

# moravian messenger

FEBRUARY 2022



## Fairtrade



<sup>®</sup> Fairtrade Fortnight is an annual promotional campaign organised and funded by the Fairtrade Foundation to increase awareness of Fairtrade products by sharing the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, and cotton in our clothes, who are often exploited and underpaid - this year it begins on the 22nd February. Please check their website for more details:

[www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

*Photo by Karolina Grabowska from Pexels*

I am sure you have all heard of Fairtrade - it celebrated its 25th anniversary in the UK in 2019. It may be tempting to believe that there is no longer any need to encourage Fairtrade but there are still many producers of goods which we all use on a daily basis who are not given a fair price for their products. All the information in this article is taken from the interesting and informative website [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk). In this article, I will try to provide some basic facts about Fairtrade and why it is so important that we support it.

Fairtrade is a global movement for change with a vibrant presence in the UK which is represented by the Fairtrade Foundation (founded in 1992). Fairtrade is about ensuring better prices and good working conditions for farmers and workers in the developing world. Companies who use the FAIRTRADE mark on their products have paid an agreed fair price for the product to the producers. Companies pay a license fee to be able to use the mark - this fee helps to fund the Fairtrade Foundation. The foundation is also funded by individual and group donations and grants from organisations such as Comic Relief.

In order to be certified, producers must meet minimum social, economic and environmental requirements as well as demonstrating that they are continuously working to improve farmers' organisations or estate workers' circumstances.

There are over 4,500 Fairtrade certified products for sale in the UK - it is one of the world's leading Fairtrade markets. Fairtrade

standards exist for bananas (almost a third of bananas sold in the UK are Fairtrade), cocoa, coffee (47% of all Fairtrade farmers produce coffee), dried and fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, honey, juices, nuts/oil seeds/oil, quinoa, rice, spices, sugar, tea and wine - and that is just the food products. Many non-food products are also Fairtrade certified. Fairtrade products are found in supermarkets, independent shops, cafes and restaurants - and hopefully at our Church events!

Fairtrade products are also good for the environment - Fairtrade producers receive a financial premium (£169 million in 2020) in addition to the money they receive for their produce. They use some of this to invest in environmental protection programmes which contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change.

It cannot be right that people who work hard to produce goods for our consumption do not receive adequate income to support themselves and their communities. A survey published in 2019 showed that 82% of UK consumers cared about Fairtrade. Consumers - that's you and me - can play a crucial role in ensuring that trade is fair. Ultimately, it is for each individual to decide what they buy and why - but buying Fairtrade can make a significant difference to many people's lives.

**Sr Janet Cooper**

*Chair of the Provincial Mission and Society Committee*



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## Editorial

The other day in Morning Prayers I was reading aloud the Old Testament passage for the day - Judges 11:29-40 and I had to stop - I could not continue to read the narrative. Jephthah murdered his daughter because 'you have brought me very low ... become the cause of great trouble to me'. Jephthah blames his daughter then murders her as a sacrifice. Those of us in Morning Prayers were just stunned - we had nothing we could say. Sadly, this passage is not an isolated example of violence against women, physically or mentally, in the pages of Scripture.

Just 18 hours previously to Morning Prayers, a young woman, Aishling Murphy, had been murdered whilst out running, in daylight on a well-established route, in Co Offaly. Rightly this murder has produced a wave of revulsion across the island of Ireland. It has highlighted again, as the Sarah Everard murder did, the vulnerability of women to male violence. This appalling murder prompted vigils in her memory throughout Ireland. Sadly, there were no vigils to the other women who have been murdered over the past 12 months. One such woman was Katrina Rainey, a middle-aged woman, who died from horrific burns after being trapped in a burning car on 12th October near Maghera. Her husband has been arrested on suspicion of murder. There was no nationwide outcry at her death.

A further issue that is often hidden is that of abuse and coercive control. There may be no loss of life, but the girl or woman's life can be terribly damaged by it. It is worth Googling the Government research on this called 'Violence against Women and Girls' as the statistics are beyond the scope of this editorial. Allied to this are the harrowing accounts of single mothers and their babies being separated and the babies being given up for adoption.

Many women have also suffered very badly from abuse and trolling on social media. Any woman who puts her head over the parapet can expect to attract abuse in a way that is totally unacceptable. We all know that words can demonise, demoralise and destroy. Yet there is only limited action by social media companies to address this issue.

Many years ago, there was a mantra that no one should preach on texts that harm women and children. But we have to face the fact that such passages can be found in our Holy Scripture. I have spent a great deal of time over the years in my ministry explaining the context and culture that these narratives arose from, but it doesn't get any easier. And of course, some Christian groups and traditions take the words about wives' obedience to their husbands and similar passages from St Paul's letters literally.

I want to be faithful to our Scriptures but sometimes it is hard to work with texts and narratives that are so problematic. Perhaps our starting points should be Genesis 1:27 where it states that both male and female are made in God's image. Women, with all our different biology and experiences are just as much in God's image as men are. There can be no place for misogyny against women in the Church or our society and we must be free to call it out and condemn all the violence against women and girls whether it be verbal, sexual, emotional or physical. We also need a way of dealing respectfully and courageously with some of those texts in the Bible that are so difficult for us today.



**Sr Sarah Groves**  
Editorial Team

## World Day of Prayer, 4th March 2022

### 'I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU'

2022 is a special year for World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This year, we have prepared the World Day of Prayer service. It has been both challenging and rewarding to write about the three countries that make up our area: our landscape, people and culture all shaped by our history. We celebrate our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here. We use our Bible text 'I know the plans I have for you' from Jeremiah to reflect on some of the issues facing us today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other.

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical organisation which enables women all over the world to share the ideas and concerns of the writing country.

Preparation for the day has taken several years. Our International Committee based in New York coordinates the work of National Committees and facilitates the creation of our annual World Day of Prayer service on the first Friday in March. The service outline, created by the writing country, is distributed to the rest of the world, along with a Bible reflection, country background and children's and - for the first time - young people's activities.

All this work will come to fruition on Friday 4th March 2022 when services will take place beginning in Samoa and moving on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe and finally the United States and South America before finishing in American Samoa. Across England, Wales and Northern Ireland services will take place in large urban centres, such as Central Hall Westminster, and in remote village churches. Because of its ecumenical character, services will be hosted at

different churches within the area each year.

No one knows what the situation will be like on 4th March but, if we end up in lock-down once again, please consider being part of an on-line service, as was the case in 2021. Those who can access Zoom meetings will find information about where and when they are to be held on the WDP website. Please remember to register beforehand in order to receive the link. Whatever the situation we find ourselves in, may I encourage you to be a part of the World Day of Prayer service in whatever way you can.

Further information and free downloadable resources, together with details of services in your area, can be found on the WDP website: [www.wdp.org.uk](http://www.wdp.org.uk).

**Sr Maureen Colbert**

*Moravian Representative on the World Day of Prayer National Committee*

## A Personal memory of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Three men from Africa had a special importance for my life and faith: Theophilo Kisanji, Julius Nyerere and Desmond Tutu. The sad news of the death of Desmond Tutu inspires me to share with you the personal encounter I had in 1975, together with my fellow teacher Rev Nkaisule Nzowa, with this unique personality.

Since 1974 I was a teacher at the Moravian Theological College in Chunya, Tanzania. Our college belonged to the Association of Theological Institutions in East Africa, and in 1975 my colleague Nkaisule Nzowa and myself were selected to attend the annual meeting of this Association in Arusha. In this conference there were many lectures giving us helpful hints for our work as theological teachers, and one of them was outstanding. It was given by the head of the Theological Education Fund of the World Council of Churches, a man called Desmond Tutu. I had never heard of him before, but his lecture was so impressive that I still remember it 47 years later!

My first impression was the way he spoke with a deep commitment, a brilliant mind and sharply looking eyes filled with humour and joy. He reminded us that as theological teachers we bear a great responsibility, as we form those who will lead Christians in fast growing churches. He stressed two points that are crucial for our teaching:

1. Respect the African spirituality! Especially as European Teachers we have a lot to learn in this field and should take care of it as a source of enrichment for the worldwide Christianity.
2. Enable the students to read the Bible in its historical context, making use of the critical Biblical research! Do not follow the advice of racist colonial prejudice saying: 'Africans have a simple and direct belief, and they should read the Bible as it is. They do not need the critical analysis of its historical background.' Tutu opposed this strongly saying that a fundamentalistic reading of the Bible, taking every word literally, is often combined with an authoritarian attitude. The Bible is a book of liberation, for men and women using their minds and reasons without fear!



(Photo by Kristen Opalinski/LUCSA)

Brother Nkaisule and I were so impressed by this lecture, that we wanted to meet the lecturer personally and to ask him some more questions. We were told that he had gone to his room, and so we did something I never would dare today: we knocked at his door! He welcomed us, sitting on his bed and wondering about these two audacious young teachers. He had opened a letter and shared with us what he had read: 'I just got a letter from South Africa, and they ask me to consider a call to return to my home country to become the first black Dean of the Anglican Church of South Africa! This would mean that I must leave my work for the Theological Education Fund I started two years ago.' I am not sure what was our reaction, but as I remember we said how much we appreciated his gift as theological teacher and would be sad if he had to give it up.

We all know that he followed the call in the same year, and later even became Archbishop. But in all these positions he remained to be a teacher, not only for students, but for all the people in South Africa and around the world. I never met him again, but I could read some of his books and listen to his speeches on television. He was not an easy man, as he had a prophetic voice that can hurt, but therefore also can heal wounds. He blamed the politics of Apartheid and the cowardice of many churches that did not join the battle against it. After the liberation, he was an important companion of Nelson Mandela, but had no fear to speak openly about corruption in the following times. He could be angry, but never had a grim mind, but always showed joy, saying that those who do dark things are poor themselves, and those fighting for truth and justice are joyful and free. This is what we all can learn from him and will always remember.

**Br Dieter Zellweger**

*President of the Moravian Mission in Switzerland*





© Br Joachim Kreusel

# COP26

In 1995 the United Nations initiated the first global climate summit. Since then, 26 such summits took place, with the last one being in Glasgow from 31st October till 12th November 2021. The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is a conference for world leaders, negotiators, scientists, climate activist, and anyone who is interested in the topic of climate change and how to keep global warming at bay. COP21 in 2015 in Paris brought the first tangible results. 196 negotiating parties committed themselves to limiting global warming to well below two degrees. But of course, much more needs to be done, and regular conferences are needed in order to make further progress.

Glasgow Churches Together have seen last year's summit as an opportunity to speak about the topic on behalf of the churches, and to accompany the conference with reflection and prayer.

A service to mark COP26 took place on Sunday 7th November 2021, 4pm at Glasgow Cathedral, and I was privileged to represent the Moravian Church of the British Province at this service.

I travelled so that I could be in Glasgow on Sunday morning in order to take the atmosphere of the city in, and to witness the voices of those who had messages related to COP26.

I entered a very colourful city with people from all walks of life. There were singers. The lyrics of most of the songs were about justice, dreams and love. There were stalls with loads of information on climate change, campaigns and initiatives. There were small and bigger groups of people, some of whom were preparing for demonstrations and eventually marching on with banners to the sound of shouted slogans and often drums. There were people just going about their business, and carrying heavy shopping bags. And there were more police men and women than I have ever seen before. It was a peaceful but energetic atmosphere.

What I noticed very soon was that people addressed many different topics, apart from climate change, such as plastic pollution, waste management (or the lack of it), fast fashion, corruption, colonialism, governance, justice and peace. This is something I definitely learnt anew, that all these things are interconnected.

I was reminded of what the World Council of Churches already addressed at its assembly in Vancouver in 1983: we need to focus on justice, peace and the integrity of creation. This was formulated as a response to a situation of crisis: arms race, worldwide injustice and severe mistreatment of our planet. The physicist and philosopher Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker sharpened this focus by saying: 'there is no justice without peace and integrity of creation, there is no peace without justice and integrity of creation and there is no integrity of creation without peace and justice.'

Yes, although climate change is widely seen as the single most severe threat to the world, it is clearly interlinked with so many other issues.

Last year, at the end of October and in November it was noticeable that the news items focused on the different and interlinked aspects described above. Here are some examples of headings from the BBC: 'COP26: Fossil fuel industry has largest delegation at climate summit'; 'Climate change: Huge toll of extreme weather disasters in 2021'; 'British waste dumped in Romania', (according to Greenpeace 'A whopping 1.8 million kilos of UK plastic waste is dumped in other countries every single day').

And from the ARD, a German TV Station: 'Atacama Desert in Chile - dump for fast fashion'; 'Brazil - floods in Bahia'; 'German arms exports: Baerbock insists on stricter controls', (I often wonder how much all the deadly military machinery in the world contributes to climate change!); 'Drought in Africa - life-threatening'.

Sadly, soon after COP26 these topics disappeared largely from the main headlines.

We must never forget that behind each report there are real people, often the most vulnerable, who suffer most. We have to re-learn what the fourth century Christian philosopher, Lactantius, already knew, 'the whole point of justice consists precisely in our providing for others through humanity what we provide for our own family through affection.'

The ecumenical service at Glasgow Cathedral provided a wonderful space for prayer, reflection, meditation, music, art and meeting others. Christians from many different denominations came together, being one in their concern for all of creation, acknowledging that we have failed to be God's ambassadors in this world, that we need to put wholeness for the whole of creation before profit, and that striving for justice for everyone, in the awareness of God's presence has to be paramount.

The preacher, Rev Dr Susan Henry-Crowe (Methodist Church), reflected on Psalm 23. What is needed? Divine guidance and provision (The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want). Stopping, reflecting and also listening to those who are often ignored (He leads me beside quiet waters), mourning with those who mourn (Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death), and eventually noticing God's new dawn on the horizon (You prepare a table before me). This table may be at times a negotiating table. But there is space for everyone!

**Br Joachim Kreusel**

*Minister at Ockbrook Moravian Church and  
Leicester Moravian Church*



© Sr Lorraine Shorten

The craft group at Hall Green United Community Church and 'Busy Fingers' in Leominster have been involved in quiet revolution: working on projects for global, national, local and individual causes, meditative, mindful, calming and creative ways of making a difference on a worldwide, community and personal level.

Our group craftivism began on Valentine's Day in 2018: green hearts decorated the railings outside church to 'Show the Love', part of a campaign of action by the Climate Change Coalition passing on our love for the planet to others, encouraging them to take a heart and show their love.

Thread Bearing Witness 'Stitch a Tree'

## Craftivism

connected communities and individuals globally to show support for refugees and displaced people around the world. 'Forest' by artist Alice Kettle is made from 10,000 hand stitched trees. Whilst making our trees with tiny stitches, we thought of our own roots and those of others.

Many of us find crafts and making a way of keeping our fingers busy and our thoughts creative, and mindful. We have been making twiddlemuffs, given to people with dementia to keep their fingers busy and their thoughts calm. Leominster Busy Fingers bring joy with bright makes at markets and events. Being good stewards of our own resources and those of others, we have used donated wool to make blankets given to the homeless in Birmingham. We've shared supplies to make cards for others to send. Busy Fingers made prayer squares for each member of the Moravian Synod. As with many projects each stitch, whether by an expert hand or a beginner: wound with love, care, a prayer or thought for the recipient.

Creativity and craft have enabled us to show our faith and witness to the local community and beyond. The sustainable crocheted and knitted field of poppies has made recurring appearances enabling remembrance in worship. Our tree at a local Christmas tree festival featured Christingles. An outdoor Churches Together Star trail

last Christmas had our church garden sparkling with many stars made from recycled materials.

The empty cross that stood in the church garden during Holy week blossomed into full floral spring glory celebrating the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday!

Coming full circle, we made canaries to raise awareness of climate change. The canary, a small bright bird that needs clean air, is the symbol of the Craftivist Collective's current campaign. Canaries have been winging their way to MPs and councillors across the country to gently express the desire for faster, greater action to be taken.

The craft group and Busy Fingers are relaxing spaces where we freely share inspiration, skills, stories, and friendship, learning from each other. Collectively we plant seeds, encourage each other to form strong roots, branch out and blossom, reaping from a rich field of talent, linked by a common thread, respecting each other, the local community and the planet's resources. Working together mindfully, meditatively, quietly, (although we do have a laugh and a chat!) calmly and creatively for a better world locally and globally!

**Sr Alison Raybould**

*Hall Green United Community Church,  
Birmingham*

## Notice of Synod

The Provincial Board hereby give notice that Synod in 2022 will be held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick between Thursday 14th July and Monday 18th July 2022 inclusive. Please note that we meet on the Thursday not the Friday as at previous Synods.

We look forward to meeting in person however, the Provincial Board will continue to monitor possible adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will keep the Province updated on adjustments if it becomes necessary.

The timetable for submission of Credentials, Memorials, Nominations, Proposals and Reports is as follows:

1. Congregation Deputies' Credential Forms to be at Church House by 31st March 2022 (2.3.a.3). Deputies will not be expected to bring a copy with them to Synod.
2. Proposals changing or impacting on the Book of Order of the Moravian Church in the British Province must be notified to the Provincial Board by 15th April 2022 (2.3.b.1).
3. All other proposals must be notified to the Provincial Board by 26th May 2022 (2.3.b.2).<sup>1</sup>
4. Reports and Memorials must be sent to Church House by 26th May 2022.
5. Nomination Forms for Provincial Board and Provincial

Committees to be at Church House by 2nd June 2022 (2.4.i.5.i).<sup>2</sup>

Synod Papers will be sent out to all those attending by 10th June 2022.

Note 1 (2.3.b.3):

Proposals which have not been duly notified under the Book of Order 2.3.b.2 above will only be given a place on the Agenda paper if:

- i. They are regarding matters which have arisen since the last date for the submission of proposals, or
- ii. They are in response to issues current at the time of Synod, or
- iii. They arise at Synod, and
- iv. Synod agrees by show of hands that they be included on the Agenda.

Note 2 (2.4.i.5.iv):

Nominations from the floor of Synod may be accepted (using the official nomination form). These are to be in the hands of the clerk of Synod by 1.00pm on the day before the elections are due to take place.



# What I Believe

Moravian Messenger Editor, Sr Sarah Groves interviews Br Kenneth Evans.

Br Evans is a retired Moravian minister living in Mirfield, West Yorkshire. He was for many years Chair of the Yorkshire District and is President of the Moravian Men's Fellowship.

## **Tell me about your early life and background**

I am now 78 years old. My mother grew up attending Wellhouse Moravian Church and I attended from the age of 2½ years, I have one brother living in Canada. I have been married to Carol for 57 years and we have two sons Jonathan and Jason. I was educated in Mirfield, left school at 15, continued my education via correspondence course at the Co-op College in Loughborough where I studied personnel management, management accounting and good practice in the workplace.

## **How and when did you come to faith?**

It was with my mother attending Church/Sunday School three times each Sunday, Christian Endeavour midweek with Br Frank Tysoe who got me leading worship from the age of 12 years old. I did the Scripture Union Exam each year and as I followed the examples of my elders I began to see faith in action and what a difference it can make to life and the way it affects how we deal with our fellow men and women.

## **What lead you into ministry?**

It was the example of former ministers, Brn Tysoe, Hudston, and Heywood. Even though I had numerous positions in Church life I felt God was calling me to do more. I applied for the non-stipendiary ministry and completed a part time course at Northern College, whilst working full time as a sales manager covering Lincolnshire to North Yorkshire, I was ordained in November 1984 and served three congregations, Heckmondwike, Fulneck, and Lower Wyke as a non-stipendiary minister and Wellhouse and Lower Wyke as a stipendiary minister before my retirement in 2009.

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

In my role as a manager of people as a retail shop manager and then as Area and Regional sales manager, I learned that the way to lead and manage is from the front, by example, explanation, demonstration, imitation, and consolidation. I have found over the years that my secular employment and my ministry have been complimentary to each other, the secular helping with organisation, planning and management, the ministry giving a different perspective in dealing with people in all its various forms.

## **What has been your greatest joy in ministry?**

My greatest joys have been serving God's people 24/7, and being with them through the joy and sadness of life; visiting and listening and learning as I worked alongside people. You really get to know a person, when you are working together to

perform what Br Birtill called 'the mundane ministry', the building of walls and the cleaning of drains, and I've done a fair few of both.

## **Are you afraid to die? Do you believe in the resurrection, if so, what will it be like?**

I think these two questions go hand in hand, the hope of the resurrection into the presence of Christ takes away the fear of death. As to what it might be like. Some years ago when I passed out, I saw a bright light up and far away and I felt drawn towards it, so I clung onto Carol and I remember saying, 'don't let me go', not because I was afraid, but I felt I had so much more work I was being called to do, and I didn't want to leave my loved ones, I wanted to see the children and grandchildren grow up and achieve their ambitions.

## **What can we learn from other Churches and other faiths?**

Over the years I have felt there has steadily become a lack of Commitment in and to the church. There isn't the same loyalty, the same work ethic, the saying, 'Give to God what is Right and not what is Left' yet giving what is left seems to be becoming the norm. Some other faiths seem to have greater commitment to church and worship and it becomes the first

priority and not the last option. The Moravian Church needs to look at the dedication and commitment of its forefathers and get back to that example.

## **Why are people turning their backs on organised religion?**

Maybe the Church as we know it is not relevant to the lives of people today, maybe it is the example shown by some so called Christians, the changing pattern of life and ministry where there is less time for visiting Church members and building the relationships that make people feel valued.

## **Where do you feel closest to God?**

Within God's family, amongst his people, in united Provincial events, also in his vast and beautiful world, the wonders of nature and of creation, particularly when accompanied by family and friends.

## **What inscription would you like to see on your gravestone?**

'He always did his best but it was never quite good enough'.

## **Finally, any major regrets and any major joys in your life?**

The longer I have been in ministry the more I regret not responding to God's call earlier, the non-stipendiary ministry was an economical and effective way of serving the Church, and in this day of rising costs and reducing membership it would be worthwhile majoring upon it once again.

My major joy in life is my family, for their love and support throughout the life we have had together and particularly within my ministry and especially Carol, for without her love and support I would not have been able to serve or do what I have done.



© Sr Jane Carter

## Horton, West Yorkshire



© Sr Brenda Hirst

After another difficult year it was lovely to be able to come together in Church, safely and obeying regulations, for Advent. The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus', which means 'coming' or 'arrival' to signify the birth of Jesus and how better for us to prepare for this wonderful arrival than to support a local charity which supports new mums and babies who, for various reasons, need help. The Gianni Project 'lends' us a Moses basket which is filled by the congregation with baby items. The ladies fellowship knitted toys and squares for a blanket and finished the items at their Christmas Party and some of the ladies can be seen proudly showing off the blanket.

Br Bob Hopcroft led our Christingle

service, which had to be modified due to COVID, but the light still shone through our battery candles, and we lit our real candles later at home. Our Christmas Day service was led by Sr Liz Wood with music by Br Rodney Wood, and although we were small in number we were strong in spirit and voice. We as a congregation would like to thank all our visiting preachers, ministers and members of our congregation who lead services at this time of interregnum and we pray for their continued support.

We wish you all a safe and peaceful New Year and hope that we can continue to meet and worship together.

**Sr Linda Barraclough**

## Gracehill, Northern Ireland

### **The Pandemic Christingle**

Since the beginning of the pandemic all our lives have been changed in dramatic ways and we have all missed the 'normality' which we took for granted. In the village of Gracehill, one of the things everyone looked forward to every year was the Christingle Service, which somehow set the scene for Christmas time. With services having to be curtailed it looked as if there would be no Christingle! However, Bishop Sarah never gives up, and so the idea was hatched - could we hold the service outside in the Village Square? Could it be done? So, Bishop Sarah and her team began the planning for Sunday 19th December afternoon.

Br Raymond Kitson and his team set about constructing the huge staging, backdrops, lighting, sound, risk assessments and so on, while Bishop Sarah organised the service itself.

Having real candles could not happen for safety reasons, so the Christingle Factory was set up as usual, and the youth team placed battery lights in the centre of the oranges and decorated these in the traditional way. As always, the planning was immaculate, the publicity was organised, along with car parking facilities, first aid facilities, programmes, stewards and music.

So, on Sunday 19th afternoon, at four o'clock, the two side gates admitted such a warm gathering of church members and villagers from near and far to the



© Sr Sarah Groves

Square. Ballyduff Silver Band provided the music and everyone received an order of service and a Christingle as they enter the square. Such a crowd joined in the carol singing and as the light faded, the sound of singing, readings, and an explanation, using a huge Christingle made by brother Chris, the story of the Christingle and its meaning floated in the air! What an

atmosphere, and as darkness descended, what a picture was created!

A very different, but very memorable Christingle! One never to be forgotten. The true meaning of the Christmas Season had begun!

**Sr Roberta Gray**

## Lower Wyke, West Yorkshire

The Christmas celebrations were rather smaller this year, but Christmas was still celebrated!! We were delighted that Heather Barraclough was still able to lead us through the making of Christmas table decorations at the December Greenfingers meeting. It was a wonderful morning of creativity and produced a range of splendid sparkling arrangements.



© Sr Jane Carter

We were happy to welcome friends old and new into our church for the annual Christmas Gathering. The ages of those attending ranged from six weeks to 89 years, all enjoying hot pork sandwiches/mulled wine (while seated) and listening to the

Belleplates playing Christmas music before singing carols (with masks).

Although reduced in number the Christingle Service, as ever, was much enjoyed. Social distancing and the rule of wearing of masks were observed. A cardboard tableau replaced the usual human models and Sr Carter read the nativity Story to a good group of children sitting round her feet. As in the other Yorkshire District Churches people were given an unlit Christingle, the light element being replaced with a battery tea light - a good and effective replacement under the circumstances.

The uplifting Christmas Day Service and ensuing Watchnight Service ended our celebrations for 2021. The review of the year and a glimpse of looking forward to 2022 gave us hope for the future. What challenges will it bring - who knows? But we must move forward with confidence in the knowledge that God is our strength and our comforter. A Happy New Year from everyone at Lower Wyke.

**Sr Diane Thornton**



## Wellhouse, West Yorkshire

September saw the Church getting back to some sort of normality, well as much as we were allowed by the powers that be. But then 'What is normal?'

We commenced the month with Lovefeast and Holy Communion all duly masked, wearing gloves and serving wrapped biscuits, as I'm sure all congregations are doing the same.

The Women's Fellowship held their AGM to plan as far as possible for the coming year and then later in the month went out on a trip to Scarborough for the day, good weather, good food and good fellowship.

Golden Oldies Film Club resumed and in September we hosted the Moravian Pilgrims just prior to the showing of the film.

One of our members Sr Betty Hooper celebrated her 90th Birthday on the 11th September, unfortunately this was in hospital with only her niece Celia allowed to see her, and others were allowed a WhatsApp visit via Celia's phone. Shortly after her birthday Betty was transferred to a residential home for the remainder of her life, as we received the sad news that on the 7th October Betty had passed into higher service. Betty was brought into Wellhouse on the 22nd November 1931 for her baptism, and in Betty's words, she hadn't missed a Sunday since except for holidays. Betty served the Church in many ways, Sunday School teacher (she taught me in 1945 when I started at 2½ years), member of Church Committee, secretary to committee and congregation council, Cradle Roll Secretary, Leader of Women's Fellowship and of the MWA Circle, and an all-round stalwart member of this congregation. Betty will be sadly missed, she leaves a big hole in the fellowship of this Church, but she also leaves a shining example of love, dedication



and commitment to the service of her Lord. The service of Thanksgiving for the life of Betty was held on the 4th November at Wellhouse and attended by many who remembered with grateful thanks the influence she had had on their lives.

On the 19th September we welcomed the Katie Philpott School of Dance for their Annual Awards Service. To enable us to accommodate as many of the families as possible, Katie furnished us with the family groups attending including numbers so that we were able to seat them all together from one household. It was a well-attended and enjoyable service with many awards.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held on the 26th September and led by Pastor Al Henry from the Methodist Church.

In November we held our Christian Aid Soup & Roll with Sweet Lunch which had been deferred from May, there was a reasonable attendance which together with the few stalls raised £175. We cancelled our Annual Bonfire as well as our Christmas Fair due to restrictions and lack of people to undertake all the work required.

December saw the usual Christmas activities with the Women's Fellowship Carol Service and Faith Tea, The Christmas Supper prepared and served by the brethren (with help from the sisters). On the 12th we hosted the Yorkshire District Singers Choral Festival, it was an enjoyable evening with some good singing and a good selection of music. The 16th saw the interment of the ashes of Sr Betty Hooper in God's Acre alongside her late husband Harold, after which we distributed 220 Christmas Angels knitted by a friend of the congregation to some of the streets near the Church - these are always well received and appreciated. On the 18th we joined with other Churches in Mirfield to sing carols outside the town's library. We met in Church on the 19th for our traditional Christingle Service with the slight difference, that of a visually illustrated Nativity Story told by Sr Jane, and on the 25th we met for the traditional Christmas morning service. A couple of us then joined with Lower Wyke for their Watchnight Service on the 31st.

Overall, I think we managed to pack quite a lot into the time when we were allowed to meet and in so doing did what we are called to do, that of going out to meet with his people and draw them into the fellowship of his Church, long may we be allowed to do that.

**Br Kenneth G Evans**

## Baildon, West Yorkshire

Baildon happily restarted services after Easter 2021 and gradually our small but faithful congregation resumed meeting in person. We enjoyed fellowship (sometimes hilariously) during the lockdowns via our church WhatsApp group, but nothing beats meeting in person.

We bade farewell to our friend and minister, David Howarth, after the Zoom Synod in June 2021, when he was elected to PEC on a full-time basis. Br Gordon France was our delegate there and was very impressed by the PEC and their ability to adapt Synod to such a new platform.

After a few weeks' interregnum in the Autumn, we were delighted to announce that Br James Woolford, minister of the Fulneck Congregation, is to be our new minister, along with Fulneck. Hallelujah!

His first service was Holy Communion in November, but his Christingle Service was a tour de force! We look forward to getting to know him, Annette and his family better in the months to come.

**Sr Ruth France**

## Cliftonville, Belfast

There was an arrangement of flowers and poppies and the names of those who lost their lives in WW1 were read and remembered during the short ceremony on Armistice Sunday. On the first Sunday in Advent the Christmas tree, Moravian Star and Advent wreath were in position.

Christmas can be a less joyous occasion for some if there are painful memories of a loss of loved ones or a current illness, so for the past few years Br Stephens has offered a short service of prayers and readings that

he calls 'A Blue Christmas', for which there was an appreciative gathering in the church hall.

Our thanks to a record number of young and not so young who met to prepare the Christingles for the service that we were glad to celebrate once more in the Church building on 19th December. People were invited by 'word of mouth' because of COVID, but the 60 or so people we accommodated were glad to share the tradition again.

The Christmas morning service was held in the Church Hall at 10am.

It is good to be able to, once again, have a cup of tea and catch up with family news after the service on Sundays.

**Sr Edna Cooper**



© Br John Cooper

## Royton, Greater Manchester

In the past few months, the slight lifting of restrictions, have meant in most cases practices have been able to return to what I like to call the new normal! Due to the restrictions being lifted, we were able to invite Sr Beryl Healey into membership. She had to wait for some time for this and we are delighted to welcome her to the congregation and family. Singing returned, and even though it was singing whilst having a mask on, it was lovely to hear the congregation singing together as one. Other restrictions such as mask wearing, sanitising hands and social distancing was and still remain in place to ensure members of the congregation can attend and feel safe.

On the 29th August Br Martin Smith delivered his final service at Salem. It was a joint service in which Br Martin asked members to nominate their favourite hymns, and once again people sang together as one. We thank Br Martin for his service and wish him a wonderful retirement. We have managed to find ministers, lay preachers, congregation members and retired ministers to lead our services up until Easter! Thank you to those who have offered to deliver a service and have previously done so, we really appreciate it.

On Tuesday 14th September we were visited by Br Martin and the other pilgrims. Ludwig the Lamb joined as well and a short service was delivered - it was a lovely atmosphere and we thank the Pilgrims for paying us a visit. Speaking of visits the newlywed couple Br Joshua Cooper and Sr Eleanor Cooper visited and showed their beautiful wedding photos during September. With Sr Janet Cooper leading the service, and myself there, it meant there were three Sr Coopers in the building. Also, in September we celebrated our Harvest Festival Service, with Sr Gillian Taylor from Dukinfield leading

the worship. The service was wonderful, along with the display. All the dried food was donated to the local food bank and will support people in the local community. Thank you to the congregation members who decorated the church, it looked fantastic. The decorating of the church has continued into December with our wonderful tree, nativity and Moravian star on display. Once again, the congregation members have made the church look incredible and it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas. We had our usual Nine Lessons and Carol Service and our Christingle. Both were enjoyed by all. The Christingle service was a worry, due to masks being flammable and flames being present, but a solution was thought of, to take the Christingles outside. Although the heavens opened and people had to return inside, it did not dampen the atmosphere but rather ignited it, as no matter what, we were all together, sharing



© Srs Hannah Cooper and Janet Cooper

in the love of Jesus Christ the light of the world. Finally, although our Christmas fair could not take place due to our building being too small to follow restrictions and keep people safe Christmas fair programs were raffled: people donated to six hampers which were given as prizes and people took part in the Christmas Quiz - all in all it was a very successful social event. Christmas is about remembering the birth of Jesus, the love Mary and Joseph had for him, the love he has for us and love we share with one another.

I will finish off with a quote from, How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr Seuss, 'Christmas doesn't come from a store, maybe ... Christmas perhaps means a little bit more.' May God bless you this Christmas and New Year.

**Sr Hannah Cooper**



## Ockbrook, Derbyshire

Our Nine Lessons and Carols service on 12th December was well attended, with people still able to maintain social distancing. We were grateful to Collyers Nursery again for the gift of a tree, and what a whopper it was!

We had to think outside the box for our Christingle, as we needed to avoid a crowded church. We decided in the end to hold the service outside, with people standing and a few sitting on the church paths. Br Fred Linyard had a drive-through, parking just outside the gate and keeping his car window open! No carol sheets were needed as the words were displayed on a screen.

The Christingles themselves were a new variety, designed by a friend of the church, Kate Barker. They consisted of a small glass jar with a tea light inside, a red ribbon round the base and an explanatory tag attached. Putting the lid on extinguished the flame, avoiding the need for people to blow them out. Sweets and raisins were given out separately in paper bags. At the end



© Sr J Hague

of the service we allowed people to walk through the church carrying their Christingles and come straight out again, to see the tree, nativity scene and decorations.

Despite the 'light' rain, we all enjoyed the service with a difference.

*Srs Rosie and Julie Hague*

## Dukinfield, Greater Manchester

A basic definition of Christian stewardship shows that it is to be a follower of the teachings of Jesus Christ, to spend time, money, and energy focusing on making the world better and taking care of the people and things that are important to God.

This is a central theme of Moravian teachings and was mentioned at Synod July 2021 with an emphasis to look at being kind to our planet - considering the growing use of fossil fuels and how to combat the ever constant pull on the earth's vital resources. Several suggestions were mooted towards decarbonisation (the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions using low carbon power sources, achieving a lower output of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere) from planting trees to how we use energy to run our Churches.

Here at Dukinfield we were keen to take up the call. In our Church garden and God's acre, we already have a multitude of trees and so our thoughts then turned to energy supply. After discussions within the Church Committee, at PEC (Provincial Board) level and explanation and vote within the Dukinfield congregation, the idea to progress with the use of Solar Panels became an action. Solar panels are noted as being incredibly environmentally friendly as they use only the natural renewable energy of the sun to generate electricity. Unlike non-renewable fossil fuels, solar does not produce greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide or harmful pollutants.

Research work was then carried out regarding companies in the area that could help to fulfil this brief, three quotes were gained - and a business from a local town was chosen as this also supported the local economy 'Energygain UK': <https://energygain.co.uk/>



© W Flint

This company gave several options as to what may best suit our needs, along with technical expertise and a range of pricings.

Organised in conjunction with the Church Steward a timetable was put together and work began in September 2021. The Church building had previously been subject to a full survey to check the weighting on the roof, storage space for internal batteries and the best placement of panels to collect the sun's light - as even in rainy Greater Manchester we are lucky enough to get light.

Scaffolding went up and the installation began - as with all building work contingencies were allowed for and tweaking reviewed constantly to ensure that the project would come to pass, with great dedication from the Church team who had a steep learning curve in all things around alternative power.

Payment was made in three lump sums - before, during and after the panels were fitted. An added benefit found was that any additional power gained after use for the Church's needs, could be sold on to the National Grid. Energy use can even be tracked via a mobile phone app making it user friendly as well.

Now all systems are up and running, we are in a process of monitoring but with hopes that we are that we are listening to our Lord to care for his creation as stated in Deuteronomy 11:12 ... A land that the LORD your God cares for. The eyes of the LORD your God are always upon it.

So, we are also watchful as to man's impact and the need for our care and love to be as constant as is God's.

*Sr Penny Weir*

## Notices

### Enquirer's Day 2022

Serving Jesus Christ is a joy and makes this world a place worth living. Following Jesus is a blessing that we Christians have been given. Each path that God leads us on gives us new life, insight, and wisdom. God calls all of us in different ways at different stages in our lives. If you have reached a point in your life when you are wondering, 'what is the next step?' or 'Where is God leading me now?' If you find your heart being stirred as you attend worship, finding yourself restless sitting in the pews, or at home at your computer, and you feel something stirring you to go deeper in the work of the church, then it is probably time to start thinking through these thoughts with someone.

Exploring your call is an important task and should be done with others as part of a faithful conversation.

You are welcome, no matter at what stage in your discernment process you find yourself at, to join us in our enquirer's day. Members of the Church Service Committee are hosting an online event on the 12th of February from 10-11.30am. Please pop in for a chat about where you are at, and we will be happy to be one stop along your discernment process. If you are interested please contact [jared.stephens@moravian.org.uk](mailto:jared.stephens@moravian.org.uk) to get the link for the event.

We look forward to speaking with you and pray that you are willing and able to listen to God's voice calling you on in your Christian walk as you seek to follow more and more deeply Jesus.

### My Forum

It is with regret that MyForum 2022 has been cancelled after risk assessments around the current high number of COVID cases. It is hoped we will be able to have the next event in 2023.

### Correction:

The 'New Year Letter' published in the January issue of the Moravian Messenger incorrectly referred to a story by the Russian poet Fyodor Dostoevsky but it was actually by the Russian poet Leo Tolstoy.

### The Moravian Pilgrimage Committee

Is delighted to announce

A Pilgrimage to Herrnhut and beyond ...

From 19th to the 25th September 2022.

The trip will include visits to Moravian congregations in Berlin, Dresden, Prague and a chance to be in Herrnhut for the 300th Anniversary year of the founding of that special place.

If you are interested please contact Br Paul M Holdsworth at: [paul.holdsworth@moravian.org.uk](mailto:paul.holdsworth@moravian.org.uk)

## Congregational Register

### Baptism

12th Dec 2021	Ollie Arthur William Dunlop	Gracehill
19th Dec 2021	Harris Charles Oliver McCormick	Gracehill
26th Dec 2021	Toby Jasper Simpson	Fairfield
26th Dec 2021	Luke Moses	

### Reception into Membership

1st Aug 2021	Beryl Healey	Royton
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### Marriage

29th May 2021	Eleanor Noden & Joshua Cooper	Royton
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### Death

16th Dec 2021	Carol Turner	Gracehill
4th Dec 2021	Robin Nugent Thomas	Fairfield

### Correction:

In the Congregational Register of the January issue of the Moravian Messenger, the same person was listed incorrectly as being both recently confirmed and also received into membership at Fairfield, when it was two different people. Apologies to David James Cartwright-Booth and David John Cartwright-Booth and their families - the correct entries to the register is as follows:-

### Confirmation

21st Nov 2021	David James Cartwright-Booth	Fairfield
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### Reception into Membership

21st Nov 2021	David John Cartwright-Booth	Fairfield
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## From Church House

Meetings are continuing to be held online wherever possible.

### Provincial Diary for February

3	Church Service Committee
4	Faith and Order and Ecumenical Relations Committee
12	Enquirers' Day
19	Irish District Conference
24-25	Provincial Board
26	Yorkshire District Conference
	Midlands District Conference

*Dates to remember!*

1	Chinese New Year
1-7	World Interfaith Harmony Week
6	Accession of Queen Elizabeth II
11	World Day for the Sick
13	Racial Justice Sunday ( <a href="http://www.ctbi.org.uk">www.ctbi.org.uk</a> )
14	Valentine's Day
22 Feb - 7	March Fairtrade Fortnight ( <a href="http://www.fairtrade.org.uk">www.fairtrade.org.uk</a> )
27	Church Action on Poverty Sunday ( <a href="http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday">www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday</a> )



# Update on the Synod Resolution about the e-Petition on Child Poverty

It is with sadness that I have to report that our application for an e-Petition on the matter of Child Poverty has been rejected by the UK Government and Parliament website as there is already a petition open that is too similar in nature. This petition can be found at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/600249> and is entitled, Create and implement a strategy for eradicating child poverty.

Although asking you to support an existing petition is not as Synod had directed the Bishops and Provincial Board, we would engage you all to sign this one and share the link with others. This issue continues to lie heavy on the hearts of us all, and your support in challenging the UK Government to do something meaningful to eradicate it would be greatly appreciated.

**Br David Howarth**

*On behalf of the Provincial Board*

## Create and implement a strategy for eradicating child poverty - Petitions

We want the Government to create & implement a specific Child Poverty Policy that has clear aims to eradicate child poverty. It should contain targets and strategies along the lines of previous strategies, but aimed at eradicating - rather than limiting - child poverty. 4.3 million children (31 %) are living in poverty in the UK. The 2010 Child Poverty Act was established, setting targets to reduce child poverty. The Government's Social Mobility Commission has predicted that child poverty rates will rise to 5.2 million by 2022. The 2016 Welfare Reform and Work Act abolished most of the 2010 Child Poverty Act. Since then, there has not been a specific Child Poverty Policy. We want a specific Child Poverty Policy to end child poverty in the UK.

[petition.parliament.uk](https://petition.parliament.uk)



## Summer Camp 2022

**Date:** 1st-5th August 2022

**Place:** Beverley Friary Youth Hostel, HU17 0DF

**For:** young people ages 10-17

**Availability:** Limited spaces

**Cost:** £130 each

Summer Camp 2022 will have a new format meeting for five days in Yorkshire. There will still be all the usual fun and games, bible studies, etc.

To register an interest and to obtain your booking forms first register at:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/summer-camp-2022-tickets-209093011827>

*More information to follow...*



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