

moravian messenger

AUGUST 2021



New Provincial Board Members



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Peter Madsen Gubi - New Provincial Board Member

I was born in Barbados in the West Indies. I am the son of Rev Peter Madsen and Joyce Gubi, and the grandson of Bishop Peter Madsen and Maude Gubi. We came to live in England when I was 12 years old, and I had my schooling at Fulneck School, where I was Head Boy in my final year. From Fulneck, I trained to be a teacher and a counsellor, and started my professional life as a teacher of Religious Studies. However, I gained more fulfilment from the pastoral side of teaching, and so pursued the counselling aspect of my life more fully thereafter. I have regarded all of my life as ministry/vocation, but I have exercised my ministry/vocation more outside of the Church than within it. I have worked as a counsellor in various GP practices, in a bereavement agency and in private practice. I have also pursued an academic career in counselling, alongside being a practitioner. I have three doctorate degrees and two fellowships, and have authored/edited six books and many peer-reviewed articles that have been published in reputable journals.

In 2015, I was made a Professor of Counselling and Spiritual Accompaniment by the University of Chester (the first serving minister in the British province to be awarded a 'Chair' in a British University), in recognition of my work and international reputation in the interface between mental health and

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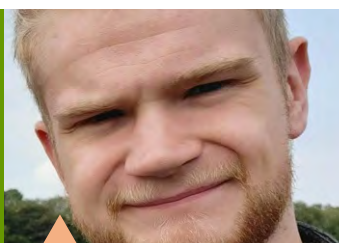
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Michael Newman - New Provincial Board Member

I was born in Swindon in 1978 and was baptised at the Moravian Church there. My father, Br David Newman, entered the Moravian ministry when I was ten years old and we moved to Baildon, where I was confirmed, and where I did my GCSEs. We then moved to Fairfield, where I did A-levels in Maths, Physics and Geology at Ashton Under Lyne Sixth Form College. It was at Fairfield that I met Claire, although we did not start going out until I was in my third year at Oxford University. I spent a lot of time playing sports while at university, captaining the Lincoln College football team in my second year (we were relegated!).

In 1999 I was awarded a degree in Physics, and then worked for four years at Stagecoach UK Bus in Stockport, becoming part qualified as a Management Accountant. Claire and I were married at Fairfield in 2000, and we lived in the settlement at number 23A. Our first son, Daniel, was born later that year, and Ethan followed in 2002. During my time at Stagecoach, I also played football in the Lancashire and Cheshire League, winning several medals that still sit on the mantelpiece in my study.

In 2003 I began training for the ministry at Luther King House in Manchester. I was awarded a degree in Contextual Theology four years later. I served the Baildon and



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Editorial

I hope that everyone is enjoying a bit of a break over the summer months. It has been a long hard slog to get to this point and so many people deserve to be able to relax and recharge and to see family and friends from whom they have been separated for so long. Chris and I are visiting family and friends in England, people we have not seen since at least 2019, partly because of distance but mainly because of COVID. Of course, there have been no hugs or handshakes but just being in their physical company has been wonderful. We have done Zoom and Skype calls but being in their physical presence is so much better.

Friendship is so important to us yet somehow it is often underrated, and priority is given to the significant family relationships. In a world where families are smaller, family members scattered, and 'clan' relationships not so strong, friends become more important than ever. Friends are the people we chose to be with, who know our secrets, see things from our perspective and share our joys and sorrows.

Reading Exodus 33 the other day I was struck by the phrase, 'The Lord spoke to Moses face to face as to a friend'. It implied an open and honest relationship, not necessarily between equals but sincere in purpose. In John 15, during the upper room narrative, there are three instances of Jesus calling his followers 'his friends'. If we do what he commands we are his friends, he has called us friends because he has told us everything he has heard from his father, and he lays down his life for us, his friends.

We understand that our God is a God of relationships - within the Godhead - Father, Son and Holy Spirit and with the people

he created. Made in the image of God we are made to be in relationships with one another and interaction and interdependence are important aspects of that. We are not intended to live as isolated units.

Following on from this the Church can offer two great gifts to the society around us. Firstly, it can offer the friendship that we have found in Jesus, not a gospel of judgement and condemnation but a call to relationship, to friendship with the one we walk with. This is the one who as a friend sticks closer than a brother and who ultimately loves us so much he lays down his life for us.

In tandem with that we can offer friendship as a gift to those around us. Our Churches should be places of friendships and relationships, of mutual support and care. And this friendship should be always open to others, never exclusive and inward looking. The Church should naturally be somewhere where people can come to find interaction and friendship. Of course, that has not been so easy during COVID but we must rebuild it as restrictions ease.

So, cherish your friends, the ones who stick by you and give thanks to God for them.

Offer the gift of friendship to those around you, take a risk and reach out to them.

Be amazed that Jesus calls those who follow him his friends; what a privilege and a joy.

Have a wonderful summer.

Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team



New Provincial Board Members

Peter Madsen Gubi *continued*

spirituality/faith. I am also an Honorary Professor in Pastoral Theology at Teofilo Kisanji University in Mbeya, Tanzania, and publish with, and mentor, members of staff there via Zoom. I continue to work two days a week at Chester in my capacity as a Professor, where I supervise a number of doctoral students in their research. I also have a practice in pastoral supervision in which I offer support to clergy who work in several denominations in the UK.

I have always been a member of the Moravian Church and have always looked to use my gifts and abilities in the service of the Moravian Church - and beyond. I have served as a lay preacher and on several provincial committees. I was ordained as deacon in 2012, and consecrated as presbyter in 2014, and have served Lower Wyke, Wellhouse and Dukinfield congregations as a Minister. When I have some time from writing, accompanying others and doing ministry, I enjoy simply reflecting, gardening, playing table tennis, walking with friends and cycling. I love the variety of my life, and feel incredibly blessed, although I have had many knocks along my life's journey. I can sometimes be experienced as being like a bit of grit in the shoe, in that I honour and value others, but can also challenge where I feel challenge is needed. I look at the enormity of the task ahead for the province and the provincial board, and whilst I feel completely daunted, I have a strong faith in God, and in my ability, that will uphold me, and I look forward to playing my small part in the work of the Provincial Board.

Br Peter Gubi
Provincial Board

Michael Newman *continued*

Horton congregations for four years, during which time I was ordained as a deacon and consecrated as a presbyter. I have been serving the Fulneck and Gomersal congregations for ten years, and we have just recently moved to Hornsey, where I will begin serving later in August. I am currently part way through a Masters in Contextual Theology, also at Luther King House.

At the Provincial level, I served for a full twelve years on the Church Book Committee and have just completed twelve years on the Church Service Committee. I have also served on the Faith and Order and Ecumenical Relations Committee for six years. I have been vice-chairman of Synod on two occasions and was chairman of the recent Zoom Synod, which went remarkably well! I also had the privilege of representing the Province at the Unity Mission Conference in Cape Town in 2017.

Over the last few years, I have been encouraged by a number of brothers and sisters to consider putting my name forward for the Provincial Board. I hope and pray that I can repay their confidence in me now that I have been elected. I look forward to working with the other members of the board as we approach the 300th anniversary of the renewal of the Moravian Church, and the exciting ventures that are part of Project 32.

Br Michael Newman
Provincial Board



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Impressions of Synod from the Youth Representative

Synod 2020 provided me with my first experience of learning and discussing what keeps the church clock ticking and having a say in how the church will be shaped into the future. I was elected as one of the youth representatives, alongside Sr Alishbha Khan, at the Provincial My Youth Forum held in 2019 which provided me with the groundwork for how proposals and elections are usually held at Synod. This proved useful as there were plenty of proposals and elections carried out over the four days covering a wide range of topics and key positions within the church. Some required little discussion whilst others

sparked interesting debates that helped develop my understanding and perspective on certain topics. One proposal I am looking forward to following and taking part in is the implementation of Project 32, as well as the numerous other proposals focusing on sustainability and tackling climate change.

Of course, this Synod was like no other. Being on Zoom meetings for four days was rather exhausting and whilst the phrase 'you are on mute' ended up commonplace in every session, I think it ran very smoothly thanks to the work of the technical team and the chairing panel. One aspect that I thought benefitted from Synod being held online was the voting system which provided quick choice selection and live tallying of results as they were coming in, something

which I think could be useful if successfully implemented into future in-person synods to reduce the time spent on counting. The biggest aspect to suffer from this online Synod was social interaction, including the evenings in the bar which are said to be one of the highlights of Synod, or so I am told, and were undoubtedly missed by many. However, the evening Zoom sessions organised by Sr Lorraine Shorten were a welcome addition.

Having the opportunity to be a Youth Representative this Synod has been a privilege, it has peaked my interest in learning more about all the different ways in which the church is run as well as inspiring me to become more involved in both congregational and provincial committees.

Br Daniel Newman

come along to our free

Camp day

When: 14th August - 10.30 - 18.00

Where: Ockbrook Moravian Church

For: All aged 9-17
(consent/health forms will be required)

Bring a packed lunch. BBQ will be provided for late afternoon

Parents can stay as we are aware they may have travelled some distance to get there - or use the time to visit the City of Derby.

Programme and more details will be sent after booking.

No cost but booking required

Consent/health forms from youth@moravian.org.uk.
More information from Joy or Phill

Contact:

Joy - 07713853184 or youth@moravian.org.uk
Phil - phill.battelle@outlook.com

MORAVIAN CHURCH BRITISH PROVINCE

CAMP ARAMIS

What: A laid back fellowship & camping event

Who: Open to anyone 18+

When: August 26th - 29th 2021

Where: Ockbrook Moravian Church, Derby

For more info, head to
tinyurl.com/camp-aramis

Or email
phill.battelle@outlook.com

100 hours of exercise in one week

Joy, Roberta, Claire, Zoe, Katie and I (Lo!) have been part of an online Moravian Women's Association (MWA) fellowship group for around four years. We meet as often as we can, online, for fellowship, worship and prayer time. This has really shaped each of our ministries and has caused friendships to deepen further as we journey through life together. It works well for us as we are spread throughout the country and some of us, due to where we live, are not near to a Moravian Church. Being part of this online group has helped us feel connected to our Moravian roots as well as providing sisterhood and moments of light in dark times.

Every year the MWA raises money for a specific charity. This year's charity has been for the Masai School Girls where the MWA supports contextual work to prevent early marriage and enable access to education. This charity struck a chord with our group as we each have a heart for children and young people, with a desire to see young people flourishing wherever they are in life. This motivated us to come up with the plan of doing 100 hours of exercise between us in one week to try and raise some funds for this fantastic work.

We are all busy bees with various busy jobs and lives so fitting in the exercise was sometimes very challenging around children who preferred life at 4am, meetings that were back-to-back, a hen do, packing and finishing work assignments ahead of holidays, as well



© Sr Laura Wood

as balancing various unexpected turns that life can throw at us. Yet, we were all committed to make this work even if it meant we exercised at odd times, embraced toddler football time, tackled a garden in an act of 'extreme gardening', got up at silly o'clock to do a 30min High Intensity Training Workout, fitted in a pram walk or promenade, roller-skated on our lunch break, grabbed that 15 minutes spare time for a walk, encouraged our child to the playpark in a downpour, nipped in for a wild swim, ran around the streets of Manchester, added Yoga into our wake up or end of day routine or simply decided to take this week as a time to explore new forms of exercise amidst the busyness. On average we each had to do two hours 30 minutes each a day (give or take a little) to make this work. On busy days others in our group did a few more minutes for us and vice versa. By the end of the week we all ached everywhere but were thrilled to have completed this challenge. Many of us had embraced new forms of exercise, continued with old passions or had been reacquainted with long lost hobbies.

Each of us really enjoyed this challenge. We all pushed ourselves out of our

comfort zones as we tried new activities, encouraging one another, keeping our minds and hearts focused on the Masai

girls whose opportunities in life might be widened by the donations people gave towards our 100 hours of exercise. It was a time where we each felt connected with one another but also with the wider MWA and Masai girls. It felt as though female empowerment ran throughout this challenge, uplifted by your kind donations, encouragement and support. Currently we have raised £1,140 for Masai School Girls. This was more than we could have imagined - thank you. If you haven't had the chance yet and would like to support our 100 hours of exercise with a donation please email gillian.taylor@moravian.org.uk for more information. Cheques will need to be payable to MWA. Please contact Gillian beforehand to ensure that everything is correct before you send it in. Thank you for all your support. Keep your eyes peeled ... we hope to take on a new challenge next year too!

Sr Laura Wood



Project 32 A Decade of Renewal, Stewardship, Evangelism and Growth

This report was presented at the Provincial Synod 2021 by Livingstone Thompson.

Introduction

Project 32 is the name that was coined to refer to the set of activities, to which the PEC invites the whole Province to commit over the decade 2022 to 2032. These activities are designed to effect growth in the Moravian Church, create new opportunities for mission and outreach and respond to societal needs. The need to focus on growth arises from the recognition that the congregations and districts must be scaled up with a clear plan to do those things that will help to ensure their sustainability. For the Districts this might mean looking to support the development of growth in new areas. For the congregations this will mean numerical increase in the numbers of members and all congregations move out of the 'at risk' zone.

Project 32 Aims:

The aims of the activities we propose are to ensure that by 2032, the Moravian Church in the UK will:

- Better equipped to respond to the needs of church & society
- See the benefit from the decade of Evangelism, 2022-2032
- Be re-structure for sustainable growth.

The activities that we will pursue are organised around the following areas: Provincial Staff, Provincial Structure Property and Finance, British Mission Board (BMB), Schools, Congregations, Districts, Stewardship Programme and Evangelism Programme.

Implementing Project 32

To ensure the effective, sustained implementation of Project 32, it is considered that a Provincial implementation Taskforce will be named to oversee the Project 32 programme and a resolution to that effect was approved by the Synod. The advantage of coordinating in this way is to ensure a consistent implementation of the project, even with the Provincial leadership changes that will take place over the coming years.

Project 32 Activities

The table below sets out examples of the kind of activities that are being considered for of area above. The PEC together with the Implementation Committee will decide on the final set of activities. A review of Project 32 itself will be undertaken about 2027.

Areas for Action	2021 Planning	2022 Planning	2023 Implement	2024 Implement	2025 Implement	2026 Implement	2027 Outcomes
Provincial Staff	General Secretary for Missions (GSM) / Communication Officer recruited. Team ministry initiatives.	New staff posts evaluated. Team ministry assessed.	New posts fully operational. Team ministry in full flow.	New posts fully operational. Team ministry in full flow.	New posts fully operational. Team ministry in full flow.	New posts fully operational. Team ministry in full flow.	New posts stable and performing Team ministry fully developed.
Provincial Structure	New Districts	New District	New District	New District	New District	New District	New District structure stable
Property & Financial	Review property holdings New Investment	Monitor Investment New Property Optimise rental	Monitor Investment New Property Optimise rental	Monitor investments Optimize rental	Monitor Investment Optimise rental	Monitor Investment Optimise rental	Increased investment Increased rental income
BMB	GSM in posts New Board appointed New Programme developed	New Programme Overseas and local	New Programme Overseas and local	New Programme Overseas and local	New Programme Overseas and local	New Programme Overseas and local	No idle property Board meets consistently; Strategic plans implemented.
Schools	See Report on Schools						
Congregations	Plan new directions	Plan of new directions implemented	Revise Growth plan	Revise growth plan	Revise growth plan	Revise growth plan	Plan for growth producing results
District	Re-organise Districts; New directions for growth determined; Youth Directors / Coordinators identified	Re-organised Districts; Youth Directors / Coordinators identified	Re-organised Districts; New directions; Youth Directors / Coordinators working	Growth evident in each District	Growth evident in each District	Growth evident in each District	Youth and District work organised and experiencing growth
Building Projects	Re-build Brockweir Investigate the possible relocation of Church House	Re-build Brockweir Investigate the possible relocation of Church House	Re-build Brockweir Retreat Centre	Brockweir Retreat Centre operating	Brockweir Retreat Centre operating	Brockweir Retreat Centre operating	Retreat centre staffed and operating
Programmes	Plan Stewardship and Evangelism Programme	Appoint Director of Stewardship, Fundraising, Heritage Legacy; appoint Decade of Evangelism Director	Stewardship programme roll out; Evangelism programme roll out	Stewardship programme roll out; Evangelism programme roll out	Stewardship programme roll out; Evangelism programme roll out	Stewardship programme roll out; Evangelism programme roll out	Benefits of programme evident in congregations

Planting Trees

'When is the best time to plant a tree?' 'About 20 years ago' said the wise one!

When we first moved to Baildon in the 1990s the route we took to visit family in Gloucestershire was along the A42 from the M1 to the M5. It gave me real delight to see the planting of the National Forest in the area around that route. It is now a good number of years since I last travelled that road and I would love to see how the National Forest has developed and how the trees have grown. They have now planted over nine million trees¹ and there are plans to establish a National Forest in Wales.

Trees are important to us for many reasons. They are the lungs of the world: a mature tree can absorb up to 150kg of CO₂ per year². So, they are massively important in combating climate change. Trees support a huge range of wildlife from the large through to the microscopic, from deer, squirrels, birds and bats, insects, bacteria, and fungi. It is estimated that a mature British Oak can support an estimated 2,300 species of wild life³. Trees are important for building, paper, fruit, furniture and fuel. Lastly but not least, trees are important for our quality of life. They can give a sense of well-being, tranquillity, remove pollution and lower temperatures in our urban areas⁴.

Tree cover is very limited in the United Kingdom. It is estimated that only 13% of the land in the UK is covered by trees compared to 37% in Europe. The situation is even worse in Northern Ireland where there is only 8% tree cover. Trees get cut down for all sorts of reasons. Sometimes for road and housing development, removing hedges, tidying up gardens, improving views and only occasionally for safety reasons. A very serious threat to trees now is the emergence of Ash Die Back disease that

could cause the removal of between 75-95% of all ash trees in the country⁵.

The Woodland Trust is promoting the planting of trees in our country. They want to work with others to increase the tree cover in the UK to 17%⁶.



Planting of willow slips - the two youngest trees in Gracehill

© Sr Sarah Groves

An important bonus to this will be the creation of more native woodland habitat for wildlife boosting biodiversity. They are providing free packs of trees for schools and community groups to plant in their local areas.

The Mission and Society Committee support this call to plant trees and so they brought a proposal to Synod to ask the Moravian Church nationally and locally to identify areas of Church land that can be used for the planting of native trees. They also want individual Church members who own land to look and see if it is possible to plant native trees on their land. They also asked that the Church nationally and locally, and individual members let the Mission and

Society Committee know about land that has been planted so that the committee can quantify how many trees, and acreage, have been planted as a result of this campaign. They were delighted when this proposal passed and became a resolution of Synod.

We know that we may only be able plant small numbers of trees compared to the big charities but individual pockets of trees and secure protected local habitats are so important for wildlife. Good planting in urban areas can make a real difference to the feel of areas and the sustainability of local populations of insects and birds. So, don't think that a small contribution will not count because it will, it is part of a greater whole.

The Queen's Green Canopy is another charity asking for people to plant a tree or trees to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. I was very privileged to be asked to record just a very short segment for a video promoting this initiative. Individuals and community groups, youth organisations, faith groups and others will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees from October, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022. It is hoped to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

Trees are an important part of our faith story. The Bible starts with a garden and a tree in the midst - the tree of life, and it ends in Revelation 22 with the tree of life with leaves for the healing of the nations. In one beautiful parable Jesus suggests that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny seed that grows into an enormous tree that supports the birds of the air - the kingdom of heaven like a tree which supports and protects life. (Matthew 13:31-32)

So how to go about this and where to get the trees from. Firstly, look at the land or space that you have available, and aim to plant the right trees in the right place. How boggy or dry is the land, how big will your proposed trees grow and what impact will they have on neighbours and nearby buildings. Can you apply to the Woodland Trust for trees? Are there local grant schemes for tree planting? Can you propagate your own trees from willow or hawthorn quicks or plant acorns or conkers etc? Can you buy certified stock from a local nursery? Can you protect the small trees from rabbits, sheep and deer? This need not be a costly project. If you can't plant a tree or trees on your property, can you donate to a charity that is involved in planting trees?

Trees are best planted between October and March so if it is too late to do something this year it is better to plan and wait until next year. It may also give you time to look at grants that may be available. If you want to plant a tree(s) for the Queen's Green Canopy you can download a template for a plaque from the QGC website.

It is a wonderful opportunity to join with others in doing something positive. In November last year I did a bit of guerrilla gardening with some local children - we planted, with the permission of the local land owner, a pile of willow slips in some boggy ground. It has been a delight to see them come into leaf this spring and I can't wait to see their growth through the summer.

The Mission and Society Committee would share in that delight when we hear at Synod 2022 about the trees planted this year in the autumn and at Synod 2024 about trees planted in 2022, and 2023 - not just as our Church's Christian commitment to the good of our world.

Old Trees are a witness to past events and young trees are a symbol of hope for the future.

Sr Sarah Groves

Mission and Society Committee and Gracehill



© Br Herbert Daly

Welcome to Question Time!

So, these are the days! The ones I've heard about.

Now, I can never complain about having such a wonderful and loving family. Surely it's been the most enjoyable and defining thing. Every phase of being a dad has entailed new delights and challenges, some you anticipate and some you don't. The opportunity to revisit your own childhood interests being one of those delights. And yet it's not always easy to predict which stage you are currently in and when you'll need to recover your unpractised strengths; both physical and mental!

A recent case in point: the other day, my newly teenage daughter had a few questions for me. (The fruit of Religious Studies classes at school it seemed). 'Dad, why are we Christians?' 'Dad, how can you believe in the Bible when it's all just stories? And it's sexist!' 'Dad, science is based on evidence so why should we believe in religion?' 'Dad, why did you have me Christened? Wouldn't it have been better to let me choose?'

Wow, I thought. We are here already? Welcome to Question Time! Once at eight years old, she sat in the John Gambold room sketching the Lamb and Flag of her own accord. Now it would seem, all our previous assumptions are to be shaken in a bag, re-ordered, held up to the light and examined! Perhaps the first visit of many to a world of spiritual curiosity. Am I up to this? My answers to all of the questions above has probably changed over time. Certainly, since I was 13 years old in any case. How to give answers that are true but can also evolve? How to reconcile the different views of the world we hold simultaneously? Where we feel one thing to be 'right', how to define that without condemning others as 'wrong', especially in a multi-faith context?

Question time indeed!

The occurrence of this gentle Father-Daughter wrestling match has reminded me how difficult it is to establish consensus on important questions ... even sometimes in a group of one. Though some may value the very 'traditional' or 'hard' answers, for many young minds navigating the world they see around them, such explanations can ring hollow; an unsatisfying meal for the

intellect, however 'proper' or prescribed ... and it must be said, in these conversations there is none the less, an energy of renewal. Opportunities to re-engage and to remember: why do we believe the things we do? What about all the things we don't agree with in the Bible? Isn't truth just about evidence - that's why science is better surely?

Hmmmm ... Well let me see ...

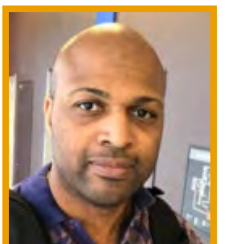
'I wanted you Christened for the same reason I wanted you to have food and clothes ... understand that one however you wish!'

'Some things we read we understand clearly, others take time and perspective. The stories offer lessons as well as traditions and histories. People have made good use of them but sometimes poor use of them too. Our challenge is to always do better - or at least try our best to. Let me know how you get on!'

'Well ... everything depends! So, remember when Solomon was asked to decide between two women who claimed the same child? Who was the true mother? A scientific approach may be to ask for a DNA test and to settle the matter with certainty. Solomon's approach, threatening the child's life, might seem quite barbarous and unscientific on the face of it. However, his method served to establish who cared for the child most. The woman he chose may not even have been the child's biological mother but the 'truth' of her claim was in how much she cared. We may sometimes draw on strengths beyond the narrowness of certainty!'

So far so good. The world keeps turning and Christmas is safe - for now - even if Santa has long since been replaced by an endless stream of delivery vans. Despite the perils of walking the parental tight rope, it's good to know that thoughtful young intellectuals will come up for air and look at life afresh. As a dad I only hope I can stay ahead of the game and on demand, serve up digestible, nutritious meals for those hungry young minds. No pressure then!

Br Herbert Daly
Fetter Lane



Notes: 1 <https://www.nationalforest.org/>
2, 3, 4 <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>
5 <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/restoring-woodlands-affected-by-ash-dieback>
6 www.woodlandtrust.org

Rules



By the time you are reading this I hope we are out of 'lockdown' but even so we will still have rules to follow.

Rules are very important because we live in communities, we are not hermits! We have the ten commandments and much of our common law is based on these. In Church, we have rules, some of which come from our Synod e.g. who can serve at Holy Communion, and some for our specific situation, for example when the Lord's Supper is celebrated. Hopefully, our 'man made' rules are in line with the teaching of Jesus. Jesus could be very scathing about the 'Law makers of Israel' we read in Matthew 23:13: 'How terrible for you teachers of the law and Pharisees! You are hypocrites! You close the door for people to enter the kingdom of heaven. You yourselves don't enter and stop others who are trying to enter.' Jesus continues in the same vein about going far to make converts, swearing oaths by the temple or by the gold in the temple; about rules on tithing of herbs but neglecting justice, mercy and being loyal. (Mt 23,14-24)

Because of the pandemic we have had to make rules about our services and much of this has been directed by the Government, social distancing, wearing masks and cleansing hands. To begin with we have had services on Zoom, YouTube, and printed out for email or hand delivery, then back in Church with many regulations. All this has been very testing for us all, for me it was sad not to be able to sing hymns and no 'after church' refreshments and chats.

It is a very good time to review our rules about 'how we do Church' and if any would be criticised by Jesus!

Thankfully we have one or two vaccines and there is discussion about whether we should keep them to ourselves or make sure the poorer countries of the world get vaccinated. It seems that we must ensure vaccines are administered worldwide to prevent variants returning to our shores. This seems a selfish motive

but we must remember we are all God's children. This is true for Church: the greatest 'losers' due to COVID-19 are the children, young people and friends who use our buildings mid-week, these are our neighbours. It has been estimated by Scripture Union that 95% of children and young people have no connection with church; it is probably a little less for adults but it is still a very large number. Coming out of lockdown, our rules about Church need to reflect this. Is our Sunday Service likely to reach this 95%? Some have tried Alpha, Emmaus or similar, 'Fresh Expressions' such as 'Messy Church', 'Cafe Church' maybe on a different day of the week. I think we are all trying to revive our midweek and special events. Could we make a rule that one or two different members visit our midweek activities regularly, this will foster friendships with non-members? We could have a regular Coffee Morning and a 'Cafe' style Church and services we take to care homes; parent and toddlers is a good way to provide a service for the community as is Youth Work and Uniformed groups. These are always looking for volunteers and we have to register for child protection. Sr Joy Raynor in the July Messenger looks at 'Intergenerational Ministry' and we 'Baby Boomers' (I just scrape in!) younger and older need to be welcoming and encouraging to those younger who we have connections with.

We certainly need to do more ecumenically and forgive hierarchies in our Churches that can be like the teachers of the law in Jesus' day. I am writing this on 6th July, the anniversary of Jan Hus being burnt at the stake in 1415. It is also the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers going to North America.

We also need to get alongside those who would not dream of coming to our buildings. The 'Food Banks' are good as are the 'Credit Unions'. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby has been getting alongside 'Big Issue' vendors and writes in the 21st June issue that the Anglican Church is going to put a huge

proportion of its inherited wealth into affordable housing. We may not be able to sell the 'Big Issue' but we can buy it from vendors and the Co-op and Sainsburys. We can stop for a chat with a vendor we see.

Br Alan Holdsworth touches on the use of our inherited wealth in the July Messenger. This is political and as Alan says our 'Chief Elder' expects us to get involved. We also need to be active in raising issues of climate change for ourselves, near neighbours and those far away.

I have been blessed by being the Minister in the Leicester congregation and thus become more aware of the issues with the 'Windrush Generation', many still awaiting compensation! We are all aware of the 'Taking of the knee' and the book by Michael Holding 'Why we kneel, How we rise' has reinforced how we need to change our history education for the benefit of everyone. We cannot just think it is a thing of the past.

Jesus sent out the disciples in twos to tell about the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth (Luke 9: 16).

When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment by a teacher of the law Luke 10: 25-37 he gave us the parable of 'The Good Samaritan'. The whole of the Law of God summed up in 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself'.

If we have very limited contact with our neighbour then how can we love them? Jesus sent out the 12 and another 72 (Luke 10) to reach out to a needy world. Jesus sends us out of our Churches today and we will have the Holy Spirit with us.

God bless.

Br Cliff Winfield



heritage open days

FAIRFIELD MORAVIAN CHURCH, SETTLEMENT & MUSEUM, DROYLSDEN

Sunday 12 September 2021 1pm to 5pm
Location for Great British Railway Journeys, Peaky Blinders & the film Mrs Lowry & Son
Tours every half hour 1pm-4pm (booking preferred see HOD website for details)
Stalls and Refreshments
Free Admission
(All parking in Fairfield High School off Fairfield Avenue M43 6ED)

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

@heritageopendays #HODs /heritageopendays @heritageopendays

FREE TO EXPLORE heritage open days

HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND 2021

MORAVIAN CHURCH LOWER WYKE

Est. 1755
LOWER WYKE LANE, WYKE, BRADFORD.

SATURDAY 11th SEPT. FROM 10AM TO 4PM
SUNDAY 12th SEPT. FROM NOON TO 4PM

BUILDINGS OF HISTORIC INTEREST
PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH AND THE LOWER WYKE CONGREGATION
PRESENT DAY CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND MEMORABILIA
CHURCH REGISTERS AVAILABLE FOR STUDY
REFRESHMENTS

EUROPEAN HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2021 N. Ireland

Cliftonville Moravian Church

will be open from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
on
Sunday 12th September

Theme:
Inclusion - exploring our hidden history together.

This year we will be joined by Turlough and Claire, who now own and have offered to open the house next door that was the manse from 1937-1996.



heritage open days FULNECK

'FUNKY FOOD FACTS'
SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2021
10.30 AM TO 4 PM

FREE ENTRY

CHILDRENS' ACTIVITY REFRESHMENTS

MUSEUM

EXHIBITION DRAMA

GUIDED TOURS

www.fulneck.org.uk postcode LS28 8NT

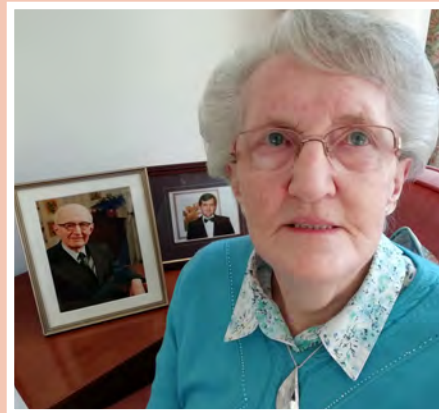


Belfast University Road

Sr Marian Woods - the end of an era!

For the Church Committee at University Road Belfast, Monday 14th June 2021 saw the end of an era. It was the final meeting attended by Sr Marian Woods who had announced her intention to stand down after an astonishing 30+ years of unbroken service as a member of the Committee.

Although the meeting was being held remotely by Zoom, due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the occasion did not go unmarked. As well as the many tributes paid to Sr Marian by the 'virtual' participants at the meeting she also had an unexpected visitor to her home in the person of fellow Committee member Sr Mandy Kernohan who presented her with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Church Committee. Sr Marian's surprised and delighted expression was captured by the webcam and much enjoyed by us all as she declared herself (for once) speechless!



© Br Derrick Woods

Over the many years in which she has been a member of the Committee, Sr Marian has worked tirelessly for the good of the University Road congregation, rarely, if ever, missing a meeting, taking on a myriad of challenging roles and always being the first to step up for whatever work needed to be done.

We will miss her words of wisdom and common-sense

approach in all our deliberations and decision making, but we know that she will continue to serve the congregation in her indefatigable and unassuming manner in many other ways and we wish her well for her 'retirement'.

Sr Carol Ackah

Belfast Cliftonville

When Sr June McGrath passed away on 17th December her friends at Cliftonville were unable to attend her funeral because of Lockdown, so it was good to have the opportunity to join Jim and their daughters, Susan, her husband Mark and three sons, and Jennifer, husband Alan and their two daughters in a memorial service on 20th June, the day before what would have been June's birthday. Her presence is sorely missed by her family and friends.

A church family picnic and walk at Hazelbank was planned for 4th July. After Monday to Friday of lovely weather, the forecasters warned of a change to thunder and heavy rain, so it was decided to bring coats and umbrellas and hope for the best, even if it meant eating our lunches in the cars. However, the sun appeared as we left the church and continued to shine during several hours of good fellowship by the sea and an opportunity to catch



© Br John Cooper

up with conversation that was not possible during the long months of Lockdown. We had such a happy time we hope to repeat the event in the near future.

After Cliftonville members filled the slots provided for the Prayer Watch, as

last year, we thought of Moravians no longer living near a congregation who may not have an opportunity to take part. The notes were sent to several with the suggestion they might like to share an hour with one of us, and among others, Br Eckhard Buchholz in South Africa, our past minister, was pleased to take part.

Sr Edna Cooper

Horton

We are getting used to a new 'normal' following lockdown and are so grateful to be able to attend church and see each other again, even if it is behind a mask, socially distanced, with no singing, no chatting, and no cups of Yorkshire tea after the service, all things we love. Like most congregations we have kept in touch during lockdown using WhatsApp, Zoom, phone calls and sometimes a letter or card, but it's not the same as being in the same room with



our 'church family'.

We have all been supported in lockdown by our church committee who have made regular phone calls to make sure we were all ok and to ask if any help was needed and we give thanks for that support.

Now we are back in church we have started once again to collectively support others including donating to a local foodbank, sponsoring Sr Maureen Colbert's drastic haircut in aid of Cancer Research, and at last being able to hand in our Mission boxes. We look forward to the next step out of lockdown and hope that we are able to do more fundraising, socialising and singing.

We have just heard that at Synod 2021 our minister, Brother David Howarth, was elected for one year as a fulltime stipendiary PEC member. Our best wishes go with David for his work in the coming year, we will miss his ministry, support and dry sense of humour!

Sr Linda Barraclough

Notices



Ockbrook School

It was with profound regret that the PEC, as Trustees of Ockbrook School, announced to the Synod, the proposed closure of Ockbrook School due to insolvency. The Trustees had considered a number of options to ensure long term viability, however the cost of loss making which continued to be exacerbated by the pandemic was too high and the school closed on Friday 9th July 2021. Ockbrook School was a centre of education and witness for the Moravian Church for 222 years and we know that its legacy will be felt for many generations more. We would like to thank all those in the Ockbrook community who have supported the school during the past few difficult months and weeks, and to all the teachers and school staff who served Ockbrook School and its pupils with such distinction. We wish all former pupils, staff and parents our best for the future.



The Moravian Pilgrimage Committee is delighted to announce:

A Journey to Who We Are!

11th-14th September 2021



This is an opportunity to visit all of our congregations in the British Province over the course of four exciting days of discovery.

You are, therefore, cordially invited to come with us, either with us in person in our minibus or electronically on t'internet!

We are also hoping to raise funds for Moravian Mission and Youth Work projects and so there would also be a chance to sponsor our adventure!

Thank you in advance for your support and if you are interested, then please contact us at patsy.holdsworth@moravian.org.uk or phill.battelle@outlook.com

Alternatively take a look at our sign-up page: <https://tinyurl.com/moravianpilgrim>

Correction: the article, 'Fetter Lane Memories', on page 77 of the July issue of the Moravian Messenger was incorrectly attributed to Sr Sheila Mitchell but was actually written by Sr Libby Mitchell. Our apologies to both sisters.

From Church House

Provincial Diary for August

18 Moravian Union AGM

24-25 PEC Meeting

Dates to remember!

- 13 Manifestation of the of the Spirit at Herrnhut in 1727
- 10 Muharram/Islamic New Year - Muslim
- 21 The beginning of the Moravian Missions in 1732
- 22 Raksha Bandhan - Hindu
- 23 UNESCO International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
(www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/srd/ or <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/18>)

Congregational Register

Baptisms

16th May 2021	Remi James	Belfast University Road
20th June 2021	Joel Ken Macartney	Belfast University Road
27th June 2021	Parker Kennedy	Gracehill

Confirmations

4th July 2021	Joshua Barr	Gracehill
4th July 2021	Anna Wray	Gracehill

Marriages

19th June 2021	Sheldon Richard Newman & Danielle Swain	Fairfield
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Belfast University Road

One Hundred and Fifty years of Moravians in Belfast

This year is the 150th anniversary of the commencement of worship in Belfast by Moravians and the University Road congregation are

planning a series of events to commemorate this special year. Whilst 1871 is recognised as the first meetings of Moravians in Belfast, in the 1830s John Carey, a non-ordained home missionary, attempted to set up local meetings of Moravians who had moved to Belfast for work. This effort did not have the support of the Elders in Gracehill and came to nought.

By way of background, John Cennick's 'preaching tour' of Ireland in the 18th century was confined to rural areas with the result that, apart from Dublin, the early Moravian congregations in Ireland were sited in country villages. In the late 18th and early 19th century Belfast was becoming more industrialised as the linen mills and shipyards grew with the resultant greater employment opportunities. According to the book 'Portrait of an Industrial City' (Stephen Royle) by the end of the 19th century only a quarter of the population of Belfast were born there. Increasing numbers of Moravian members of the rural congregations moved to Belfast to take up work in the linen industry, the shipyards and the newly built gas works.

In 1871 the Rev Joseph Carey, son of the aforementioned John Carey, set up a home mission in Belfast assisted by the scripture reader J J Hanna. Meetings were held in various buildings ranging from private houses to hired halls and meeting rooms. Due to ill health the Rev Carey was replaced in 1875 by the Rev W O Lang who continued the Home Mission work in Belfast. From the diary entries of the Rev Lang it was obvious that this was from time to time an onerous task, 'during the service this evening 3 young women did their best to disturb the meeting and walked out in the middle of the sermon'. Unfortunately, in 1877 the Rev Lang had to leave due to ill health and was replaced by the Rev S Kershaw who had accepted the call to carry on the home missionary work in Belfast. The Rev Kershaw was invited to the General Elders Conference (GEC) at Gracehill where he reported that the attendances at meetings in Belfast were increasing and it was agreed to explore the possibility of building a 'schoolhouse'. Later in May of that year the Rev Kershaw writes that a Chapel could be substituted for the Lombard Hall, which had been rented for meetings but was only available on Sundays, and would be more useful than a Sunday School. Eventually the GEC agreed in 1881 that a Moravian Church should be built in Belfast and after fundraising was commenced a suitable site was purchased at the junction of the Lisburn Road and University Road. The present church was



© Northern Ireland Historical Photograph Society

opened on the 14th May 1887 thanks to donations from numerous benefactors many of whom were in fellow congregations in Ireland and England. The list of donors ranges from - A Londoner £15 to A Poor man 6d.

In the early 20th century, the congregation grew and in order to accommodate members who lived further away a second congregation became established at Cliftonville in north Belfast. University Road was one of a 'triumvirate' of churches along with the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations in this immediate area. Unfortunately, both of our fellow churches have closed, one being derelict and the other taken over by another Christian group. The fact that the Moravians are still here bears testament to our belief that the Lord has a purpose for us in this area. We have had our tribulations, a nearby bomb in 1972 damaged the church and in 1986 a bomb placed outside Lisburn Road RUC station destroyed the manse.

As in all Moravian churches University Road has a true sense of 'family' amongst all its members which is demonstrated by the sense of belonging to 'our' church even though many members have moved away from the immediate area. One area that brings joy to all our hearts is the number of children in our Sunday School with regular attendances of over 10. Despite a reducing list of members, as is common in all churches, many activities and groups are connected to the congregation - MWA, Bible Study, Indoor bowls, Garden Club, Arts and Crafts group. The church has recognised that as part of the local community we must provide whatever support we can and consequently our outreach has included - Nightreach at weekends to provide a coffee and listening ear to late night 'revellers', MCafe as a means for young people (especially from the local University) to get together and share fellowship, building a partnership with a local food bank. The church hall is utilised by local groups, dance, choir and martial arts to name a few. In essence the church is a community hub as well as a place of worship.

Br John Costley

The Moravian Messenger

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