



## Consecration of Sr Lorraine Shorten



There was great excitement at Leominster Moravian Church when we learned that our minister was to be consecrated as a Presbyterian in our church. We had attended her ordination as a Deacon at our sister church in Birmingham, Hall Green United Community Church and felt very honoured that she felt that we, despite being so much smaller, could share in her special day.

Local caterers, Leslie and Cheryl of Bell's Court Cafe, were engaged to provide eats and drinks for 50 people and they did us proud with a delicious spread. Because of COVID restrictions, we could not

accommodate the much larger congregation of Hall Green, so only Blair and Lynn Kessler came to help with a Zoom recording to send live to Hall Green so that the members there could watch, either in church or at home.

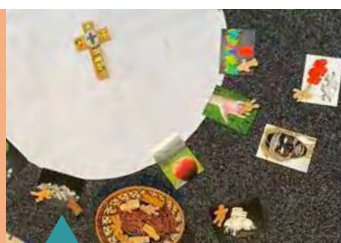
Friends of the church and representatives from Churches Together in Leominster attended and most of the Moravian ministers in the British Province attended. Only one or two were unable to travel from Ireland, although Bishop Sarah Groves was able to come to preside over the consecration itself. Sr Dilys Howard did the scripture reading and Sr Lyn Kessler presented Lorraine with a Bible on behalf of the Hall Green congregation. and Rob Milan played the organ. Sr Jane

Carter preached on Colossians 3:12-17. She started with her and Lorraine's shared love of dress making and drew together threads from that into a reflection on the clothes that are required for a Minister, compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, forgiveness and patience. The order of service contained a hymn that had been specially written for Lorraine, by Rev Jan Berry from Northern College where Lorraine had trained for the ministry.

It was indeed a day to remember and we ask for God's continued blessings on Sr Lorraine.

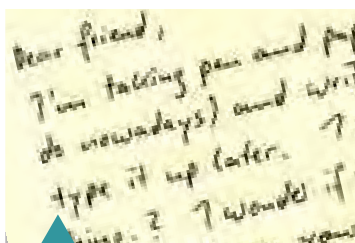
**Sr Dulcie Scott**

*Leominster Moravian Church*



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January is a time in the Church when we traditionally think of travellers - the wise men from afar seeking the child who has been born King of the Jews, we think of the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt as refugees and realise that at some point, when danger is over, they return to Nazareth.

In our family we often plan or dream of holidays, places far away that we long to visit and January used to be the month when the dream could start to become real. But travel abroad has become a nightmare in these COVID times, with tests and forms before you go, tests and forms before you come back and tests after you come back.

I have had the privilege of travel recently with a trip to Herrnhut that involved flying into Prague, so forms to get into the Czechia and then forms to get into Germany, then forms to get back into the UK: the passenger locator form. This form is much more complicated than the forms used by other countries and takes an age to do. Sadly, even more recently we travelled to the Netherlands for a family funeral. More tests and forms before you fly and before you return! But it had been a difficult few days and we had forgotten to fill in the passenger locator form on our return and as a consequence was to experience what some visitors sadly have to face on entry to the UK.

We waited in the airport in what appeared to be an unheated tin shed to approach the British Border Force who were there to check our documentation. Of course, our lack of paperwork was discovered and we were sent to wait until everyone else had cleared through the immigration queue. However, the senior official was officious

and condescending to everyone who approached him and we could hear everyone's business being discussed. Most of the men who approached him were obviously sailors coming to join local ships - but what a welcome to the UK for them.

We, waiting wearily, were with one other person: a traveller who like us had no paperwork but he was going to be shipped off to a quarantine hotel. He told us a bit about his travels and that he had been away with a charity. When we left, sometime later, this poor man was still cold after waiting so long and his transportation would be delayed even further as the van had broken down.

Of course, there are necessary procedures for checking for the correct paperwork, but there are more courteous ways of doing that. All I can say is that we learn from our mistakes - we certainly learnt something from our mistake: that the welcome that visitors get coming into this country can be anything but friendly, helpful and welcoming. That day I was ashamed to be British.

Welcome is at the heart of the gospel, a welcome for the stranger, a welcome for the lonely, a welcome for the cold weary traveller, a welcome for us all. Let us try, this new year, to be welcoming and compassionate in all our personal dealings and work to make our institutions more humane for those who come face to face with them in their time of need.



**Sr Sarah Groves**  
Editorial Team



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## Are you inspired by the outdoors?

that enable us to venture out, leave the every-day and connect with God in creation, in each other and in ourselves.

Our focus tends to be within the UK and Ireland and since 1988 we have taken people to most corners of these wild and beautiful islands.

There is an underlying Celtic spirituality threaded through all that we do - the worship and rhythm of the day, creating community and hospitality and seeing God in all things.

Ours is a spirituality fed by the outdoors; by hills, mountains and walking.

Holidays may be on a 'self-cater as a group' basis using our own house, or perhaps in a small hotel or retreat house where catering is provided.

We tailor each trip using the best of our wide experience to create a time away that, we believe, is unique.

Even though we are a Christian organisation (and perhaps because of it too) we welcome guests of all faiths and none.

Journeying is non-profit-seeking. Team members both guide the organisation and lead holidays. All are volunteers. Despite our wide separation geographically, there is a real community feel among the team - we are if you like, a dispersed community. Collaboration and sharing are very important.

Alongside the team there is a Friends group who contribute to our thinking and planning and offer prayer support.

For further details about Team membership please visit our website ([www.journeying.co.uk](http://www.journeying.co.uk)), telephone or email.

Kind Regards,

**The Journeying team.**

The Journeying team comprise men and women from a wide range of Christian traditions and walks of life. We are always pleased to hear from people interested in discovering more about team membership and journey leadership with Journeying.

For more than thirty years Journeying has been taking people on holiday in small informal groups to places on the edge - island, hill, shore.

Travelling in the spirit of pilgrimage our purpose is to provide inspiring holidays

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# Where are we now?

## CMN meeting November 2021

The Children's Ministry Network (part of Churches Together in Britain & Ireland) gathered in person at Shallowford House 20 months after having to cancel their previous conference due to COVID. About a third of those attending this had not been to a CMN before, mostly because they were new in post.

We opened by introducing ourselves then by reflecting on the challenging times we have been through, and their impact on churches' ministry among children. Some themes emerged:

- Families are reluctant to come back - have missed their sport etc but not church - WHY? What was wrong with what we were offering before?
- Shorter altogether worship works better now (plus coffee and craft/activity time).
- Outdoor spirituality has found resonance - people are persevering with this.
- Poor have got poorer - children's lives have been most impacted by economic fallout.
- Relationships need investing in - time, meals, intention.
- People are still working out what is safe for them - e.g. vulnerable people asking others to take a lateral flow test.

The main session involved listening to Dr Sarah Holmes from Liverpool Hope University who has been doing some interesting research throughout this pandemic time and shared some of the findings of her most recent research with the group, leading to a time of discussion.

She identified the 'Marks of COVID' as despondent, frustrated, confused teams; reduced teams and funding; segregated ministries; exhausted parents; decreased engagement from parents; some marginalised (e.g. younger/SEN/no tech access).

Another strand was looking at the views of churches and parents on provision during this time. The results from this were not encouraging with 66 % of parents feeling negatively about it and broadly churches feeling it was overlooked and there were no people left to do it. All rather depressing for a group of children workers trying to encourage, enable and empower people at the grass roots to engage with children and families.

The research results led Sarah to ask this about the churches:

- Are they meeting the needs of children?
- Are they meeting the needs of parents?
- Are they meeting the needs of churches?

Which picture resonates with you (or your ministry)? Place your person there - opening and closing reflection time



© Children's Ministry Network

The challenge to you all is: do you ever consider these questions:

- How would you ask them?
- And what would you do with the results?
- What is the role of church? Provider, place to belong, place to serve, partner.
- How can churches genuinely listen to the needs of children, families, and schools?

There was considerably more content, and more can be accessed here - <https://childrensministrybasics.com/2021/11/01/do-we-need-a-new-plan-for-childrens-ministry/> or by sending an email to me.

During discussions over the weekend the general feeling came that all churches and organisations have 'more important things' that push children down the agenda. How might we work to resource and connect children and those working with them with the key issues the church is wrestling with - environment, racism, gender, sexuality? As children's leaders we recognised that is sometimes hard to remind those in church leadership that children can also engage with these topics and be involved in decision making as members of the church, not a separate group.

**Sr Joy Raynor**

Provincial Youth and Children's Officer

### The Moravian Pilgrimage Committee

Invites you to a Retreat based on the theme of

## 'Travelling with God'

from 20th to the 22nd of May 2022  
at Ockbrook Moravian Church

The cost of the retreat would be £50 per person.

If you are interested please contact

Br Paul M Holdsworth at:

[paul.holdsworth@moravian.org.uk](mailto:paul.holdsworth@moravian.org.uk)

## Irish District of the MWA Retreat 2022

The Irish District  
of the M.W.A.

(Moravian Women's Association)

will be holding a  
retreat at  
**Drumalis, Larne,  
Co. Antrim from  
6th-8th May 2022**

**Guest Speaker:** Rev Dr Margaret Barker -  
Methodist Preacher and Theologian

**Theme:** Wonder Women - Then and Now

**Cost of Weekend:** £135 per person.

If interested please send me your name and  
address with booking fee of £15 - cheque made  
payable to Mrs K Kitson, and send to:  
6 Gracefield, Gracehill, Ballymena,  
Co. Antrim, BT42 2RP.  
Closing date for booking is 31st January 2022.



# A New Year Letter ...

Dear friend,

I'm taking pen and paper (which I rarely do nowadays) and writing to you. I will type it up later. I wonder how you are doing? I wonder if you are sitting comfortably on your sofa, or if you are surrounded by the snow-capped mountains of the Himalayas, or are you anywhere else in the world?

As the new year is just about to begin, I thought it's good to share some thoughts with you. You know, sometimes I ask myself: What is going on in life? And what is going on in your life? And in the lives of other friends and neighbours, known and unknown.

Today, when speaking to some other friends, I've asked them, 'How is life for you? What are your aspirations for the new year? What would be your message to people for the new year?'

One said, 'This morning I've met a young lady who has two children. One has a brain tumour, and the other one is disabled. The husband - the father of the children - left them. They live with her brother, but they can't stay there. They simply don't know what to do.' And she added, 'I felt so helpless, and I learnt anew to appreciate what I have and the way I live.'

Soon after this conversation my mobile rang and my daughter Tamara was at the other end. After talking about a few things, I asked her the same questions, and she replied, 'Each time I think about life, I am so grateful. I may not be rich, but my health is reasonably good. I have family and friends, and I am just grateful for life.'

And then I talked to another friend who said, 'My message to people for the new year would be: Be happy, be kind, and help others. We don't know what other people go through, so be kind anyway. Look after yourself and your loved ones. Support those who are in need.'

My dear friend, when you have some time, please let me know what your thoughts are. How is life going for you? Are you under pressure right now, or are you relaxed? Maybe you have problems with your health, in your family or at work? Or maybe you are just content with whatever life throws at you? Are your thoughts dark or light or mixed?

You see, I have many questions. I would like you to know that I am thinking about

you, and I pray that you may get the strength, energy and wisdom you need in order to live your life in the best possible way.

I don't know how much you know about German politics. But you may have heard that Germany has a new government. The outgoing chancellor Angela Merkel urged people in her farewell speech to 'always see the world through the eyes of others too' and to work 'with joy in your hearts'.

I too would like to encourage you to keep this joy deep in your heart - whenever possible, even when you find yourself in a 'black hole'. I can hear you saying,

Dear friend,  
I'm taking pen and paper (which I rarely do nowadays) and write to you. I will type it up later. I wonder how you are doing? I wonder if you are sitting comfortably on your sofa, or if you are surrounded by the snow-capped mountains of the Himalayas, or are you anywhere else in the world?  
As the new year is just about to begin, I thought it's good to share some thoughts with you. You know, sometimes I ask myself: What is going on in life? And what is going on in your life? And in the lives of other friends and neighbours, known and unknown.  
Today, when speaking to some other friends, I've asked them, 'How is life for you? What are your aspirations for the new year? What would be your message to people for the new year?' P.T.O.

'How can I do this? Is this at all possible?'

I wonder if a story from the Russian poet Fyodor Dostoevski can give - at least partly - an answer to these questions. It is called 'Martin the Cobbler' or 'Where love is, there God is also'.

When you have time, please do read the whole story. I will try to summarise it here:

Martin the cobbler was living and working in his basement. Through the window he could only see the feet of people. But he recognised most people by their shoes as he had repaired so many. Martin's wife had died, and also their children.

In his grief he denied God. Somehow he got hold of a large-print bible and began

to read. The more he read the more peace and joy came back into his heart. One night Martin thought he heard the voice of God telling him that he would visit him the next day.

The next morning Martin was sceptically looking out of his window hoping God would come. But he only saw the old Stepanitch shovelling away the snow. Martin invited him in for a warm drink and they talked. Stepanitch later left and thanked Martin for the food, both for the soul and body.

Later Martin noticed a young woman outside with a baby. They shivered in the cold. He invited them in and gave some food and warm clothes. Then he saw a young boy stealing from an older lady. He went outside and settled their argument.

That night while Martin wondered why God had not visited him, the three figures appeared in his dream and he realised that by inviting them he invited God in. And the joy and the peace remained permanently in his heart.

Dear friend, I wish you the same peace and joy, in particular when life is tough. But this peace and joy can only take root if it is shared. It is for everyone.

Recently Pope Francis visited Cyprus. He spoke to several hundred refugees. After he had finished his prepared speech, he put his manuscript aside and spoke freely, 'We all see what is happening. And the worst is that we get used to other people's suffering. 'Ah', people say, 'today a boat capsized. Many people are missing.' The fact that we get used to this is like a horrible illness.'

My friend, do you think we can do something together in order to share peace and joy with as many people as possible?

Happy New Year to you. May God bless you, and you, and you ... all of us, and the whole earth, because 'the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.' (Psalm 24:1).

With love,

Joachim

<https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/papst-migration-appell-fluechtlinge-101.html>

**Br Joachim Kreusel**  
Minister of Leicester and  
Ockbrook Moravian Churches

## Convening the British Mission Board



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The British Mission Board exists within the remit of the British PEC and until recently it was made up of all the members of the PEC. Our work is predominately focused in the South Asia Mission area and our partnership with MCWT (Moravian Church Western Tanzania), but we also seek to support efforts across the Unity.

The pandemic has had a considerable impact on developments within BMB, projects and across all Provincial institutions, and financial challenges have warranted significant attention. For the most part, we have been able to adapt in terms of engagement and the pandemic did focus minds on moving forward with the strategic review.

Recognising much of our work is centred in South Asia but also constrained by its current governance structures, five broad areas of focus have been defined:

1. Move towards sustainability as a Mission Agency with greater demarcation from the PEC.
2. Support organisational structures to enable independence and self-governance within South Asia Mission Area.
3. Support ministry formation from encouraging recruitment, educations, deployment, and continuing development.
4. Support education in Moravian institutions.
5. Encourage outreach and evangelism into new areas of mission and ministry.

The British Mission Board was formally restructured at Synod 2021 by the following resolution:

## BMB (British Mission Board) News



© Sr Roberta Hoey

Haflong in January 2018



© Sr Roberta Hoey

Site of the new build

## Supporting Haflong Moravian Church, Assam

The Moravian community in Haflong, Assam, have been planning on building a new Church and facilities that will enable them to do more outreach and ministry. The Unity Prayer Day appeal in 2019 was in aid of the building work and will cover some of the cost, which unfortunately has been delayed since the onset of the pandemic.

Unfortunately, their current building has collapsed and beyond repair, and there is a need to start building a new place of worship immediately and the Moravian Church in India are raising funds to support this. In the New Year, we will send

updates on progress and what further support is needed. Please keep the congregation in your prayers and if you would like to make a donation, you can do so through Church House by:

- Card payment: please telephone Church House on 020 8883 3409 who can take payment over the phone.
- Cash: donations to your local congregation.
- Cheques: should be made payable to Moravian Union Inc.
- Bank transfer: 40-52-40 Acc # 00023436. Please use reference: Haflong.



## Br Geoffrey Stokell (1930-2021)



The first time I met Geoffrey Stokell was at Summer School, when he and his wife Madeleine came to talk to the participants about their work in Tanzania. I must have been about 12 years old, but I recall being very impressed at what they had been doing in that far away land. My next recollections of Br Geoffrey are from various Synods down the years and my fondest memories of those encounters were his smile and infectious positive personality. I know that I am not alone in being captivated by Br Geoffrey's smile and being immediately made to feel somehow special in his presence. In fact, Br Geoffrey was known as 'Everybody's Friend' and he made everybody that he talked to feel special, whether he had known them for decades or even if he had only just met them for the very first time. He listened with patience and interest, but he was also a great talker, with great knowledge and authority on pretty much any subject for most of his life.

Br Geoffrey was born in Hull on the 2nd June 1930, but soon found himself evacuated to the Yorkshire countryside, as the docks in Hull were the target of dozens of raids by the Luftwaffe. After graduating from St Catherine's College, Cambridge, Br Geoffrey found himself in Gambia and then in North Carolina. It was only later in life when Br Geoffrey discovered the Moravian Church, but when he did he found kindred spirits and a call back to Africa to serve the Lord there as a Moravian Missionary. For seven years he and Sr Madeleine served as missionaries in Western Tanzania, which was followed by six years working for the Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service, based in Dar es Salaam. It was from here that Br Geoffrey helped the refugees streaming out of Burundi and Rwanda during the humanitarian crisis in those countries. It is believed that his efforts led to the saving of possibly thousands of lives during those troubled times.

When the time came to return to the UK Br Geoffrey decided that he wanted to climb Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, before he left. He duly achieved this feat at the tender age of 64, wearing his Cambridge College tie, one of his collection of 150 ties, at the top in the snow. And his return home was not uneventful either, for he and Madeleine travelled via New York on none other than the QEII! In England Br Geoffrey lived

in Wantage in Oxfordshire, and his spiritual home was Wantage Methodist Church, however he did maintain close ties to the Moravian Church. Br Geoffrey forged links with Moravian congregations in the Western District, including Malmesbury and Tytherton, he served on the Moravian Finance Committee for many years, and he was also a Deputy at Synod. And it is at these Synods that many of us would have had the pleasure of meeting with Br Geoffrey.

In amongst serving the Lord through the Moravian Church, his devotion to his family and his never-failing willingness to be there for those who he met, Br Geoffrey did find time for hobbies. He was particularly keen on sport especially rugby and cricket.

He was a member of the MCC and would often be seen wearing his tie at the Home of Cricket: Lord's, often beside an invited guest. Br Geoffrey was also a supporter of Wantage Cricket Club and he also served various local teams as an umpire. You can imagine him standing there, the scrupulously fair gentleman, sporting one of his favourite hats, giving his decisions with a true generosity of spirit.

On the 21st October Br Geoffrey was called home to a higher purpose by the Lord. It has been said that, given half a chance to build his own heaven, it would look very much like

his beloved Yorkshire, and I, for one, hope that heaven is just like that for our Brother. Writing in the Messenger in 1986, from Kishwahili, Western Tanzania, Br Geoffrey quoted a local phrase in Swahili, namely Umeshindaji, which means simply 'Are you winning?' For me this greeting sums up our Brother Geoffrey, as it encapsulates his inquisitive nature, his positivity and his genuine concern for everyone he met. It was my privilege to have been at Br Geoffrey's Celebration Service, held at Wantage Methodist Church and to hear all the wonderful things that were being said about him, by friends and family alike. But it was also a privilege to know Br Geoffrey and to be known by him. He will be missed by us all.

**Br Paul M Holdsworth**

*Minister at Bath Coronation Avenue, Bath Weston and Swindon Moravian Churches*



## World Heritage Moves One Step Closer



*The restored Zinzendorf Manor in Berthelsdorf  
© Sr Sarah Groves*



Gracehill, as many of you know has been invited to be part of the World Heritage process by Historic Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to extend the inscription of Christiansfeld, in Denmark into a transnational, serial nomination.

So, the parties to this process, Historic Bethlehem along with Herrnhut with Berthelsdorf and Gracehill and our consultants meet monthly by Zoom. These meetings measure how each constituent part of the nomination is getting along and aim to iron out any issues that arise along the way. As you can imagine getting three very different places to the same point is not without its difficulties. Historic Bethlehem including Central Church and other stakeholders is set in the middle of a large city; Herrnhut is a significant town with its own mayor and part of its world heritage area includes the Zinzendorf Manor in Berthelsdorf. Gracehill, in contrast, is a small village on the outskirts of the much larger town of Ballymena.

So, our Churches and communities are in very different contexts. However, the Moravian Church is an international Church and many of the people involved in the World Heritage process already know each other through travel and training. Our common theology and Church polity also help greatly in binding us together as a group. So, when we meet

we are already colleagues not strangers.

Br David Johnston was able to travel to Bethlehem in September for a face-to-face meeting where the agreement of International Co-Operation was signed. In addition, there were site visits so everyone could better understand the issues in Historic Bethlehem. In November Br David and Sr Sally Ann Johnston along with my husband Chris and I travelled to Herrnhut. The main object of this meeting was to discuss the Nomination Dossier. This involved the very detailed identification and description of the various properties. As part of this discussion a new architectural phrase was coined - Moravian Civic Baroque to describe the style of the Moravian Churches and associated buildings. Of course, this is locally expressed by the fact that local building materials are used in each place but there is something unique that unites many Moravian buildings around the world.

Another part of our discussion was around the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the values of the Moravian Church, i.e. how our theology is expressed in the way that the settlements are laid out, the traditions like our archives that link us to the past and our insistence on the equality of all in the Church and the importance of education. It is the Outstanding Universal

Value that is for me the most important section for the worldwide Moravian Church because these values are lived and expressed in all our Churches whether in historic settlements or in smaller inner city mission Churches in the UK or across the world.

A wonderful future prospect that is already being researched is the development of a new World Heritage proposal to take in Moravian Mission Stations in places as far apart as South Africa, the Caribbean and Canada. We often underestimate the special nature of the Moravian Unity because we are so small. This whole World Heritage process has helped me see the treasure that is the Moravian Church as our consultants have outlined what we have and share in our Christian faith.

So, discussions around these points took up most of our meeting time. But thankfully we also had time for a tour of the Herrnhut World Heritage Site that includes the Church and Burial Ground, Church Headquarters and the physical centre of Herrnhut. The site then extends along the road, going past the Burial ground to the outskirts of Berthelsdorf to include the newly restored Zinzendorf Manor House.

We now look forward to welcoming the World Heritage team to Gracehill in March 2022 and to showcasing our part of this transnational bid and showing some real Northern Ireland hospitality.

**Sr Sarah Groves**

*Minister of Gracehill Moravian Church*



## Moravian Messenger Editor, Sr Sarah Groves interviews Br Edwin Quildan

### 1. Tell me about your early life story and background?

I was born in London in 1958 of Antiguan parents, who came to London in 1954. I am married with three adult children. My parents could be described as being part of the 'Windrush generation', who came to England with the intention of spending five years and returning. Both my parents were God-fearing, hard working and wanted the best for their family. As a family we were taught to pray at a young age and encouraged to attend church and Sunday school. The Bible was central to our upbringing. I would describe myself as both 'Black British' and 'Black Caribbean' as I enjoy the culture and interaction with the islands.

### 2. How and when did you come to faith?

For me coming to faith was a gradual process. I was brought up at a time when school assemblies were being held daily (which included morning worship) and religious education was part of the curriculum. As I grew up, Sundays were a time for attending church and the shops were generally closed.

### 3. Have you ever had a crisis of faith?

I do not believe that I had a crisis of faith, but I have been challenged over the years to consider if it is right to work on Sunday or to attend worship. Most of the duties / jobs that I have undertaken were on days Monday to Friday but there were times when I had to work Sundays.

### 4. What led you into ministry and how did you hear God's call?

I had been a member at Hornsey Moravian Church for a number of years, looking after the Boys' Brigade, working with the Sunday school, and was elected to the Church Committee. At that time the Priory (an old people's home) opened and the Church Committee agreed to take services on a rota once a month in the Priory. I took my turn and feedback to the minister, Sr Charisa Johnson, was positive. I also led worship at Hornsey Moravian Church on a rota basis. Various members of the congregation would say 'You should consider the ministry'. I would brush off the suggestions. A lay training course was planned at Church House and I agreed to attend with Br John Smith as the leader. I continued to take services and the congregation urging continued. After a long time of deliberation one Sunday after service I had a strong inner feeling that the time was now right and spoke to Sr Clarista Johnson who was pleased, and I started the process by writing to the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC).

### 5. What experience from your secular employment have you found useful in ministry?

I have a number of skills from my secular employment as a Manager in London Underground that have been very helpful in ministry. I have been involved in the annual budget setting and monthly forecasting; chaired meetings and compiled minutes and agendas; and worked in the Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental team compiling policies, processes,

procedures and managing version control. I have been focussed at time management, diary management and prioritisation, and have been involved with site management so understand the need for regular building maintenance and much more.



### 6. What has been your greatest joy in ministry?

My greatest joy in ministry has been supporting the congregations that I have been called to serve. Recognising that each congregation is different and the members are individuals. Also helping people form a relationship with God and His Son Jesus Christ.

### 7. Have you been angry with God?

Not that I can remember.

### 8. Are you afraid to die?

I am not afraid of death. I have learnt that our times are in God's hands. Both my parents died at the age of 65; which was a big loss at that time. As a minister I had the pleasure of ministering to a member who died aged 99. He had planned his funeral service, set his wishes in place and was ready for the time God would call him. He had a strong faith and firm trust in God. I like the poem from Henry Scott Holland that starts:

Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped away into the next room.

I am I, and you are you. Whatever we were to each other, that we still are ...

### 9. Do you believe in a resurrection?

Yes I believe in the resurrection. Our old body fades and dies then we take on a new spiritual form.

### 10. Why do you feel many people are turning away from organised religion?

I believe a number of people have got out of the habit of attending church. Society is replacing the focus on God with the desire for other things (for example sports on Sunday, working as more shops open and hospital appointments are also held on Sunday). Church may need to open mid-week or do more online worship where people can log in at a time convenient to themselves. In my context, funerals seem to be the key preaching time to remind non-church goers that the message of the Bible is still relevant.

### 11. Where do you feel close to God?

I feel close to God in places of worship, when attending quiet days and when walking in the countryside.

### 12. What inscription would you like to see on your gravestone or epitaph?

In the words of the hymn by James Montgomery:

*Servant of God well done, Rest from thy loved employ;*

*The battle fought the victory won, enter thy master's joy.*

## Sabbatical Part Two: The Road Trip

Last year, I spent two months working on some of the modules of a Master's course at Luther King House in Manchester. Due to COVID restrictions, the remaining month of my sabbatical was put on hold until recently.

In October, Claire and I spent four weeks travelling around England and Wales, visiting the locations of 24 former Moravian Churches and a Moravian school. We took our little touring caravan and stayed at seven campsites, using each as a base to visit the locations in that area. Our trip took us as far south as Devon, as far west as Pembrokeshire and as far north as County Durham.

At each location we found out what the buildings or former sites are used for today. We found out a little bit of the history of each church (more detailed historical information can be found in the Provincial Archives). We also noted



Broadoaks Manor, once the home of the Moravian School known as Lamb's Inn

where to park if visiting by car. We have produced a booklet with photographs which can be sent as a pdf file to anyone who is interested. Please send an email to michael.newman@moravian.org.uk.

Thanks to Lorraine Parsons, Provincial Archivist, for her help as we planned the trip. In some cases, we had to do a bit of detective work to find out exactly where the church had been. Old Ordnance Survey maps were a useful source of information in most cases.

It was a fascinating four weeks visiting a few familiar places, many places that we



Baltonsborough Moravian Church, now converted into a two-storey house

have heard about, and some places that we had never come across before. In some cases, the people we met on our travels knew all about the Moravian Church, and those that didn't were interested to know more.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to do this, and for the understanding of the Hornsey congregation who had only had me for six weeks before I deserted them! We hope that the booklet brings back some fond memories as well as being a resource for anyone else who wants to visit.

**Br Michael Newman**

Minister at Hornsey Moravian Church



## Report from the Western District Conference

The Western District Conference was held by Zoom on the 6th November and the delegates were joined by Br Michael Newman of the PEC, who was attending his first meeting in that capacity. Br and Sr Ashton were not present as they have moved up to Yorkshire and they were thanked for their invaluable service to WDC down the years as Chair and Minute Secretary. Consequently, the WDC elected Sr Patsy Holdsworth as temporary Chair and Br Paul Holdsworth as temporary Minute Secretary, in the hope that more permanent replacements will be found at the next WDC. Br Michael presented the PEC Report to Conference, with some updates and this was accepted with a few questions from the delegates. The matter of the Treasurer at Tytherton was discussed, as were challenges in relationships between Church House and congregations in the Western District.

The congregation representatives gave their reports, and it is clear that some have struggled to come through the pandemic

and to get things up and running back in our churches. There are signs of hope in the west and the work of the Lord does continue in this part of His kingdom as there remains a core of hard working and committed Moravians here. There are plans for closer cooperation in the West next year, and this will start with a Zoom Advent Service on the 28th November from Coronation Avenue. There was also a discussion of the 300th Anniversary of the founding of Herrnhut next year and it was noted that there would be opportunities for Moravians to set up and join celebrations at congregation, district, provincial and even Unity level. There was also mention of a possible pilgrimage to eastern Germany in 2022 that will include a visit to Herrnhut and is to be organized by the Pilgrimage Committee.

Sr Patsy presided at the Cup of Covenant Service that brought our conference to a close, with delegates participating from home.

**Br Paul M Holdsworth**



## University Road, Belfast - Celebrates 150 Years of Ministry



Sr Annie Speers, Sr Anne Gilmore and Br Derick Woods cutting the cake

Over the weekend of 15th to 17th October the University Road congregation celebrated 150 years of ministry in South Belfast. The weekend began with an exhibition, open to the public, which portrayed the history of the congregation and displayed artifacts and items from across the years.

At the service of worship which was at the centre of the celebrations we were joined by three former Ministers who had served at University Road. Br Paul Holdsworth was the preacher for the occasion and Br Len Broadbent read a lesson, while Sr Katherine Woolford took part by video. We were treated to uplifting musical items by soloist Clover Watts and by our organist Br Alastair Douglas who gave an organ voluntary.

The local community was represented at the service by the MP for South Belfast Clare Hanna who brought greetings

and words of congratulation, and we were pleased to welcome fellow Moravians from each of the other congregations in the Irish District and from the recently established Republic of Ireland Fellowship.

No University Road celebration would be complete without a time of fellowship enjoyed with good food, and this one was no exception. A sumptuous afternoon tea, masterminded by Sr Mandy Kernohan, was enjoyed by all, and the anniversary cake was ceremoniously cut by three members with longstanding family associations with the congregation.

Another highlight of the weekend was the 'unveiling' of the refurbished church notice board, generously sponsored by Br David Kernohan in memory of his wife Mina.

The success of the occasion was due in no small part to the boundless enthusiasm and hard work of Br Mark Kernohan who led the Anniversary Planning Team, and we offer Br Mark and his team our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

The church has been privileged to bring the message of the Gospel to the community of South Belfast for the past 150 years. We ask God's blessing as we continue and renew our commitment His work here into the future.



Br David Kernohan with the refurbished Notice Board

© Br Mark Kernohan

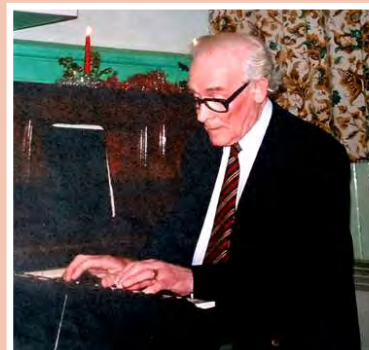
© Sr Lynsey Cunningham

## Brother Ronnie McCartney

We at University Road were deeply saddened recently to learn of the passing of Br Ronnie McCartney. Br Ronnie had been a member and a true stalwart of the congregation for more than 60 years, until ill health prevented him from being amongst us.

He was a man of many talents and these were evidenced in the myriad ways in which he served and the varied roles which he fulfilled for our church. Among those roles were that of Scoutmaster, Choirmaster, Editor of the News and Views newsletter and long serving member of the Church Committee.

Ronnie was a musician, who not only played the organ on many occasions at University Road, but who was also willingly 'on call' to other congregations in the Irish District, including



Ballinderry, Cliftonville and Kilwarlin, when an organist was required. He was also deeply interested in church history and assembled an extensive archive of photographs, writings and artifacts which have formed the basis of many exhibitions for commemorative occasions and heritage weekends.

Above all Br Ronnie McCartney was a friend to many, quietly doing good wherever and whenever he could. We his friends at University Road and throughout the Irish District will miss him and we send our prayers and sympathy to his daughter Sr Ingrid Quinn and the wider family.

Br Carol Ackah

## Baildon



Twins (five weeks premature) enjoying 'Mama's Morning Milk' supported by hearts knitted by a member of Baildon Craft Group

© Sr Janna Mitchell

## Report from the Midlands District Conference

The Midlands District Conference met on the morning of Saturday 16th October on Zoom. There were 11 brothers and sisters attending including Br Peter Gubi representing the PEC.

Br Gubi presented the Provincial Board report which was taken as read. He added that the Ockbrook School business was now in the hands of administrators and the property was up for sale or rent. The PEC has met with the Church Committee and there is a request from Ockbrook to meet with the congregation. A Project 32 implementation committee has been formed.

Br Tony Harvey reported on Ockbrook's experience of Zoom. There has been a completely new audio/visual system installed in the church. Whilst there have been problems, 'broadcasting' is now becoming a valuable part of worship. The

closure of the school was a shock which rattled around the whole village with some caustic and unwarranted comments.

Sr Jennifer Henry reported that during the pandemic contact continued with the Leicester membership including fellowship meetings. Leicester joined Ockbrook for Zoom Worship and are now back in church regularly with an attendance of about 10.

Br Blair Kessler reported that Hall Green is now worshipping back in church but continues to use Zoom to share worship with those who can't physically come to church. Numbers remain good with approximately 40 in church and 30 on Zoom for recent services. HGUCC continues to meet its obligation to the other denominations involved in the United Church and thanks were

expressed for the ministerial service of Sr Lorraine Shorten.

Sr Glynis Ashfield from Leominster reported that they had joined with HGUCC for Zoom services and that they had celebrated the first communion in a long time on Maundy Sunday and a garden service on Easter Sunday. The Craft Meeting continues with three new members and MWA has restarted. They look forward to Sr Lorraine's consecration in November.

2022 calendar: district service is agreed for 29th May 2022. Date for 2022 meetings agreed for 26th February 10am and 15th October 10am, both on Zoom.

A useful and productive meeting closed with all participants joining in The Grace.

Br Blair Kessler

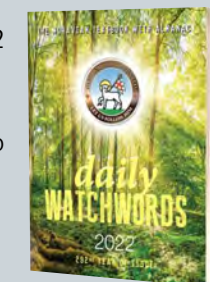
## Notices

### Daily Watchword video

When we first entered lockdown in March 2020, you may recall that we were assisted by Dr Deborah Swallow in setting up Worship on the Web. Deborah has kept in touch since then and has been developing a ministry gift for us by creating and editing videos of the Daily Watchwords. Each of these videos can be accessed through the link below, and it has been picked up as a regular feature on a television programme in Suriname. <https://www.youtube.com/c/moraviandailywatchwords/null>

### Daily Watchwords 2022

The Daily Watchwords for 2022 are now available from Church House at a cost of £6.50 each plus P & P. Orders can be sent to the Bookroom via email at [office@moravian.org.uk](mailto:office@moravian.org.uk) or by telephone at 020 8883 3409.



### Properties to Let

There is one three-bedroom property and one two-bedroom property available to rent at Fairfield. Applications forms and further details are available from the property agent, Mr John Forrester, First Floor, 19/21 Chapel Brow, Leyland, Preston, PR25 3NH Tel: 01772 421566, e-mail: [info@johnforrester.co.uk](mailto:info@johnforrester.co.uk). Viewing to be arranged with the local agent, Br Glyn Jones. The closing date for both properties is 5pm on Friday 21st January 2022.

## Congregational Register

### Baptisms

14th Nov 2021	Vincent Daniel McAnaw	Fairfield
21st Nov 2021	Darcey Freya Adams	Fairfield
28th Nov 2021	Anton James Haggerty	Fairfield

### Confirmations

21st Nov 2021	Ron Godsall	Fairfield
21st Nov 2021	David John Cartwright-Booth	Fairfield

### Reception into Membership

21st Nov 2021	David John Cartwright-Booth	Fairfield
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### Death

19th Oct 2021	Marjorie Bottomley	Salem
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## From Church House

Meetings are continuing to be held online wherever possible.

### Provincial Diary for January

13	LAMM (London Association of Moravian Missions) AGM
14	BMB (British Mission Board)
22	PYCC (Provincial Youth and Children's Committee)
27-28	PEC (Provincial Board)

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

Dates to remember!



# 300 Year Anniversary of Herrnhut



The year 2022 marks the 300th anniversary of the founding of Herrnhut, an event of significance not only for the local Herrnhut congregation but for the Moravian Church as a whole. Generally, 17th June 1722, is considered the day when the building of Herrnhut was begun. On that day, Christian David felled the first tree for the construction of the first house. One hundred years later, this historic spot was marked with a stone monument, and ever since 17th June has been celebrated with an outdoor worship service.

Preparations for the 300-year-anniversary started a few years ago with an invitation by the Mayor of Herrnhut for a public meeting, where citizens could express their ideas and volunteer for committees. There was a wide variety of suggestions, ranging from music events to a prayer watch to a big parade. Unfortunately, the COVID19-pandemic caused a serious delay in the planning process, and even now we can't know for sure that all items in the calendar of events will indeed take place. We're hopeful, though, that it will be a great festival year both for the town and the church community.

There are important events throughout the year, including a meeting of our

*19th century copper engraving showing  
Br Christian David cutting the first tree at Herrnhut*

provincial synod in March, the dedication of the newly restored church organ, 13th-17th May, a weeklong founding day celebration, 11th to 19th June, an international Youth Festival in August, and a special day dedicated to Moravian Music on 13th November. Much of the renovation project of our church will be completed in 2022, so our sanctuary will present itself in a splendid new appearance, and newly installed digital technology will offer ways to share some of the program through internet and social media.

The Herrnhut Ethnological Museum will host a special anniversary exhibition that has been prepared in cooperation with the Unity Archives, the town museum, and the Moravian congregation. With

*21st century view of  
Herrnhut from the Hutberg*

© Konrad  
Fischer

the help of generous government grants, the exhibition will offer a very professional presentation and interpretation of Herrnhut's history and global impact, with a travelling exhibition planned for 2023.

The opening service for the festival week in June will be televised on the state broadcasting service. We hope that in this way, other congregations and Moravians world-wide will be able to share in this event. Finally, in November 2022, an official German commemorative coin will be issued with the Moravian Star as its motif.

All in all, the anniversary preparations have shown us two things: Herrnhut is a place full of fascinating history, reaching back all the way to the Czech reformation, and Herrnhut is a place full of connections, branching out to Moravian Communities in many parts of the world. We hope that - despite the impediments of the COVID19-pandemic - next year's festival will give us the opportunity to celebrate our history and our connection with brothers and sisters around the globe.

**Rev Dr Peter Vogt**

*Co-Pastor of the Herrnhut Moravian  
Congregation*

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