

moravian messenger

JANUARY 2021



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The Ordination of Sr Claire Maxwell

On Saturday 21st November, the British Province took part in something that was simultaneously familiar and traditional alongside unknown and new. Ordinations have been an integral and loved part of our tradition for centuries but in these uniquely challenging times this one had a twist to allow as many people to be part of it as possible.

I was one of a very privileged few able to be there in person. Due to the government guidelines with regards to COVID-19, we were only able to have four people present in the church. Sr Claire being one, Br Joachim Kreusel as the officiating bishop, Br Paul Holdsworth as the PEC representative and myself as the technical support. This meant of course that many of the people who would have normally attended, not least Sr Claire's family, were not able to do so. To make

sure that they and all people were able to attend, we had to look to technology to provide the answer. The initial plan was to livestream the service on Facebook and YouTube whilst having a simultaneous Zoom call going on so people could engage with each other more directly. Unfortunately, despite several attempts, the live streaming simply wasn't working. Instead we had to switch to Zoom only.

The event was shown live through Zoom and many people were able to join from around the world. At one point there were over 160 people there. There were a number of wonderful messages for Claire, all of which were put into a word document for her to see and keep.

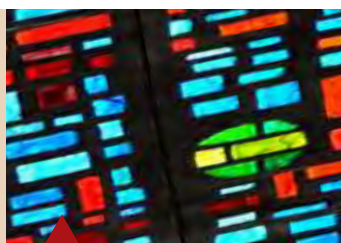
The service, despite the added technology, proceeded much like many others. Br Joachim led the service, there

were hymns sung and the reading came from Sr Minette Flemming from the Fetter Lane Congregation. The address was brought by Rev Noel Irwin from Northern College where Sr Claire trained for ministry.

Following the service there was a time for people to bring greetings and speak to Claire, which I know that she really appreciated.

Whilst this ordination was different from any other it was the same in the blessings poured out on that day. Although we were far apart, we were together and whatever separates us we know nothing can separate us from the love of God. May God continue to bless Sr Claire in her life and ministry.

Br James Woolford
Hornsey



**Sunday School in
a time of Covid-19**

(page 3)



**A message of hope
and perseverance from
Star Mountain**

(page 5)



**Taking a Walk
on the Wild Side**

(page 6 - 7)



**It's OK
not to be OK**

(page 10)

Watchnight Services are a lovely tradition in the Moravian Church but for a number of reasons many Churches no longer hold these services. They gave an opportunity to look back over the past year and reflect on what has happened. In a more informal way in the new year, one of our services at Gracehill is a very relaxed service looking at all the pictures taken in the past year and sharing memories of the year that has just gone. We typically give thanks to God for all the good things that have happened and remember before God things that have changed and friends and members who have died in the year.

Looking back over the past year will be very different this year - there will not be pictures of all the fundraising and social activities or of our children and young people in their various groups. So, what will we look back at? It is easy to see what we have lost and there are fears that some of that might be permanent. But what have we gained, what have we learnt? How has God led us and blessed us during this time?

Firstly, we are still here, despite all that the year has thrown at us we still have our Churches, our congregations and our ministers. We are still us! Secondly, the Church has taken to new technology in an amazing way - we have learnt so much over the past year. Zoom meetings are common place. Mobile phones have been given new uses as services are filmed on phones for release onto YouTube or as a live stream onto Facebook or for Zoom. We have even had an ordination filmed and live streamed. Many congregations have kept worship going on-line and there has also been the Provincial Worship online. So many folk have watched or shared in their own local service and watched the Provincial worship as well.

We have gained a deeper sense of being a national Church as members have seen those from other congregations leading worship and we have all gained from the diversity of our Church.

There has been a greater realisation of our international identity too as we have watched services from other Provinces, particularly those from South Asia with whom we celebrated the Headship of Christ in November. Our world has become smaller. We have peeped into each other's Churches and shared in a way that simply would not have happened in past years.

Thankfully, giving by members has been very generous which has been a real blessing though all the Churches are missing the income that comes from our fundraising. Our Provincial Board have led us wisely over the past year and have drawn the ministers together through regular consultations via Zoom. As editors we are delighted that the Moravian Messenger has kept going through it all. We are so very grateful to all our readers and to those who write for us, and to us, for your contributions. We are also thankful that Dave Bull who does the design and artwork and our printer Graham Walkden have been able to keep going through all of the difficulties. We hope that the Messenger has added to the sense of being together in all of this.

The Psalmist wrote, in exile in Babylon (Psalm 137:4), 'How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?' Last year, Covid year, was a foreign land for us but we learnt that you can sing the Lord's song in new and strange places. God is faithful and Jesus Christ is still the same yesterday, today and for ever (Heb 13:8). We can continue to trust in him as we go forward into this new year.

Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team

Thanks

The Editors would like to thank Br Peter Gubi for his four years of reflective pieces 'From the Sanctuary' that have graced the back page of the Messenger over the past three years. They have been very well received and appreciated by our readers.



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Obituary



© Br Kenneth Evans

Br David James Hudston

David was born on the 27th January 1943 to Amos and Christina Hudston and grew up in Ockbrook. He attended the Church there and was greatly influenced by Michael and Janet Rea.

Influenced by his time at Ockbrook, David applied to the Moravian Church to train as a minister, he was accepted and went to Manchester for three years. After completing his college course in 1966, David was called to serve the congregation at Wellhouse, and following his marriage to Carol they moved into the manse, the start of six years of ministry. David was ordained at Wheler Street Church along with David Dickinson in July 1967.

David, Carol and the children were well loved, and David particularly for the way he conducted his ministry. Around 1968-1969 the congregation faced a challenge when it was found that some of the main timbers supporting the Church roof were rotted away, this started a lot of soul searching and worry until a decision was made to pull down the old church and

rebuild. Then the real work started and David along with Carol was in the thick of it. David was there to organise, convene meetings, and plan events. His enthusiasm carried us through. He led from the front through those years of doubt and worry and into the years of fund raising to repay the loan from Church House.

After a time of discussion and worry for David and Carol, they accepted a call to serve in Jamaica, at the time Carol was expecting and their daughter Ruth was undergoing eye treatment at Leeds and Carol knew the climate would not be good for her condition. But off they went in July 1972. Unfortunately things didn't work out and after six months and a final service where the text was preached, 'Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted us', they came home, having sold all their possessions to pay their own fares.

A colleague from college, put David in touch with the U.R.C. Church and David was successful in being invited to preach

with a view at two churches in the North East. David served those Churches for six years. With a desire to be nearer to aging parents David then came to Heckmondwike U.R.C which led to a ministry for the next 21 years.

After leaving Heckmondwike David spent his last 7½ years of ministry in Sheffield, with three churches, and then he and Carol retired to Ossett. David enjoyed his holidays where they walked out on the hills, so the hymn, 'I lift mine eyes to the quiet hills' was particularly special to them.

Earlier this year David was taken seriously ill, but he bore his illness well. Finally, after over 77 years, 54 years of service to the Church and 54 happy years of marriage, David passed into God's eternal keeping on the 10th November 2020.

He will be sadly missed, but none more so than by his family, whom he loved and cared for with all his heart. He has left an unforgettable example of love and care and service to those around us.

Br Kenneth Evans
Wellhouse

Sunday School in a time of Covid-19

So, has your Sunday School/Junior Church returned or thinking about going back? Are you offering an alternative to in person meetings? Many churches quickly started to provide some sort of replacement online when the country went into lockdown in March. There was a range of content, with many different styles, produced for the children and families in churches. For most churches this was a completely new venture, for others it was just too much stress added to all the others of providing 'something' online for everyone and they decided to delay doing Sunday school online. Dr Sarah Holmes considers the affect on children's faith nurture of online offerings in a research project through the Centre for Christian Education.

The research project investigated the material provided by 100 UK churches from a range of denominations. One of the first difficulties was evaluating the diverse offering and comparing them to the objectives the churches had. I wonder if the leaders starting the online content even thought about the objectives of their content in relation to the children's nurture and growth, and if they really have 'aims and objectives' for their children's work! It was recognised that the common key objectives are knowledge, moral values and spiritual elements, in different proportions for different churches. The material produced has a very wide range depending on the churchmanship, theological beliefs and understandings of the child, but all brought by leaders who take their responsibility seriously and adapt and change the material to suit the children in their care, many of them volunteers with a heart for the children and young people in the church.

The key findings of the research are put into four headings: 'Improving the format', 'The session content', 'Connecting and engaging', and 'Equipping and supporting families'. Who knew Sunday School did all these things? The full report, which I

recommend you read as it is only seven pages long, goes into more detail for each of these areas. Observations that many offerings are passive, that the presenters tend to talk in a quiet voice to the camera (unlike when in a room full of children), that interaction with the participants isn't always present, that connecting with the families may mean doing addition work - family Zoom calls, dropping off craft parcels, etc - and that support for growing faith in the home in a natural unthreatening way helps to resource parents but equally can just add more stress to them.

Overall, there are many different ways of reaching out in these challenging times, and many ways that the material could be improved and built on. There are many lessons for anyone considering an online children's session and her full academic paper on the subject will be an interesting read. If you are considering going down the online route this gives some basic guidelines to making the material engaging, faith growing and nurturing, and relevant to the children and young people in our churches.

Holmes, S.E. (2020) Sunday School shutdowns during Covid-19: How will this affect our Children's faith nurture? Liverpool Hope University, UK.

Find the article here:

<https://www.hope.ac.uk/media/studywithus/departments/theologyphilosophyandreligion/documents/Children's%20Online%20Nurture%20-%20Sarah%20Holmes%20LHU.pdf>

Or email youth@moravian.org.uk requesting a copy and I'll email it to you.

If you need support to start something please contact me.

Sr Joy Raynor

Provincial Youth and Children's Officer

BMB (British Mission Board) News in Brief

Service of Celebration & Thanksgiving - South Asia



© Sr Edna Cooper

On Friday 13th November more than 155 people from across India, Nepal, the UK and the wider Unity came together for an online service of Thanksgiving and Celebration. Br Joachim, ministers and members from India, Nepal and the British Province brought greetings and led us through the service as we celebrated the centenary of the first local ministers ordained in Ladakh and the legacy that has been created. Br John McOwat, a former Chair of the BMB, preached and it was a joy to hear greetings from all across the world. Although there were some technical hiccups experienced, it was a joy to be able to come together and share a time of fellowship together especially when we are so restricted in travel due to the pandemic.

Hurricane Iota & Eta - Update

In Nicaragua, many of the over 60,000 persons evacuated from their homes are now returning to assess what remains. Small towns such as Haulover were destroyed entirely, with scarcely a structure remaining intact. The Moravian Church there was left only with its front facade and steeple still standing. In Honduras shelters are beginning to empty out as rivers are now receding. Over 150 homes were completely destroyed, and more than 800 sustained significant damage. Roads and bridges were washed out hampering the delivery of food and supplies. In Nicaragua and Honduras, many of the farms that line the rivers and creeks are now covered with two feet of sand and mud. They have lost much of their rice harvest this year, and now is the critical time for planting beans. As a result, food insecurity will be a factor for months to come. The most pressing issues now include the immediate purchase of clean water and food, getting farms working again, cleaning out wells contaminated by raw sewage, and getting building materials in place.



© Board of World Mission

The British Mission Board asks for your support and we will collect donations to transfer to the relief efforts directly.

How you can donate:

Cash: donations to your local congregation.

Card payment: please telephone Church House on 020 883 3409 who can take payment over the phone.

Cheques: should be made payable to Moravian Union Inc.

Bank transfer: 40-52-40 Acc # 00023436. Please use reference: Hurricane Eta and Iota

The introduction of Pastoral Supervision into the British Province

In July 2020, the Provincial Board, with the support and recommendation of the Provincial Church Service Committee, introduced a policy of pastoral supervision into the British Province for all serving Ministers, Provincial Board members, and our Safeguarding and Children's and Young People's Officer (hereafter collectively referred to as 'Ministers').

The Association for Pastoral Supervision and Education (APSE) states, on its website (<https://www.pastoralsupervision.org.uk/about-pastoral-supervision/>), that 'Pastoral Supervision is:

- a regular, planned, intentional and bounded space in which a practitioner who is skilled in supervision (the supervisor) meets with one or more other practitioners (the supervisees) to look together at the supervisees' practice.
- a relationship which is characterised by trust, confidentiality, support and openness, that gives the supervisee freedom and safety to explore the issues arising in their work.
- spiritually and theologically rich, and works within a framework of spiritual/theological understanding in dialogue with the supervisees' world view and work.
- psychologically-informed, drawing on relevant psychological theory and insight to illuminate intra-personal and inter-personal dynamics.
- contextually sensitive, paying attention to the particularities of setting, culture and world-view.
- praxis-based, focusing on a report of work and /or issues that arise in, and from, the supervisees' pastoral practice.
- a way of growing in vocational identity, pastoral competence, self-awareness, spiritual/theological reflection, pastoral interpretation, quality of presence, accountability, response to challenge, and mutual learning.
- attentive to issues of fitness to practice, skill development, management of boundaries, professional identity and the impact of the work upon all concerned parties'.

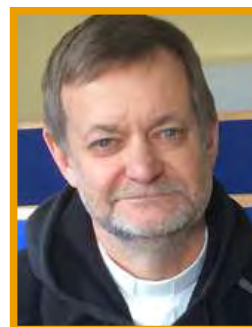
Pastoral supervision is not line-management. It has been recommended in many denominations in Britain (e.g. The Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Church, the Salvation Army and the Church of England) and in chaplaincy settings (e.g. The Armed Forces, Healthcare Chaplaincy, Hospice Chaplaincy etc.), as a way of supporting Clergy well-being, enabling Clergy to grow in personal awareness and interpersonal skills, and as a response to the prevention of safeguarding issues and to 'managing' risk. Each denomination has implemented pastoral supervision in a slightly different way, which is influenced by financial constraints and other practical matters. In the British Province, each Minister has been allocated an APSE Accredited Pastoral Supervisor who is independent of the Moravian Church, and with whom they meet once a month for 1½ hours. What is explored and discussed is kept entirely confidential between the supervisor and supervisee, except if there are safeguarding concerns.

The introduction of pastoral supervision to the British Province, this year, has been particularly timely, as the current COVID-19 pandemic has thrown up many new challenges within ministry. However, as an employer, each denomination has a duty of care to its 'employees', and pastoral supervision is regarded as an effective way of fulfilling that duty of care in ministry, and of enabling learning at many levels to take place in a confidential and supportive (yet sometimes challenging) setting.

It is planned that this provision will be reviewed in July 2021, via an anonymous online survey, and weight will be given to the voices of all the participants. This will determine the usefulness of pastoral supervision for our ministry in this province, and whether such provision continues in the future.

Br Peter Gubi

*Provincial Pastoral Supervision Co-ordinator
Chair of the Church Service Committee*



SMRC staff preparing for a shipment of soap to be sent to Germany during the quarantine period.

© Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center

A message of hope and perseverance from Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center (SMRC) in the Holy Land

by SMRC Director Mrs Ranya Francis Karam

I was thinking what verse from the bible I should quote as an opening remark of how Star Mountain Center has handled the situation of the Coronavirus Crisis and I could not find anything better than the following words of our Lord Jesus Christ, praise be to him.

'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.' (Matthew 5:14-16)

Similar with the rest of the world, the Coronavirus had an immense impact on the life of the Palestinians in the Holy Land. While the number of infections as well as the number of deaths was minimal in the country when compared to others, the suspension from work in the wake of the coronavirus crisis has deprived hundreds of thousands of Palestinian families of income.

The state of emergency (complete lockdown) announced in the PA-controlled territories early in March has had a negative impact on a huge number of Palestinian families. At least 50,000 Palestinian families have been added to the Palestinian Authority's list of emergency social welfare aid since the outbreak of the coronavirus in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, some of which were the families of some of SMRC students.

The Palestinian Government estimates total losses in the Palestinian economy to amount to \$3.8 billion.

The lockdown that also affected all educational institutions in the Palestinian territories has also closed down all institutions that provide rehabilitation and education services to people with disability. On 17th March 2020 Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center shut down all operations.

However, soon after universities and schools started online education for their students, SMRC students were not less fortunate. In fact, SMRC decided to develop its online education tools that included self-made videos as demonstrations for SMRC students and their families of a variety of training exercises (education and rehabilitation), work papers and one to one video calls. SMRC posted many of the developed videos on Facebook to be accessible to all the students and their care takers.

While we were worried at the beginning, of lack of interest from our students and their families in online communication, we were happily surprised with the remarkable cooperation and interaction they have showed in applying the provided exercises. SMRC requested the parents of the students to take videos of their children applying the exercises and posted them on Facebook. This encouraged SMRC students to further continue exercising and learning similar to their other siblings that are without



SMRC teachers assisting in weeding the agricultural lands of SMRC during the quarantine period.

© Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center



disability.

While not all of SMRC staff are rehabilitation teachers that can work with people with

intellectual disability, the administration and management teams decided to do renovation work to Star Mountain premises. Once the lockdown was eased and people were allowed to commute, the administration and management teams rolled up their sleeves and started cleaning up and planting the gardens, forest and agricultural lands. The group effort boosted everyone's moral, because they could see the result of their work exemplified in a more beautiful and green Star Mountain day after day.

Yes, where there is a will there is a way and where there is faith everything can be achieved even during dire times. Life is what we want it to be and at Star Mountain we want it to be a life of faith, love and hope. And without the support and belief of our benefactors and donors in our cause and the people we serve our achievements would not have been possible. We are thankful to all our donors.

I proudly share with you some pictures of our dedicated staff saving no effort to make Star Mountain 'a city on a hill that cannot be hidden'.

The Memory Tree by Britta Teckentrup



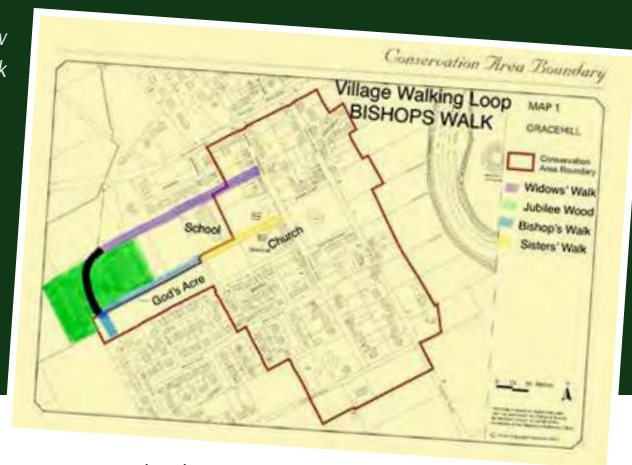
Yet another book about death aimed at younger children. This has lovely illustrations which I found attractive with bright colours and simple drawings. However, I'm not so sure about the text. It starts out well saying Fox had lived a long and happy life but then he 'fell asleep forever', why couldn't they just say he died? His friends come to where he died and remember all the fun things he did with them when he was alive, much like humans do at a post funeral gathering and this affirms that talking about the dead is important. A tree grows and it helps them to remember him. The usefulness of this book will depend on

the family using it. I'm not sure I would use it with the children I know, but as they can't read the words could be modified to be more truthful. There is no Christian message, and there are talking animals, something I know some find uncomfortable. Overall, I think there are other books that are more useful.

**ISBN 978-1-40832-634-3
Orchardbooks.co.uk Softback £6.99**

**For some children the fact someone they loved 'fell asleep' can be frightening and affect their own sleep as the loved one didn't come back they are scared that will happen to them.*

Taking a Walk on the Wild Side



© Sr Sarah Groves

Moravians developed a distinctive way to plan and build their settlements. They have established congregations and built such settlements across the globe, always creatively adapting the planning and architectural ideas to local conditions while retaining the core principles.

The Moravian Settlement at Gracehill, like many other Moravian settlements around the world, is an early example of 'town planning' and dates from 1759.

It is the only complete Moravian settlement in Ireland and the unique atmosphere and special qualities of Gracehill were recognised in 1975 when it was the first place in Northern Ireland to be designated a Conservation Area.

The conservation area contains sixteen listed buildings and planned green spaces and its form remains much as it did in the late eighteenth century. Gracehill is not just an historic site but it is significant because of its religious, cultural, social, educational, architectural and international associations.

It has also contributed to reconciliation during the turbulent times of the 1798 Rebellion/Rising in Ireland.

Much current thinking around Town Planning is concerned with 'place making' where the aim is to create places that people will enjoy and which will ultimately create the scenery and backdrop against which they will live their lives. These are to be places that are positive and uplifting and perhaps even inspiring, places with a narrative or stories that attract and sustain people. Clearly the early Moravians were experts at place making. They knew how to make people feel positive, they had a narrative and, in establishing their settlements around the globe, they had a vision.

Against this background, such a significant and historic area as Gracehill requires care and attention to not only maintain it but also to enhance it while ensuring it meets the requirements of a modern community. In the early 1990s Gracehill Environmental Improvement Association was established with representation from the Moravian congregation, the local residents and

Ballymena Borough Council. The Association was involved in a variety of activities including the production of the first 'Gracehill Area Development Plan' in 1996 followed by a study the following year to look at possible improvements and enhancements.

In 2002 Gracehill Old School Trust (or GhOST as it became known) was established, incorporating the Environmental Improvement Association. Since this time there have been a number of further studies and plans but happily many of the enhancements suggested in the initial report have been realised. These include restoration and reuse of the Old School, restoration of the Square, the provision of some literature and signage, the installation of the Victorian post box and the ongoing work on the Old Shop building. To further support the community the Moravian congregation has renovated the Church and constructed a much-needed new hall known as 'Cennick Hall'.

In addition to all this a number of other schemes were proposed including the provision of walks or paths around the Village. These included:

- The 1798 walk around the Square, which is now completed.
- A walk to include God's Acre.
- A walk to connect to the nearby river paths.

The initial aim of the God's Acre plan was to provide easy access to this historic, unique and beautiful area but in 2011 prior to a visit by HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall an adjacent area for potential woodland planting had been identified and this was to be known as Jubilee Wood in honour of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. This added to the neighbouring woodland already planted by Gracehill Primary School.

In 2014 GhOST and Gracehill Moravian Church worked to develop a scheme to explore the route any such path might take. Funding to commission studies was obtained from 'The Challenge Fund' which distributes money raised from the

plastic bag tax for environmental projects in Northern Ireland.

A feasibility study and plans were developed with the assistance of a tree specialist, Dr Philip Blackstock and landscape architects. It was particularly pleasing that the landscape architect involved was Mr Norman (Barney) Graham of MWA Partnership as he had been involved in the first study in 1996!

Given that this was potentially a very significant intervention in the original planned settlement, great care was taken to ensure proposals would not detract from the historic environment and unique atmosphere. Happily, plans were eventually produced which brought together long overgrown paths, bits of unused land and previously inaccessible but beautiful areas.

These plans highlighted the opportunities and potential for improving access to the natural and historic environment with resultant benefits for health and wellbeing, tourism and the economy. They also proposed enhancements to the setting of the village promoting the development of safe and easier access to a historic and beautiful natural area thereby encouraging people to walk and enjoy the special space. By linking potential woodland areas, the development of the Jubilee wood would be enabled which would also give local school children the opportunity to appreciate trees and the woodland generally as a living area with both old and new trees.

After public meetings and discussions, the plans were subsequently approved by the Education Authority, Gracehill Moravian Church Council and local landowners. An area of land was purchased from the Education Authority, another piece of land was donated and other areas were the subject of legal agreements.

Gracehill Moravian Church Council gave permission for construction of the section of path as detailed at the bottom of God's Acre (a permissive path

agreement) and for associated access and work on trees overhanging any sections of the path.

By now Ballymena Borough Council had become the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (MEABC) and a new 'Gracehill Village plan 2017-2022' was produced. MEABC were developing a programme of Village Renewal Schemes and as part of the new village plan an ultimately successful application for funding for 'The Gracehill Walking loop' was submitted.

With all planning and legal permissions in place and funding secured, work began in early 2020 to develop the path. Work was interrupted by the Covid-19 Pandemic but subsequently the pathway was completed by September 2020 at a cost of approximately £120,000.

Mindful of the importance of 'Place' and 'narrative' it was suggested to MEABC that rather than call the new amenity 'Gracehill Walking Loop' the names of the existing paths should be highlighted with appropriate signage. MEABC were supportive of this suggestion and also warmly welcomed and accepted the proposal that the new section of pathway be named Bishop's Walk, in celebration of the consecration of the Rt Rev Sarah Groves in November 2018. So, Brothers and Sisters Walks join into Bishop's Walk, Jubilee Woods and Widows Walk.

As we celebrate this wonderful new addition to the village we thank all those who supported and helped over so many years, not least MEABC for their generous funding. Everyone can now benefit from an important amenity that not only promotes wellbeing and regeneration but also enhances the historic environment and helps celebrate another chapter in the ongoing story of the special place that is the Moravian Settlement of Gracehill.

Br David Johnston

Gracehill



Forward with Faith

In the lead article of the Messenger for January 2020, Sr Lorraine Shorten challenged us to rip up the traditional rule book for new year resolutions that are easily forgotten. Instead we should step out of our comfort zone, to go with faith, be tested and challenged, knowing that God goes with us.

Well, as I begin to write this piece for January 2021, and look back over the last year, I can just about make out our comfort zone on the distant horizon! A year of testing and challenge and plenty of grieving for the things left behind or missed due to the pandemic. It has made it difficult to know what the next year has in store. Normally by now I have a whole calendar of events that are set in stone for at least the first half of the year if not beyond. However, I have a feeling that we will all be as busy as ever if 2020 is anything to go by despite the changes we have faced. What the past year has taught us is that along with the testing and challenges, it was a year of faith and wonder as we pushed boundaries in order to adapt and transform.

This year I believe will be one of anticipation and preparation. I still rest in the hope that we will return to some form of 'normality', to travel again, to meet without restriction. Yet, I also know that we cannot truly go back to the way things were, that in adapting and transforming, we have created space for new energies and ideas to be nurtured.

Next year in June 2022, we will mark 300 years since the first tree was felled for the building of Herrnhut community, and the seeds for a renewed Moravian Church began to bloom.

Christian David was a Lutheran who had converted from Catholicism in 1714. He was a man filled with great zeal and hope and struggled with how rigid the Lutherans had become. As a carpenter, he was a self-taught lay preacher and from 1717-1721 he earned the title of 'Bush Preacher' as he took every opportunity to preach plainly both in Germany where he was free to worship and in his original homeland of Moravia where he risked his life to share the message of joy that he found within scripture.

He came to know of a group of Brethren from Fulnek, Moravia (Czechia) who had suffered tragically for their commitment

to their faith yet maintained deep commitment to fellowship with one another, finding perpetual joy despite their circumstances. He longed to support their plight to get to Germany where they would be able to settle more freely.

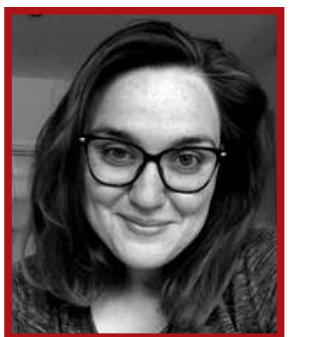
In 1722 Christian David led the first group of refugees from Fulnek, to Saxony (Germany) and the lands of Count Zinzendorf. The rest, as they say is history - or is it the future? The emigration would continue over the next decade, with Christian David leading many such journeys avoiding attention from the authorities, bringing Christians together in Herrnhut from different cultures and backgrounds who were all seeking freedom to live out their faith.

Between 2022 and 2032 we hope that we will not only be looking back on these important points in our heritage but instead celebrate with our own decade of mission and evangelism. We look to channel the same energy of Christian David, and our brothers and sisters who moved forward in faith leaving their homes and lands behind.

Christian David's arrival in Herrnhut was not a spontaneous event that started in 1722 nor was it very straightforward. It was one of preparation and anticipation, of an understanding that there was a need to adapt and not stand still. It was not easy and it was not quick - I am sure there was at least one or two frazzled committee meetings ironing out all the details! Yet in pushing forward and knowing that God went with them, a great legacy was being created.

In 2020 we had to rip up the rule book. In 2021 I hope that we will continue to go forward in faith, reflecting on what we have learnt in the last year and find a renewed energy and understanding to sustain us into the years to come.

Sr Roberta Hoey
Provincial Board



Br Dick Porter reports on the Yorkshire District Conference, held on 3rd October 2020

Moravian Churches in Yorkshire have been praised for adapting to new ways of working and worshipping during the coronavirus pandemic. The autumn district conference of Moravians in the district was told by Provincial Board member Mark Kernohan there had been a fantastic response from ministers and congregations when restrictions were imposed in March, with weekly services continuing instead online. He said there had been 'some stress' when church services resumed in September, with some of the more vulnerable congregation members caught between choosing online services or whether to appear in person, so he said some services would continue on the web.

Br John McOwat told the meeting, which was held via Zoom, that Yorkshire ministers Br Michael Newman, Sr Jane Dixon and Br David Howarth should be congratulated for the way they had coped, not only with worship but keeping in touch with the members. He proposed a vote of thanks, which was unanimously approved.

Br Howarth, for the Baildon and Horton congregations, said there had been regular telephone conversations between members and another way of maintaining contact had been through the congregation's WhatsApp group. He said a wedding at Baildon, scheduled from nearly two years ago, had gone ahead as planned in August. Br Howarth said: 'This was our first service since March. The bride and bridesmaids looked beautiful in their dresses and masks'.

Br Kernohan went on to detail how Fulneck and Ockbrook schools had opened again after being closed for a time, but said they still faced significant challenges. While some furloughed parents had struggled with fees, both schools had been praised for the quality of their teaching and it had been a good year as far as exam results were concerned.

Looking ahead Br Kernohan said the church was looking at its tri-centenary in 2022 and a decade of evangelism, growth and change was the objective. He said: 'We need to make an impression in the next 10 years.' He said the viability of Synod in March next year was constantly being monitored and the province would be kept updated.

A lay preachers' training weekend planned for October was being pushed back to October next year and the ministers' retreat had been postponed because of Covid-19.

Br Kernohan said Sr Roberta Hoey and Br Livingstone Thompson had been lucky to get out of India as a clampdown on internal flights had been introduced suddenly in March while they were out there. He said they had flown to South East Asia, where the Moravians have churches in Ladakh, Nepal and Assam. After visiting Rajpur they flew to Delhi when the hastily announced embargo on internal flights was announced. India is the third worst-hit country in the world for Covid-19, after America and Brazil. Br Kernohan added that students in Rajpur had found themselves locked down and they had had to organise deliveries to be sent in for them.

In Ladakh, the conference was told, there had been rising tension between Indian and Chinese forces along the disputed Himalayan border after accusations that shots were fired into Ladakh from China for the first time in 45 years. In August, 23 Indian soldiers were killed by gunfire.

In Western Tanzania, he said, the church was committed to a further £5,000 in grants to support mission work in areas including Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda. Br Kernohan told parishioners: 'Pray for peace'.

Closer to home, he said a task force in Gloucestershire had been supporting the Brockweir congregation as they considered plans for Moravian buildings there hit by flooding. In January, floodwater had come up to the church steps and one graveyard, dating back to the 1800s, had been under two feet of water. It is hoped a report will go to Synod in 2021.

Fulneck's Br Ron and Sr Ros Davey were thanked for their 19 years of service as wardens of the settlement's Choir House, where they have overseen the management of the 11 apartments. He said the board had planned to recognise their work at Synod 2020, but this had now been postponed until 2021. Br Ian Haggas has taken over their role.

The conference was told vacancies will be opening up on several Provincial Committees and congregation members were asked to put themselves forward for the role. Among the committees will be Finance, Church Book, Church Services and Youth and Children's work. Br Kernohan said the roles involved around 10 or 12 days' work a year. Anyone volunteering is asked to approach their own church committee in the first instance.

Ministers then gave individual reports of congregation membership and details of events, all of which had been cut short by the pandemic. Lockdown had been introduced only a short time after the spring district concert.

Fulneck has 74 members and adherents, Gomersal 39. Lower Wyke has 33 members and one adherent, Wellhouse has 13, no change from last year. The conference fell too early for confirmed numbers to be given for Baildon and Horton. For the Moravian Singers, it has also been a truncated year. The choir is now jointly led by Br Glyn Jones and Sr Diane Thornton. Br Jones took the choir through rehearsals from September to November, culminating in the Advent Sunday service at Lower Wyke.

Rehearsals for the 23 singers resumed in January under Sr Thornton and the Palm Sunday service at Gomersal on 23 February was well received. Rehearsals continued until early March when all gatherings were put on hold. Sr Thornton said both leaders were ready to resume their duties. In the meantime, for them and all of us, it is now a case of wait and see.

Br Dick Porter

Off to Kauk!!

Continuation of Br Hopcroft's memories of his call to Labrador in 1971

Mary White and Rutie
Barbour and family



© Br Robert Hopcroft

The earliest recorded attempt to take the gospel to the Labrador coast tells of Jan Christian Erhardt, who was a German sailor who became a Moravian after meeting them on the Island of St Thomas in the West Indies. He set sail on the Moravian sailing ship 'Hope' from London on 18th May 1752 accompanied by three merchants planning to trade whalebone and seal skins with the Inuit. Erhardt and five missionaries left the ship at Davis Inlet with a boat load of goods to trade and was never seen again. The crew waited for their return but

eventually, after leaving supplies, had to give up and return to London. The following year the 'Hope' returned, and the bodies of the missionaries were found. Trading between the Inuit and

Europeans, at that time, was fraught with danger.

Jens Haven was born in 1724 in Jammerbugt, Denmark and his family were Lutheran but, after being apprenticed to a Moravian carpenter, he joined the Moravian Church in Herrnhut. He had a burning desire to take the gospel to the Inuit of Labrador, having heard of the fateful trip made by Erhardt in 1752. It took some time for the arrangements to be made but after spending four years at a Moravian Mission Station in Greenland, at Lichtenfels, where he learned the Inuit language, Jens Haven set off for Labrador in 1763-4 where he began to make contact with the local Inuit communities. He travelled across the Atlantic several times before eventually choosing land in the Nuneingoak region of Labrador, where he purchased land on behalf of the Moravian Church from the local Inuit.

In 1771 Haven proceeded to build a Mission House on the land and they called it Nain, and finally the Mission was established.

Wendy and I arrived in 1971 blissfully unaware at the time, that Labrador, and Nain in particular, was preparing a big celebration for the whole community as they remembered the 200th anniversary of the arrival and establishment of the Moravian Mission Work in 1771 by Jens Haven, after whom the school there is named. The preparations had been going

on for weeks and we were in for a treat.

As the weekend of celebration drew near, I answered a knock at the door to be greeted by two members of the Provincial Board and British Mission Board,

from London, who had arrived by boat for the celebrations. There stood Br Geoffrey Birtill and Br Ted Wilson whom I had never met before but whom Wendy knew. We invited them in for tea and Br Wilson unexpectedly presented us with a wedding gift of four dessert spoons, which have survived many removals and are still in use!

It was planned to hold the celebrations in Kauk bay, close to Nain Bay but where there were no houses and so still looked untouched and in its natural state. On the weekend of the pageant a flotilla of small boats carried the participants and observers around the bay to Kauk where the shoreline was dotted with caribou hide tents erected to replicate what it must have looked like in Nain 200 years previously when a boat carried Jens Haven and colleagues to the shore, and he was greeted by the local Inuit who were all dressed in traditional costume.

It was a wonderful sight! With adults and children all exhibiting their finest seal skin coats and boots and caribou parkas and mitts. Gathered together in family groups with caribou meat and salmon hanging to dry in the sun as it would have done 200 years previously. We learned something of how sealskin boots (mukluks) were made, of how Grenfell cloth and duffel silopaks replaced seal and caribou hides to make coats. It helped us to put into context the history of the community we were settling into as we began to learn of how the Inuit people had adapted and survived in such a harsh climate.

The weekend also included special services in the Church where the brass band played, and the choir sang. Most of the music played and sung were from the old German chorales which had changed little over the years and, as I discovered, were very old handwritten manuscripts.

Food was prepared in the Church hall and it was our first taste of seal, caribou, duck, goose and ptarmigan as well as salmon and arctic char. The seal meat was, to my English palette, chewy and fishy (not surprising given a seal's diet), whilst the caribou was far more appealing. We discovered the wonderful fresh taste of arctic char ... but perhaps more of food and recipes later!

Of all the times for us to arrive in Nain, what a truly memorable weekend to experience, right at the beginning of our time there, and perhaps the beginning of the realisation that we had much more to learn about life in Labrador than anything we would be able to teach in the classrooms there.

After all the celebrations, it was back to focussing on classroom activities and planning for the year that lay ahead of us.

Br Robert Hopcroft



It's OK not to be OK

A Message from the Principal of Fulneck School



© Graeme Bandeira

I will tell anyone who listens that The West Wing is the best drama ever made for TV. Aired between 1999 and 2006 (but all available on Netflix), it follows the fictional presidency of Democrat Jed Bartlet, played by Emmy and Golden Globe winning film star Martin Sheen.

My favourite characters are the Chief of Staff, veteran Democrat strategist and recovering alcoholic, Leo McGarry, and his deputy, the politically brilliant but unstable Josh Lyman. Their relationship is one of the highlights of the show. In one of the most memorable scenes of the seven seasons, he tells this story to the troubled Lyman.

'This guy's walking down a street when he falls in a hole. The walls are so steep, he can't get out. A doctor passes by, and the guy shouts up, "Hey you, can you help me out?" The doctor writes a prescription, throws it down in the hole and moves on. Then a priest comes along, and the guy shouts up, "Father, I'm down in this hole, can you help me out?" The priest writes out a prayer, throws it down in the hole and moves on. Then a friend walks by. "Hey Joe, it's me, can you help me out?" And the friend jumps in the hole. Our guy says, "Are you stupid? Now we're both down here." The friend says, "Yeah, but I've been down here before, and I know the way out."'

I haven't done the story justice and it certainly is not meant to undermine your faith in medicine or religion. The intention is to point out that we can't always solve all our own problems and there is no harm in admitting that. Whether it be a doctor, priest, teacher or friend, we all need people to listen to us, encourage us and advise us.

Taking the first step and approaching a confidant is often the hardest move. I'm sure that's why the ITV campaign that you'll have seen advertised during 'Britain's Got Talent' is called 'Britain Get Talking'.

Mental health remains an area that we find difficult to discuss openly. I even saw a blog yesterday from a teacher who said she was 'outing' herself as having had a dip in her mental health as if this is something she ought to hide. In effect, why should it be any different to talking about any other problem we have with our health?

I suspect it is harder because there is still, sadly, stigma attached

to mental health, that somehow it is not macho or maybe even British to admit to suffering. That is why Andrew Flintoff's recent BBC documentary in which he talked openly about his struggle with bulimia was so important. One of the giants - literally and figuratively - of modern sport accepting that he needs help. It is why rugby referee Nigel Owens is such an important figure.

Operating in just about the most macho field, Owens is perhaps the best referee in the history of the sport who happens to be openly homosexual. I advise all our older pupils to watch an interview with Owens in which he explains how his struggles with being open over his sexuality damaged his mental health to the most despairing of levels and how, in the end, openness with his parents saved his life.

Mental Health Awareness Day was in October and Nigel Owens retweeted his interview with this message: 'Never feel alone, share your worries, it's not a sign of weakness and it's nothing to be ashamed of.' As The Yorkshire Post's Graeme Bandeira drew brilliantly that weekend, 'It's ok not to be ok ...'

I think that Owens would like the culture of inclusivity and kindness that we have at Fulneck School but would warn us against complacency. If there is just one person reading this today who doesn't have someone they know they can turn to, then that's one too many.

Equally, if you see someone who is not quite themselves, discreetly try to find out if there is something wrong and whether sharing it might help. It might be nothing, but your involvement might mean everything.

I want to finish by commenting on the well-known words of former Apple CEO Tim Cook: 'The sidelines are not where you want to live your life. The world needs you in the arena.' He is absolutely right - we need our young people to be the leaders of the future - but you can't do that unless you look after your own physical and mental health first. Nigel Owens would not be the most respected referee in world rugby had he not sorted his own health first.

Br Paul Taylor

Principal of Fulneck School



© Fulneck School

CONGREGATION NEWS



Fairfield

Fairfield had a doorstep Remembrance Sunday Service with residents singing hymns from their doorsteps and Br Cooper leading the prayers from the manse. After the short service Br Glyn Jones played some of the old wartime songs over a sound system to entertain residents in their homes.



© Br Anthony Torkington

Notices

Diaspora List

At the beginning of December we relaunched our Diaspora mailing. The response we have received has been very positive and we will be sending out a questionnaire in the new year to those on the current mailing list, to give everyone an opportunity to let us know what information they would like to receive; from news of the worldwide Unity, specific areas of our work overseas, what projects we are focussing on in the British Province, to how to connect with fellow Moravians in their area. We aim to tailor it to the particular interests of each individual.

As 2020 draws to a close it has been a very difficult year for everyone, and

it is more important than ever to reach out and reunite with all our Moravian brothers and sisters, near and far. Church services have been suspended but we have moved to online services which have proved to be a great help and comfort to many. Distance has been no barrier to attending and being part of the wider church life this year.

If you know of anyone who would like to be added to the Diaspora list then please let me know by email lindsey.newens@moravian.org.uk or by telephoning Church House 020 8883 3409.

Sr Lindsey Newens
Church House

? Thinking about Church service? Might God be calling you?

We are holding an enquirers' morning, via Zoom, where you will be able to spend time with Br Joachim Kreusel and Br Peter Gubi, exploring your sense of vocation or chatting about Church service in general. This will take place on Saturday 16th January at 10am.

If you are interested in joining in, please acknowledge your interest, by email, to Br Peter Gubi (peter.gubi@moravian.org.uk) before Monday 11th January 2021, and you will be sent a Zoom link to the meeting.

Congregational Register

Deaths

24th Nov 2020 William (Billy) Greer Gracehill

From Church House

Provincial Diary for January

Meetings are continuing to be held online wherever possible.

4th Church House reopens
5th PEC Meeting
20th World Mission Committee
28th Book Committee

1	New Year's Day
6	Epiphany
7	Christmas Day - Orthodox
4	New Year - Orthodox
18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer)
25	Burns Night
27	Holocaust Memorial Day (http://hmd.org.uk/)
31	World Leprosy Day (www.leprosymission.org.uk)

Dates to remember!



© Sr Naomi Hancock

Introducing a new series
looking at the
congregations in the
British Province:

We are the Fetter Lane Congregation worshipping at Moravian Close, Chelsea

That's a very long Congregation name - what's the story?

The Fetter Lane Congregation grew out of a Moravian Society which used to meet in the 1730s in Fetter Lane in the City of London. In time, the Headquarters of the British Province also became based in Fetter Lane. The Moravians had also planned to build a Settlement on Sir Thomas More's Chelsea estate which they had bought in 1750. However, following the death of Zinzendorf in 1760, most of the estate had to be sold. The Moravians however, retained the proposed Settlement burial ground and some buildings, which became known as Moravian Close. The burial ground was needed for the Fetter Lane Congregation, as it had none of its own. However, the Fetter Lane property was destroyed by a bomb in the Second World War, and the Congregation could no longer meet there.

Eventually, the official 'home' of the Fetter Lane Congregation moved to Moravian Close, Chelsea. The Congregation was increased by the post war arrival in South and West London of West Indian members who could easily worship at Chelsea.

What is Moravian Close like today?

We have a terrace of mostly 18th century buildings (using Sir Thomas More's stables as a basis). There is a Manse, a Chapel with a meeting room, and three Studios. One Studio is used by the Congregation as another meeting room, and let out to community groups. At the end of the terrace, there is a fourth early 20th century Studio, built by sculptors and artists Ernest and Mary Gillick, who lived in the Close for 50 years in the 20th century. The Gillicks also laid out the terrace paving, planted trees and hedges, and built a pergola with seating and heraldic shields showing all the owners of the estate from Sir Thomas More onwards. All the Studios not used by the Congregation are commercially let.

The greater part of the Close is the burial ground, laid out as a square, with traditional Moravian flat graves dating back to the 18th century. The burial ground is enclosed by the partially Tudor wall of Sir Thomas More's estate, and mature London plane trees on three sides.

So, what goes on in Moravian Close?

The core of our activities is (in normal times!) Sunday worship in the Chapel, usually in the morning, with monthly Communion and other special services in the afternoons. As the only Moravian Congregation in London with a burial ground, we host all the London Congregations for the early morning Easter service (followed by breakfast!). Many visitors, especially from overseas, seek out the Close, and join our faithful Congregation of 21 members (with some associates and friends) for worship, we never quite know who will be there on a Sunday morning!

We have regular meetings of community groups, such as a popular book sale. Our close relationship with the local Churches' homeless shelter means their vans can park in the Close. Many people who live and work nearby come just to sit, walk around, eat lunch, and just enjoy the peaceful green surroundings - much valued in London. Local pre-school children regularly come for supervised outdoor play using logs from a felled tree in one corner of the Close. They play happily right by the grave of 'Nunak', an Inuit boy, who came to London on the Harmony, from Labrador, but sadly died here in 1788. He is buried outside the burial ground as he was not baptised.

Our big event in 2020 was the ordination of our Minister, Sr Claire. Only four people were present, but hundreds joined in by Zoom, and have watched the YouTube film.

Christmas 2020 in Moravian Close

We couldn't have our traditional Christingle Service this year, but our Pioneer team invited local shops on the Kings Road to dress their windows on a Christmas Carol related theme, passersby could vote for the best one on their phones, and the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea came to award prizes.

When can I visit Moravian Close?

The Close is just off the Kings Road, in Chelsea. Our big blue gates are normally open to visitors on Thursdays and Fridays from 11am to 5pm, and may be open at other times. There is no parking for visitors, except by prior arrangement. There is a free Walkaround leaflet for visitors, and every year we join in the London wide Open House weekend, usually on the third weekend in September.

Sr Naomi Hancock

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