjian and Linda Ramdharry as they retired after years of service.



© Br Blair Kesseler

Of course, we have had our losses too. Margaret Lilley who served the Methodist Church faithfully here for over 40 years and embraced the coming together of the three denominations, died earlier in the year and, as I write, we have just been informed that Br Ashton McIntosh has been called to higher service. Ashton was part of the original Birmingham Moravian congregation and was instrumental in the formation of Sparkhill United Church. He was much loved and will be greatly missed. A more complete memorial will appear in a future Messenger.

Br Blair Kesseler

Harlesden

New initiative at Harlesden: Heating control

In September of 2018, the Harlesden congregation embarked on a small project to move our heating control from the conventional time switch using a seven-day selection, to a new updated technological version. The reason that focused our minds at the change was the need to switch on and turn off the heating at various times to accommodate funerals, additional stand-alone one-off hires and alterations due to the weather conditions. Our previous minister was local to the Church and would walk the dog and alter the time switch as necessary. When the heating engineer came to service the heating system the question was posed, 'How easy would it be to transfer the heating control from the conventional operation to Wi-Fi operation via the mobile phone control?' We expected the answer to be the whole system needs to be change and the cost will be £3,000. To our surprise the response was, yes it's not a problem; if you have Wi-Fi connectivity within the premises then

it is possible for under £400. After discussions with the committee the work was commissioned, the date was booked, and the work was executed. The heating system was tested and handed over. Three members of our congregation now have control of the heating system. The main operator and the covers. We have used the system throughout the winter of 2018/2019 without any major issues. The system is accessed via an 'app' that opens to the schedule screen where you can access the controls. You can review the history, check that the heating has come on and set the target temperature ranges and times.

I would fully recommend that Wi-Fi system to Churches who have Wi-Fi. The convenience and accessibility are excellent.

I also wish to acknowledge that the Hornsey Congregation also has access to a similar Wi-Fi system.

Every blessing

Br Edwin Quildan

Kilwarlin

At Kilwarlin we have had plenty of opportunities for good fellowship since the beginning of the year. We held a special service in March, at which members were asked to bring along extended members of their families and received video messages from those far away. There was also a musical night with a local male voice choir, an orange service. Accompanied by an accordion band, members of a local orange lodge attended in their uniform. All the services were followed by supper and chat. On 20th May there was a joint fellowship day with the members of University Road who joined us for a worship followed by lunch. After lunch the children had the opportunity of making and flying kites, and a friendly quiz for the adults. The day ending with a Cup of Covenant.



Bowls final

© Sr Esther Law

At early morning Easter Service, we were joined again by members of our sister church, University Road, followed by a sumptuous Ulster fry. One of our best times of fellowship is after church every Sunday when we chat over coffee and biscuits.

Kilwarlin manse, which adjoins the church and hall has been completely refurbished and at present awaits a tenant.

There was a wonderful talk and film in May by the project manager, Peter Dornan and research co-ordinator Rachel Garrett for the Recovering Zula's Hollow Project at the church. The story behind the construction of the historic battlefield garden was retold. This was well attended by members and interested people from the community.

Sr Esther Law

Let it Shine - MWA Service at Dukinfield 12th May 2019

We were happy as a congregation to take part in the Moravian Women's Association Annual (MWA) service. This was officiated by members of the Dukinfield MWA around this year's theme: 'Let it Shine'; and gave us a chance to glory in Jesus and his light in our world.

Readings and Hymns were part of the celebration of the theme - including 'Take my life and let it be', 'Think of a World without any flowers' and the renowned John Chapter 8, Verses 12 -20, 'I am the light of the World'.

Our address was kindly given by Sr Helen Tandy who talked about her volunteer work supporting 'Friends of the Earth'. Sr Helen now lives in Chester but was brought up in Dukinfield and had fond memories of the Church and attending Girl Guides; she also commented on the recent refreshment of the Church's interior and acknowledged the hard work that had taken place to achieve this.

Sr Helen's address was fascinating and I can say I learnt a lot. Campaigns to keep our world beautiful and to make it a better place were listed; these included work about concerns with plastic pollution, Bee-Friendly strategies and Climate change.

Many of us will have read about these topics in the press or have an interest in environmental television programmes but Helen really brought them to life. Helen explained how we can all start with little changes that add up to a lot when it comes to the planet. As Jesus is the light of our world, we all need to think of ways we can help the world as a whole and this means thinking seriously about light pollution and the impact of our first world practices on everyone including people in the third world.

I haven't realised or thought about something as everyday as leaving an electric charger plugged in draining our resources - and came home to unplug all chargers that weren't in use. Again, a small thing but if we as a congregation, then as a province and as a world can learn this then it will play a big part in protecting our world.

Leviticus 25:23-24; 'The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants. Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land.'

Sr Penny Weir

Ockbrook

A treat was in store when our band, Shine, gave their 'Mainly Sixties Prom' concert on 11th May. The music varied from sixties classics such as 'Kites' and 'The Sound of Silence', and Br Tony Harvey's own composition, 'Cassini', to traditional Proms favourites 'Land of hope and glory' and 'Rule Britannia', complete with union flags and party poppers for the audience! A great time was had by all.

Sr Julie Hague



© Sr Julie Hague

Notices

Keith and Jackie Morten would like to thank everyone for the condolences and messages of support following their daughter Charlotte's recent death. They are all appreciated.

From Church House

Provincial Diary for July

23-24 PEC

27 PYCC

(R Hoey & Z Taylor)

Congregational Register

Baptisms

24 March 2019	Rose Anais Alexander	Fairfield
26 May 2019	Pixie-Blu Chambers	Fairfield
2 June 2019	Joshua Christopher Mark Armstrong	Gracehill

Marriages

18 May 2019	James Owen Coventon and Rianne Alexandra Quildan	Hornsey
1 June 2019	Dean Steven Reg McMahon and Charlotte Rose Simpson	Fairfield

Deaths

30 April 2019	Roy Dobson	Fairfield
5 May 2019	George Haldane	Fairfield
23 May 2019	Brenda Margaret Green	Fairfield
1 June 2019	Ashton McIntosh	Hall Green

Can you help Summer Camp?

We want to share your expertise with the young people at camp so if you have a skill you would be able to share and teach, whether it is origami, hockey, dance, music or building Lego models, please get in touch with me if you are willing to come along to camp. Meals provided and we can give you a bed for the night if you need it. Email youth@moravian.org.uk or phone Joy on 01753 553549.

We are also looking for your financial support for camp. The fees only cover the basics and in order to make camp the best ever we need additional funds to pay for outing, materials and equipment. Please donate either by cheque payable to Moravian Union Inc or by BACS payment to CAF BANK Ltd, The Moravian Union, Account 00023436, Sort code 40 52 40, and labelled 'SC Donation'. It is helpful if you let Joy know you have donated. Examples of the expenses you could contribute to is an activity £18 for an hour and a half per person, a day ticket to the theme park £22, coach fees for the week £800, pack of sparklers £12.95, bag of marshmallows £1. Many thanks.

Sr Joy Raynor

6 Martyrdom of Jan Hus at Constance in 1415

14 Sea Sunday (www.seasundayhero.org)
Disability Awareness Day
(www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk)

17 World Day for International Justice

30 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

Dates to remember!



From the Sanctuary

One of the real joys of summer, for me, is being able to sit in the conservatory - with the doors and windows open wide - when I get home from work. I can just sit in my favourite chair and chat with my father, with a cigar and a cup of tea (and he with his pipe) - just watching the birds and the squirrels - and the cat sprawling on the grass awaiting her opportunity to grab a passing bird. Just sitting there - watching - gives me no end of simple pleasure.

However, one of the 'down' sides, is that the butterflies and the bumble bees fly into the conservatory, and rather than head for the wide-open doors and windows, they instead head up into the glass roof where they flap around or buzz pointlessly, for what seems like hours. I try, if I can, to guide them out with a mop that is specially kept in the conservatory for such a purpose; but their determination to evade freedom seems so strong at times, that even I am defeated in trying to assist them out. It's like they hold strongly onto a notion that they have to go higher in order to achieve, whilst being blind to the way that is already wide open to them. This causes me concern, because the world-wide butterfly and bee populations are under threat; and I don't want my conservatory to become a graveyard for such necessary and magnificent creatures, along with all the other conservatories with wide-open doors and windows - but, regrettably, it does at times.

We human beings can be like those butterflies and bumble bees at times. We are bombarded in our education system, by the

media, and by social expectation, with messages that we have to achieve and aim 'higher' - financially and inspirationally; to work hard and play hard in order to be happy and to fulfil our potential. Yet, that often causes us stress, mental health problems, inner pressure and strife - and for what purpose? So, we can have a bigger salary and a better car, or a bigger house? What value are they, if we are unhappy and worn out? Simple pleasures are looked down on. Being out and about for much of my time, I rarely go on holiday when I get Annual Leave, but instead I enjoy just being at home with friends when I can be. However, on return to work from Annual Leave, I have to endure the quizzical looks that silently say, 'There must be something wrong with you!', when I am asked where I have been on holiday and I reply, 'I just stayed at home'.

Sometimes, like the butterflies and the bees in a conservatory, we are locked into ways that are futile and stressful, whilst being blind to the ways that are already open to us - and where God's spirit often already is. Yet, the ways that are open to us are where our life energy can often flow best - because it is where our freedom and journey forward lies, and often where God's purpose for us lies too. That is not to say we shouldn't try to do 'something more' and achieve 'something better'; but after doing so - especially if it becomes futile and is costly - it is important to 'stop trying', and instead reflect on where our gifts and talents already lie, because those doors and windows are already open for us to journey forward through. I wonder in what areas our futility lies; and what doors and windows are already open to us as individuals - and as a congregation? What are we already doing well - which is spirit-filled and God-led - that we can continue doing well or even better? I hope you enjoy your summer with a new-found freedom - if not in body, then certainly in mind, attitude and heart; for it is important to not seek trying to fly through a glass roof that is closed to us, but instead to find our open doors and windows.

Br Peter Gubi,
Dukinfield

British Mission Board (BMB) News in Brief

The BMB and the Congregations in South Asia have recently completed a survey of the ministry in India and Nepal. Updated statistics now show that the Moravian Church reaches at least 981 across the four areas we minister in, which includes nearly 170 children.

This year the South Asia congregations will join with the British Province to complete Unity Prayer Watch, completing 80 hours between 6th July and 9th July. There are a number of challenges in South Asia as the churches are geographically spread over many thousands of miles across Nepal and the north and east of India. There are also many linguistic and cultural differences and the terrain differs widely from the high-altitude desert of Ladakh to the bustling cities of Delhi and Kathmandu, the rolling Himalayan foothills of Rajpur to the tropical monsoon forests of Assam.

In spite of this diversity there is a willingness to come together to develop leadership structures and common rules, and this will require an abundance of prayer. Ministers are few across this vast area but recently three young men have begun work as Student Pastors in Delhi, Rajpur and Assam: Br Levi Machunlung Ruangmei, Br Bir Bahadur Rana and Br Jacob Gangmei. There are also two other young men who have completed their theological training and are now on placements in Ladakh and Assam: Br Dimchui Rongmei and Br Nathaniel Gengmei. Please pray for them as they start their work for the Lord.

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