



## Ordination of Sr Christine Emanuel



© Sr Roberta Hoey

The Ordination as Deacon of Sr Christine Emanuel took place at Hornsey Moravian Church on Saturday 26th March. The presiding Bishop was Br Joachim Kreusel and the liturgy was shared with Sr Sarah Groves. The church was full, and Sr Christine was supported by her fellow ministers, both serving and retired.

Ordinations are always a time to give thanks, celebrate and rejoice, and this special day in the life and ministry of Christine was no different. After four years of formal study and several months serving as Student Minister at Harold Road, Ordination marks the end of that part of Christine's formation for ministry and the beginning of a new chapter. We wish her every blessing in the future and pray that the path she treads in the service of her Lord and Saviour and his Church is a real blessing to us all.

The Church is often described as a family, and with good reason. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. And yet, this special day had an additional dimension to this sense of family. It was a family affair in something more than a theological sense. It is tradition within our church that ordinands are invited to choose a hymn and suggest someone they would like to preach at their Ordination, and Br Edwin Quildan, Christine's brother, gave the message.

Edwin spoke with authority and from the heart, stressing the importance of remaining faithful to God and the need to cling to one's faith in the Saviour. He also stressed the importance of following our personal sense of Call, for this originates from God, and that that we all must put our trust in him. Finally, Edwin issued a challenge, not only to Christine but to us all, asking if we were willing to accept the Call of Jesus Christ?

It is often said that if the Moravian Church does something

once it is a one-off, but to do the same thing twice makes it a Moravian Tradition. If this is the case, then we have created a new tradition. Using modern technology is nothing new to the church over the last couple of years, and this service was live streamed on YouTube. As this is, I think, now the third Ordination or Consecration that has been beamed live like this, we have a new tradition to upkeep, treasure and rejoice in. But seriously, live streaming also means that other people can join us from the comfort of their homes (wherever they may be) and from the passenger seats of at least one car. Br and Sr Holdsworth had set out from their home in Bristol in good time to make the journey along the M4 to London, but unfortunately found themselves caught up in traffic congestion due to an accident on the motorway. They gave their apologies, and our prayers are with all those directly involved in this incident and the emergency services who attended the incident.

Following the service all were invited to share in a feast in the hall kindly prepared by the members of the Harold Road and Hornsey congregations. Those who know Harold Road's home will know that it isn't big enough to accommodate such a large congregation. Hence the change of venue to Hornsey. In many ways, the team approach to hosting this occasion is very significant as Hornsey is Christine's home congregation. On behalf of the Province, I would like to thank both congregations for their hospitality. As always, this Moravian gathering was no different to any other. Tables were beautifully laid out for people to sit and eat (and talk - it was a Moravian event after all), and the smaller hall was used to lay out a whole array of wonderful things to eat. And to top the occasion off, a wonderful cake was shared by all.

*continue inside on page 52*



**Gracehill  
World Heritage  
Conference**

(page 52)



**Memorial to  
Br Nagendra  
Kumar Pradhan**

(page 54)



**Moravian Elected as  
Chair for the Irish  
Council of Churches**

(page 55)



**A trip to Unity Synod  
at Herrnhut in 1981**

- Sr Edna Cooper

(page 56-57)



I am writing this editorial on Good Friday, the day when we remember the absolute caving in of the political establishment to the pressure of a powerful elite. The result was Pilate symbolically washing his hand of the affair and the torture and death of an innocent man. You will be reading this, hopefully on the first Sunday in May, just days after the local elections in parts of England including London, Scotland and Wales and Northern Ireland. The elections in Northern Ireland are slightly different as here we will be voting for our Legislative Assembly that sits at Stormont.

Politicians on all sides will be taking different things from the elections whatever the result. Do they say it is a referendum on the national Government or just a reaction to local issues; a vote of confidence in one party or just a reaction to the other parties; a vote for the Union or a vote for a united Ireland.

The Moravian Church is a broad church with members holding varying views on a range of issues and supporting different political parties. We don't do politics with a big P! However, that does not stop us being political if politics is to do with our life together and the way we treat other people, be they the same as us or different from us in history, language, ethnicity, sexuality or opinion.

St Paul is very clear in Romans 13 on the need to be responsible citizens, obeying the law, paying taxes that are due and giving respect and honour to those to whom it is due. In addition to that we pray for wisdom for our politicians because we want them to govern us with good laws that are in line with the principals of our faith.

It is too easy to denigrate politicians, but most enter politics because they believe that they can serve their communities through one or other political parties. In addition, when you talk to local politicians individually many are perfectly amiable and genuinely interested in the issues that you raise with

them. The problems seem to come with the compromises that Governments and local Councils have to make to balance the issues that they face and the decisions that they have to take. If these things were easy and clear cut and we all agreed on what needs to be done then there would be no need for politicians - they are the ones who have to take the difficult decisions on our behalf.

So much of what constitutes political discourse is insulting and personal rather than constructive. Twitter, and sometimes Facebook, can be a bear pit, very entertaining and educational if you are just browsing it but it may be deeply hurtful if you are a politician trying to navigate social media and perhaps show the personal side of your life. And of course, part of me is so angry over lies made to Parliament by those who lead us, and another part of me wants to cut politicians some slack because of the job that they must do. Part of me is sickened by some policy decisions made here and in London but another part of me recognises that these decisions are driven by what some sections of the electorate want.

So, what to do! We are blessed by living in a democracy and so we are entitled to make our points and to agree or disagree with our elected representatives. As Christians we have gospel values that we want to promote and that we believe are best for all in our society. But that never entitles us to denigrate those with different views and it certainly no arguments are won by insults. So, get to know your politicians, even those with whom you disagree or who come from different communities. Tell them you are praying for them and their families personally and then courteously let them know your opinions on the issues of the day, what is dear to you and why it matters.

**Sr Sarah Groves**  
Editorial Team



## Letter

Dear Editors,

*Our Chancellor of the Exchequer's Spring statement has once again displayed a financial preference towards citizens who are not poor or disadvantaged. The think tank, the Resolution Foundation, calculated that his fiscal adjustments will place another 1,600,000 to 1,800,000 British citizens below the Government's own poverty level figures, and make now certain the number of children living in poverty will rise above five million. I understand that Christ said, 'bring the children to me'. That means us doesn't it?*

Yours frustratedly,

**Br Alan Holdsworth**

## Moravian Families Online

The Moravian Families Online planning team is a small group of four people. It came out of discussions at Provincial Youth and Children's Committee that showed that there was nothing for families online. Rather than the complicated pulling together of a video we decided that an interactive, relaxed Zoom service was the way to go.

In our services we include some easy-to-follow liturgy, a suitable bible reading (sometimes with interactive telling), and there may be a short reflection and short prayers - sometimes with actions, and an activity for us to do together. These activities have included planting bulbs and cooking. We usually have a relaxed time of fellowship and sharing refreshments at the end.

We try to make it as engaging as possible

for all ages and accessible across the world. We have no great ambition for this to be huge but a space where families can come together from their own homes and spend time thinking about God and building Moravian links across congregations and with those for whom going to church is a challenge.

There is no planned schedule of meetings as we don't want this to become another thing we as planners 'have to do' but it remains something we want to do. We hope to give at least a couple of weeks' notice before each Moravian Families Online event. Posters and Zoom details will be sent at least a week before to encourage people to Zoom in and share worship, activities and fellowship with us.

**Sr Joy Raynor**  
Provincial Youth and Children's Officer

# Tracing



When I was a small child, now a long time ago, we used to play a game with my parents called 'tracing'. No doubt there are many other names for it. The idea was to make a connection between two objects or places you could link together in your mind no matter how obscure the connection initially seemed to be. I suppose it was a 1940s version of lateral thinking.

Reading a book I had bought on holiday reminded me of the game, as I had some vague idea of a connection with a reference in the book. So hopefully I have made a link between the ill-fated RMS Titanic and the congregation at Fetter Lane. The book bought on holiday in Lyme Regis was entitled 'Women Bookbinders' dealing not only with individual binders but with some of the more celebrated companies that employed large numbers of women as binders when the trade was centred in the Fetter Lane area of London. One specific company was Sangoski and Sutcliffe set up in 1901 who rapidly obtained an unrivalled expertise in fine bindings and trained quite a number of women in their workshops. The finished books were frequently works of art in their own right and soon created a demand from collectors worldwide. One of the best known was Kathleen Adams whose work commanded top prices, up to £400 per book a considerable sum in 1940. Some of her work produced for Sangoski and Sutcliffe is now in the British Library and I had seen some of work illustrated in a book on fine bindings.

That was the connection and there my game apparently ended until I read a section in a volume which included a note on the art treasures that had been lost when the luxury liner 'Titanic' slid beneath the waters of the North Atlantic. In Belfast we can honestly claim that the 'Titanic' was sea-worthy when she left

Belfast although a reference in the log of the Moravian ship the 'Harmony' noted that 'the ice was very far south this year' but that might be another story.

Locked in the strong room of the liner was a copy of Fitzgerald's poem 'the Rubiyat of Omar Khayyam' specially bound by Sangoski and Sutcliffe. Produced in 1911 it was a truly sumptuous volume using only the finest leather and it was studded with jewels. The result was a masterpiece of the binder's craft. It had been purchased by an American collector and was in transit for exhibition in the USA. In 1932 Sutcliffe's nephew, Stanley Bray, elected to recreate the lost binding using the original designs and on its completion it was stored in a bank vault. Tragically like much of the Fetter Lane area it was lost in the London blitz as the bank took a direct hit. A few of the jewels were salvaged but the leather binding perished. Nevertheless Bray was undaunted and determinedly set out to recreate the binding again. It was only finished in 1982 when he himself was in his eighty second year. This binding, the supreme masterpiece of the company became known as the 'Great Omar 111' and finally came to rest in the British Library.

The game again went into abeyance for a time until one day looking through a box of books in the garage I came across a small Bible in its slipcase. It was a souvenir of the Coronation of the present Queen in 1953 and had been produced in a reduced facsimile format by the Oxford University Press. The special binding looked familiar and I traced it back to an exhibition catalogue. I had seen the exhibition in London in 2002 when it was part of a series on 'Royal Treasures' and the full-scale volume was on display with other volumes from the Royal collection. It was one of only 25 of

a special printing of which two had been given a specially commissioned binding. One was used during the Coronation service itself retained by Westminster Abbey with the second one being gifted to the Queen. Today it is in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle. The two special bindings had been entrusted to Sangoski and Sutcliffe.

Finally, the link reappeared when I was preparing a service for Sunday worship at Ballinderry. I reached up into the bookcase above my desk to lift down a copy of the Moravian Liturgy. A prized possession it had been a gift to me from the son-in-law of the late Bishop John Foy. Inside the Liturgy and its companion Hymn Book is the inscription: 'Presented to John H Foy on the occasion of his Consecration as Bishop on Sept 30th 1964 by members of the Fetter Lane Congregation'. Plainly bound in fine quality black leather and embossed in gold with the lamb and flag, both books have a wonderful tactile feel. Inside they are finished with a delicate gold trim and his name 'John H Foy' is stamped in gold at the top of the interior cover. Always a delight to use, I looked at them carefully and noticed for the first time that in minute detail was the name of the binder barely visible to the naked eye: Sangoski and Sutcliffe.

The common link might now be complete but perhaps one of the older members at Fetter Lane could give some information about the commission to obtain them from the binders or were they directly involved with the production of the gift? We might be able to continue the story.

**Br Henry Wilson**  
Ballinderry



## MORAVIAN PROVINCIAL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

# ANNUAL RALLY

To be held at Leominster Moravian Church, on  
Saturday 26th June 2022

*Come along and enjoy fellowship together*

**Speaker:** Sr. Lorraine Parsons  
**Subject:** CAPTAIN JACKSON  
**The Last Captain of the Harmony**

Please bring your own refreshments for Tea. A cup of tea will be provided.



## Gracehill World Heritage Conference

In late February it was confirmed that Gracehill had been successfully added to the UK Tentative list of potential World Heritage Sites and details will now be sent to UNESCO in Paris. This was another significant and timely step on the journey to World Heritage inscription as the Settlement was to be the venue for an international conference to discuss the next steps in the nomination process only a few weeks later.

From March 21st to 23rd delegates attending from Bethlehem (USA), Herrnhut (Germany) and the UK and Ireland were given a warm welcome made all the more so by the bright Spring sunshine which persisted throughout the conference. A number of international delegates also attended via Zoom.

Proceedings began with a short welcome service in Gracehill Moravian Church conducted by Bishop Sarah Groves. Sr Roberta Thompson gave readings in German and hymns were bilingual.



Delegates meet in Gracehill

© Sr Sally Ann Johnston

Following the service, specially commissioned music videos featuring pupils from some of the post primary schools in the Ballymena Learning Together group was launched. This included an old song entitled 'Gracehill' which had been found in the church archives. Later in the morning the musical theme continued with a lively and enthusiastic performance by the P3 class of Gracehill Primary School.

The two-day conference included a mixture of workshops and also tours of the Settlement to look at the historic planned layout. There were also visits to a number of the listed buildings including the newly restored Old Village Shop, which dates from 1787, in addition to God's Acre and the village Square where visitors were entertained by Ballyduff silver band.

Workshops led by Mr Barry Gamble and Ms Friederike Hansell, both world heritage experts, explored such areas as the State of Conservation and factors affecting

the property, the protection and management of the property and the international property management plan, all in preparation for submission of further documentation to UNESCO in Paris as the next step in the application process nears completion.

A conference dinner was hosted by the Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Cllr William McCaughey, who presented plaques to visiting representative to mark their visit to the Borough.

The conference was judged a great success as not only were many topics discussed and international partnerships enriched as we worked towards a common goal but also the potential of World Heritage as a vehicle to reach out to the wider community, nationally and internationally and raise the profile of the Moravian ethos was increasingly apparent.

**Br David Johnston**  
Gracehill

## Ordination of Sr Christine Emanuel *continued*

I have always thought that spring is a good time of the year for an Ordination as hope speaks both loudly and clearly. It is also a good time to thank God for bringing us through another winter, again proving that his hand is at work in the world. Perhaps this was even more poignant, for it would appear that the restrictions of the last couple of years, brought on by COVID-19, have somewhat eased.

May God continue to bless Christine, her family and his whole church, guiding and protecting us all as we respond to his Call of service and as witnesses to his power and glory.

**Br David Howarth** Provincial Board

## 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 soon.



## DEC Appeal



Brothers and Sisters,

The YPMA will be supporting the DEC Appeals for Ukraine and Afghanistan. The Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) is supported by Christian Aid and 14 other charities.

We would like to encourage this appeal across congregations and organisations, even if you don't normally raise funds directly for YPMA.

Resources and information on the appeals can be found here:

[www.dec.org.uk/appeal/afghanistan-crisis-appeal](http://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/afghanistan-crisis-appeal)

[www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal](http://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal)

We would encourage funds to be sent to Church House.

Over the coming weeks, with Br Paul Greenhough, we will be publishing details on the other projects that YPMA will support for 2022.

Yours in Christ's Service,  
**Sr Roberta Hoey**  
On Behalf of the Provincial Board of the Moravian Church

## What I Believe

Moravian Messenger Editor, Sr Sarah Groves interviews Br David Howarth

Br David Howarth is an ordained minister in the Moravian Church and currently serves on the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) as a full-time member.

### Tell us about your background and family

I was born in Manchester and although I lived at Fairfield I grew up as part of the congregation at Wheler Street, following my parents, Joan and Eric Howarth, and grandparents. I have a half-sister and half-brother from my father's previous marriage. His first wife sadly died when my siblings were much younger. Although I have nieces and nephews in the Manchester area, I have far more family in Australia. The Aussie side of the family are as a direct result of my paternal grandparents emigrating sometime before the Second World War.

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

My mother was a life-long member at Wheler Street. Although I was taken to Sunday School in my early years, my parents encouraged me to continue to go with them into my teens. I remember my father going off to do something with the boiler and my mother playing the organ, leaving me to get the hymn books out, put up the hymn numbers and get out the offering plate. I suppose I never moved away from the church like many of my friends did. The church was my extended family.

### What led you into the ministry, and how did you hear God's call?

There was no mountain top, epiphany moment but a deepening awareness of God's presence and his Call into something. After much prayerful reflection over many years, I suppose I ran out of excuses to make to God and myself.

### What did you do before entering the ministry?

Prior to training for ministry, I worked in a variety of differing roles ranging from a Tax Officer to a Systems Analyst (BUPA) and Project Manager (MKD Holdings).

### Where did you train for ministry and what did you enjoy about it?

I trained at Northern College, Manchester, starting in September 2000. Alongside the academic study, students were given a series of Church and Community Placements. In my final two years my 'major church placement' was at Lower Wyke and Wellhouse with my community placements being with a drug rehabilitation centre and a secure psychiatric hospital, both in Bradford. My overseas placement was in Genadendal, South Africa.

Training for ministry is a time for reflection and exploration as well as learning. But it is also a time for meeting people and experiencing God and what God is doing in the world. My fondest memories, as well as most challenging, came from my overseas placement in Genadendal.



### What experiences from your life before training have you found useful in ministry?

Problem solving and dealing with people at a time in their life when they feel vulnerable.

### What has been your greatest joy so far in ministry?

There are so many, it is difficult to single one out. In a nutshell one could describe

it as coming alongside and sharing the journey.

### Have you ever been angry with God, and if so, why?

Too many times to mention. But he always calms my fears and changes my mind.

### Are you afraid to die, or can you look beyond death?

I am not afraid to die, but the method of death frightens me beyond words. However resurrection is central to my faith. The image I have is of an egg timer with the Cross being the tube of glass where the sand passes. Everything flows towards it or away from it. As for future resurrection, that is an ongoing theological reflection that changes time and time again.

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

We can only learn from other churches and faiths if we engage with them. My experience says that we have far more in common than separates us. So often I have watched churches retreat into buildings and self, only concerned for their own welfare. We need to learn to be more open, and if that means being challenged to share what we believe, then so be it.

### Why are so many people turning their backs on organised religion?

Without being flippant, if I knew the answer, I would try to do something about it. I suppose many people have lost sight of the majesty of God's creation and strive for certainty rather than living and being comfortable with the tension that there are some things that we cannot explain.

### Some personal preferences: favourite film, book, music and why?

My favourite film has to be There's Only One Jimmy Grimble, a low budget British film with a great cast of British actors. As for a piece of music, it's Sinead O'Connor's version of the Prince song, Nothing Compares 2 U. Finally, my favourite book is Pies and Prejudice by Stuart Maconie. I suppose I share his sense of being a Northerner in exile.

### The place where you feel closest to God?

In quiet places, especially if I am allowed to drift away in my thoughts. There isn't one physical place.

### What inscription on your gravestone or epitaph, if any?

I don't intend to have a gravestone. A simple scattering of ashes at Fairfield along with my parents and maternal grandparents is good enough for me.

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

I have lost too many people who I have loved, and I often wonder if they knew it. The joy is the joy of knowing them.





## Memorial to Br Nagendra Kumar Pradhan

I begin by offering sympathy to Br Nagendra's wife, Sr Kamaleswori and their son, Br Joshua, who was only 18 months old when we first met - also to all members of the large family, including those I know well like Nagendra's youngest brother, Shanti and his wife, Vani, who are both ordained ministers of the Moravian Church.

The work in Nepal began with the North India links, particularly in Ladakh and also with the Moravian Institute at Rajpur, near Dehra Dun, where a number of young people from Khatmandu were educated. There were requests for a similar work to be started in Nepal.

Br Nagendra was the leading person for this work in Nepal, and I, as representative of the British Mission Board was asked to meet with him. We met in 1997 (25 years ago) and he began employment with the Moravian Church on 1st June as a church worker. Fellowship meetings for worship were held in a former chicken shed and there were about 30 members. Nagendra was a pioneer evangelist, supported by his wife, for the work of the Moravian Church.

He was hugely involved in many organisations, including:

- Central Asia Fellowship
- United Mission to Nepal
- Teach Ministries (preparing materials for Sunday Schools)
- Gospel Recordings - Nepal (providing Gospel messages on wind-up recorders)
- Every Home Concern
- Christian Arts Association Nepal.

Nagendra worked with educators - and heard many calling for schools to be set up. I visited Nepal in 1997, 1998 and 1999, and then when on his way back from a visit to Suriname Br Nagendra was ordained Deacon at Fulneck in Yorkshire on 27th September 2000 by Bishop Birtill.

The mission he pioneered had been a work of the Moravian Unity under the supervision of the BMB since 1997. Br Robert Hopcroft succeeded me in becoming BMB representative for South Asia in 2000.

I was invited to visit Nepal again and, as Bishop, consecrated Br Nagendra to be a

Presbyter in 2009 in a larger, borrowed church. I well remember the enthusiastic vigour of the young people which was quite infectious. We had services at Baneshwor in those days and then also some meetings for the people twelve kilometres out at Khokona.

I was to see more of Br Nagendra at meetings we had during the COVID pandemic through the wonders of Zoom technology.

His passing ends a chapter - but his work lives on - and for that we give thanks. We are glad to have two ordained ministers in Nepal - and trust that the work begun by Br Nagendra will continue with the support of all our Brothers and Sisters working together, through educational and church fellowships for the benefit of the people of Nepal.

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

The battle fought, the victory won, Enter thy Master's joy.

**Br John McOwat**

## Pastor Nagendra Kumar Pradhan: Moravian Pioneer in Himalayan Nepal

(28th February 1952-19th February 2022)

Pastor Nagendra Kumar Pradhan, for the worldwide Moravian Church, was a pioneer into the new mission territory of Nepal, and he shall always remain God's man chosen specifically to establish Jesus's name, during his lifetime of evangelism and pastoring.

Descended from the lineage of Kathmandu born Rev Ganga Prasad Pradhan, who was an iconic missionary and the first translator of the Bible into the Nepali language (4th July 1851-28th March 1932), he was the eldest son of Mr Mahendra Kumar Pradhan, a Church Elder and headmaster of Turnbull High School in Darjeeling, India. Ever since his school days, Br Nagendra grew up in an environment of godly zeal and pioneering stories. His contemporaries will recall his way of strict admonishing about private spiritual life and fidelity to the church.

After his initial education in Darjeeling and having been spiritually nurtured by the missionary evangelist Br R Jonathan Maraj of Trinidad, Br Nagendra was sponsored to undertake a four-year biblical and theological education at Prairie Bible Institute in Alberta, Canada.

With a vision for Nepal, Br Nagendra, as an independent faith missionary evangelist from Darjeeling (India), travelled over 500 kilometres to Kathmandu (Nepal) in 1988, initiating contacts among Christian ministries and identifying areas where he would be able to establish a gospel centre. By God's will, in the course of his stay he

met and married Sr Kamaleshwori Pradhan on 8th May 1995, settling in the Baneshwor locality of the sprawling city of Kathmandu.

The first regular group of believers gathered on 4th February 1997 in the home of his sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs Lal Sundar Rai. The Lord blessed this humble beginning of a few, with ever growing numbers in each month of the succeeding years.

Br Nagendra had a variety of interests, abilities and passion: he was a lyric composer of several Nepali hymns, a Board member of the School of Music and Worship, a Bible teacher in several church groups, the 'soul' of the Nepali Christian Hymnal Project and the Christiya Bhajan Choir of Nepal with over 100 voices, and the translator of English hymns into Nepali.

In Bible teaching ministry, Br Nagendra was the Board Chairman of Himalayan Bible Training Center, along with other responsibilities with Christian Community Councils and Associations, Gospel Recordings projects, Early Childhood Education Nepal, Teach Ministries, Christian Art Association, Every Home Concern, Campus Crusade for Christ, and the Gospel for Asia.

In 1997, the Moravian Church worldwide accepted Br and Sr Nagendra and Kamaleshwori Pradhan's ministry through the British Mission Board's Chairman, Bishop John McOwat, assisted by Br Elijah Gergan of the Moravian Church in Leh,

Ladakh - this was a landmark year for the growing witness of the Moravians in the Himalayas.

In this pastoral ministry, Br Nagendra, kept his foremost priority with the congregations of the church, with no delays or absences in any of the gatherings, until deterioration in his health and final hospitalisation in 2022.

With over 100 varied fellowships in multiple locations, the vibrancy was evident in all three congregations at Baneshwor, Khokona and Cheyyasikot, all in the precincts of Kathmandu. A father figure to all, Br Nagendra was lovingly addressed as 'Buwa' (revered father) by over 300 Moravian believers.

With the active assistance of Sr Kamaleshwori, the two were blessed in all domains of this pioneering Moravian work.

Rather surprisingly, as at the time of writing this, Nepali Moravians are the most vibrantly growing and outgoing of all Moravian presence in South Asia. Leaving behind a legacy of rich ministry, and with the contributions of Rev Shanti and Rev Vani Pradhan (husband and wife), through the Moravian Shristi Academy in Kathmandu, the Moravian Church has a wide, open 'door' in what is one of the fastest advancing Christian mission fields in Asia.

**Rev Elijah Spalbar Gergan**

*Retired Moravian Pastor Leh, Ladakh.*



© Br Mark Kernohan

L-R: Outgoing President Rev Ivan Patterson, Presbyterian, Bishop Andrew Foster, Church of Ireland, President 2022-2023 and Sr Sarah Groves Vice President.

## Moravian Elected as Chair for the Irish Council of Churches

The Irish Council of Churches (ICC) was founded in 1923 in the aftermath of the partition of Ireland and the subsequent civil war and is the formal national body through which member churches in Ireland, North and South formally engage, dialogue and act on a wide variety of issues. It is established by the member churches and funded by them.

There are currently 16 different denominations in the ICC.

The ICC Executive meets four times a year and is made up of church general secretaries and other nominated representatives from across the range of Protestant, Orthodox, Reformed and Independent church traditions.

The PEC agreed in 1923 that the Moravian Church Irish district should be part of this having at that time Churches on both sides of the border. So it was that the Moravian Church was one of the seven original members: the Church of Ireland, Methodist, Presbyterian, non-subscribing Presbyterian, Congregational and the Quakers being the other six.

## Statement of the Moravian European Continental Province 2022 Synod on the War in Ukraine

The 2022 Synod meeting is taking place under the impression of the recent military attack by Russia on Ukraine. There is war in Europe. People are dying senselessly, are being driven from their homes, the infrastructure of an entire country is being destroyed. All this fills us with sadness, with incomprehension, and with great concern. The foundations of democracy, European security and coexistence have been shaken and threatened. International law and human rights are being trampled.

In the opening service of the Synod and on Sunday evening we thought of the people who are particularly affected by this. We heard about the concerns and fears of our brothers and sisters in Latvia and Estonia, as well as in Albania, and we had contact with brothers and sisters in Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Great Britain. Our thoughts also went to our congregations in the Czech Republic. Intercession in view of the

situation accompanied us throughout the Synod meeting.

We were particularly shaken by the reports of three women from Zaporizhzhia in Ukraine who, with four children and a companion, made a stopover at the Komensk guesthouse in Herrnhut on their flight from the war to find some peace. Families with children were so far also able to find refuge in the 'Haltestelle' in Cottbus and in our congregations at Dresden, Niesky, Rhein-Main and Zeist. We are grateful to all those who are willing to take in people in need, who try to comfort or alleviate hardship with donations of money and goods. All this support is a sign of hope and of our faith in the Prince of Peace.

As a Synod, we believe and confess that according to God's will war is not meant to be. It is not a means to resolve conflicts, but it plunges countless people into misery and ruin. Those who make peace are called blessed by Jesus. We recall the powerful words of the prophet Micah: 'They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; neither shall they learn war any more.' We remember what impact in both German states these words had on the fabric patches produced in Herrnhut. Because there are times to resolutely stand against violence, we hold on to this hope, which has become so important to us during the years of the Cold War, that ultimately peace can only be achieved without weapons.

We hope and pray that the weapons will be silent and that the war in Ukraine will be stopped. We hope and pray that the inhabitants of the neighboring countries can live without fear in safe borders.

We hope and pray that people on the run will find safe refuge.

We hope and pray that the mediation attempts will succeed and that politics will not fall back into the logic of the Cold War. We pray for the politicians who are looking for ways to resist violence.

We hope and pray that the suffering of the people will come to an end, that mourners will be comforted, and tears be dried.

We draw hope from the prayer by Christoph Blumhardt from the German edition of the Moravian Watchwords of 7 March:

'Let your hand remain upon us and upon the nations that fight against each other. Let the time come soon when you will set everything in order and give your peace on earth. Thy kingdom must and will come; for thy will must and will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

**Br Mark Kernohan**  
*University Road, Belfast*



# A trip to Unity Synod at Herrnhut in 1981

I remember the pleasure with which Joe and I looked forward to visiting Herrnhut for Unity Synod 40 years ago: 36 years after WW2 had ended and while Herrnhut was still in the Soviet Zone. It was the realisation of a dream that we would see where the Moravian Church was renewed and spread around the world. Ever since that visit I have remembered the hospitality of the congregation at Herrnhut, not only to delegates but also to wives who accompanied them. Looking back, I was able to refer to the diary notes we both made of our Moravian journey. Hospitality was more than just providing food and entertainment. It was the warmth of the welcome, the planning, the friendliness, and the real interest in us as people from different parts of the world and our problems, some inquired about the unrest and violence in Belfast and spoke of their concern for us.

Joe and I left Belfast on 27th August 1981, spent the night in London at the home of Br and Sr Burd, then on 28th made our way with them to the airport to meet up with Srs Cora Ives and Dorothy Moreton, Brn Malcolm Healy, Batapa from North India and Justin Peart and Adams from Jamaica and soon were on the flight to West Berlin. There we were joined by delegates from other parts of the world and some American wives and welcomed by the congregation and Br Schonlieber. We joined in the Singstunde and afterwards were seated at long tables around the church and served with a meal, followed by greetings from America, Honduras, Nicaragua, Surinam, Leh, translated from Spanish, English, Danish and German.

Next morning on our way from our hotel to the church we made a detour to look over the Berlin Wall into East Berlin and thought of those who lost their lives attempting to escape. The city was still divided for a further eight years. We enjoyed a bowl of substantial soup before setting off for the Friedrichstrasse (Checkpoint Charlie) crossing, where we were courteously received and the crossing was completed in a few minutes, only passports being inspected, and were welcomed by East German Moravians with a coach and minibus for transport to Herrnhut, a journey of about four hours with a break in a forest area for a picnic.

There was a very warm welcome in Herrnhut, and Joe and I settled in the newly renovated Schulungszentrum conference centre that would be our home for the next two weeks. Gifts awaited us, a miniature and a full-sized Moravian star, and a book about Herrnhut that I still treasure. Later we joined in the Singstunde then had a walk round the settlement.

The Sunday morning service started at 9.30am when the sermon etc were in German and English. Dr Philip Potter, secretary of the World Council of Churches brought greetings. Joe reckoned there were probably 300 people at the communion service in

the evening - so far as we could see the only indication of meetings the local people received was a list on the notice board, but many attended sessions and events.

It was like another world for us, we were not really aware of what was happening in Belfast or the wider world, though one American minister friend was feeling so cut off from news we let him have our small radio. Hospitality for the wives took various forms, we were welcome to attend receptions and synod sessions or join visits to the archives and mission slide shows, invited to homes of members for coffee. We were taken by coach to the Oberlausitz district and saw interesting houses and visited a Lutheran church where the gallery was decorated with Biblical events from the Old and New Testament, some rather amusing like Jonah being spewed from the whale's mouth and Jacob's dream. We called at Groshennersdorf, the ruins of the one-time home of Count Zinzendorf's grandparents and we visited various villages and a mill where we enjoyed coffee and poppy seed cake, a local specialty, then had a tour of the mill. We had a coach trip to the Zittau mountains and the rock church with ceiling pictures and a carved Last Supper scene behind the altar. We climbed up to the earlier church ruins where concerts were held, and a lovely little burial ground where the ascent must have presented problems to the funeral director; then continued up to the café where our host, Br Winter, had kindly reserved tables and ordered Kirche tarte and chocolate tarte.

There was a walk with Br Fischer, the forester, in woods belonging to the church. He showed us a larch and a beech tree growing close together in spite of needing different growing conditions, and said as they had lived together, they would have to die together since they could not be separated.

We visited the Star factory and Durringers weaving department and it was interesting to see the therapy and training provided to enable young people in the Rehabilitation Centre to eventually find work in the factory. We also visited the museums. There was a book shop where I bought a copy of Hutton's Cennick.

On 5th September groups of synodals visited various areas to conduct the Sunday services etc. Joe was in the group going to Forst on the Polish Border with the Brn Rittfield (Surinam), Allen Thomas (Honduras), Graham Rights (USA) and Br Kuchler of Herrnhut as interpreter. We visited Niesky on the way and I was able to meet the mother of my friend, Friedl Frey (née Fischer) and also learned something of the work of the Nursing Sisters in the Training House. Joe noted he understood there were resident 17 Deaconesses, 40 pensioners and 40 pupils, and he was told the lovely old grandfather clock in the dining room was brought from London by Count Zinzendorf.

We rose early one morning and 20 of us and the driver boarded a coach for Dresden. We met the Moravian minister and his wife, visited interesting churches and saw the ruins of beautiful buildings destroyed in the war. We viewed the jewelled treasures of Dresden in the Zwinger museums and Green Vault and had a brief time for shopping.

We joined the delegates to attend the Government reception, hosted by the Minister for Church Affairs, Herr Klaus Kysi who addressed us at length and Br Hickel, Br Groenfeldt and Br Misagalo responded.

Joe and I visited the interpreter for our group Br Kuchler and his wife in their pleasant apartment, we saw the courtyard and large garden where the residents each had a patch of ground. We walked to Berthelsdorf and remembered the early settlers in Herrnhut who walked this road to worship.

After the Synod session ended on the 11th September we met to express thanks to the Herrnhut congregation and the Provincial Board for their wonderful hospitality and kindness; gifts were presented, many of national origin like drums, drawings, carvings etc. and so Synod ended. The Concert in church on 12th September was magnificent, with soloists from Dresden and Zittau, members of Dresden Sinfonia orchestra and a united choir consisting of Moravians, Catholics and some Lutherans took part and the church was full.

On the Sunday, after the closing service of synod and the anniversary of the Rehabilitation Centre, we visited the Garden Party. Just before 2 pm the coach arrived to take some of us on the next stage of our journey to then Czechoslovakia. Our Herrnhut friends with the band gathered for a tearful farewell.

Finally, I want to mention that one of our last calls before leaving was on Sr Aarlt, the minister's wife, who gave us small shell boats, also a small cutting of the house plant Tradescantia in a bright yellow eggcup and I still have its descendants from which I regularly replant cuttings. Sometimes I wonder if they will survive, but they always do and continue to remind me of the hospitality on that memorable visit to Herrnhut.

**Sr Edna Cooper**  
Cliftonville, Belfast



## The Bishops Message to the Moravian Churches in Latvia and Estonia

Dear sisters and brothers in Estonia and Latvia!

In these days of peace shattered in Europe by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we think of you in Estonia and Latvia in particular. We understand your fears and concerns. We pray ourselves and in our congregations that you may remain protected, that the serious threat is removed from you and that you can live within safe borders. We think of the people in Ukraine and in all neighbouring countries and ask God that the war will end as soon as possible. We hope for justice and peace for the entire region.

May God bless you and keep you.

*The Bishops of the British and European Provinces of the Moravian Church*

**Theodor Clemens, Sarah Groves, Humbert Hessen, Joachim Kreusel, John McOwat, Volker Schulz and Friedrich Waas.**

*Prayer:*

*God of all peoples and nations,  
Who created all things alive and breathing,  
United and whole,  
Show us the way of peace that is your overwhelming presence.  
We hold before you the peoples of Ukraine and Russia,  
Every child and every adult.  
We long for the time  
When weapons of war are beaten into ploughshares  
When nations no longer lift up sword against nation.  
We cry out to you for peace;  
Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety  
Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones  
Be with those who are bereaved.  
Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression  
And fill leaders with the wisdom that leads to peace.  
Kindle again in us a love of our neighbour,  
And a passion for justice to prevail  
and a renewed recognition that we all play a part in peace.  
Creator of all hear our prayer  
And bring us peace. make us whole.  
Amen.*



## Harold Road, London

Saturday 26th March was a joyous day for the Harold Road Congregation, and for the British Province.

Sister Christine Emanuel was ordained deacon at Hornsey by Bishop Joachim Kreusel. Brother Edwin Quildan gave a lively sermon on the theme of the Shepherd and the Sheep. The service was a mixture of solemnity and joy - as it should be.

It was obvious to all present that Sister Christine is very special. We are very fortunate to have her as our minister at Harold Road and we are sure that she will make a significant contribution to the wider Moravian Church as time goes on.



© Br Michael O'Sullivan

The church was full; many ministers attended and the singing was well up to standard. But it was sad that the contingent from the Western District had to turn back because of impossible traffic conditions.

Outstanding fellowship followed the service. We are so grateful to Hornsey for allowing the use of their church and the hall - and particularly to the ladies for preparing ample quantities of delicious food and to everyone for setting up the hall in such splendid fashion.

The whole day cast a warm ray of light in difficult times.

**Br Michael O'Sullivan**

## University Road, Belfast

### Flowering of the Cross at University Road

As in every other Moravian congregation Easter at University Road is very much a time of traditions. Some, like the singing of the Hosanna Anthem on Palm Sunday, our Passion Week readings and Maundy Thursday Holy Communion are timeless. Others however are of more recent origin and the 'flowering of the cross' is one such. This symbolic act of decorating a cross with spring flowers on Palm Sunday, allowing the flowers to fade and die over the course of Holy Week and then refreshing them again on Easter Sunday reflecting our Lord's death on the cross and his triumphant resurrection, is a tradition 'imported' to University Road for the first time in 1999. It followed a congregation visit to Winston Salem Home Church where the flowering of the cross was first observed.

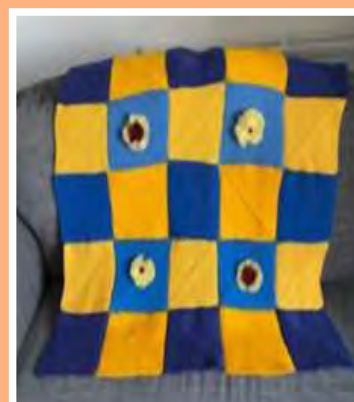
This year, as in 22 of the past 24 years, the children of the congregation helped with the decorative flowering and then, in procession, carried the cross into church.

It has become a beautiful and poignant tradition which is now very much part of our Easter celebrations.

**Sr Carol Ackah**



© Sr Claire James



© Sr Huggan

*Members of Baildon craft club have been making cot blankets for the Ukrainian appeal.*

## From Church House

### Calls

Sr Jane Carter has received and accepted a Call to serve the Swindon and Tytherton congregations from 1st August 2022. Br Philip Cooper has received and accepted a Call to serve the Gomersal and Wellhouse congregations with effect from 22nd August 2022. Please remember Sr Jane and Br Philip in your prayers as they begin these new chapters in their ministry.

The Provincial Board are mindful that the

congregations of Fairfield and Lower Wyke congregations will be entering a period of interregnum because of these Calls and would ask all members to remember them and the congregations at Horton, Royton and Salem, their respective Church Committees and those invited to lead worship while in the interregnum in your prayers.

*Yours in Christ's service,*

**The Provincial Board.**

### Provincial Diary for May

- 5 Safeguarding and Lettings Webinar (Zoom at 7pm)
- 9-13 Unity Board Meeting (Czechia)
- 18-19 Provincial Board
- 26 Deadline for Synod B Proposals
- 27 Church Service Committee (Online)

## Notices

### Property to Let at Fairfield

A three bedroomed, mid-terrace house at 32B Fairfield Square, Droylsden is now available to let at £850 p.c.m., and a one bedroomed, rear terrace cottage at 40B Fairfield Square, Droylsden is also available to let at £550 p.c.m.

Further information and application forms are available from the property agent Mr John Forrester, who can be contacted by telephone at: 01772 421566; or by email: info@johnforrester.co.uk. Applications forms to be returned to Mr Forrester by 5.00pm on 20th May 2022.

### 'Travelling with the Lord': Ockbrook Retreat, 20th-22nd May 2022

The Moravian Pilgrimage Committee would like to remind you about the Retreat that has been planned for the 20th-22nd May at Ockbrook Moravian Church.

Places are still available, and we would be delighted to have you with us for this special event. The Retreat will include times of reflection, creativity, worship, gentle walks and will be an opportunity to gather together after having had to spend so much time apart recently.

The cost will be £50, which will include food and the accommodation will be provided on the Settlement, although it would be possible to stay in a local hotel and take a full part.

If you are interested in attending then please contact Br Paul M Holdsworth at paul.holdsworth@moravian.org.uk

### What is Fun Faith Boxes?

Fun Faith Boxes is a Monthly Box Subscription Service designed to help homes grow in faith. Each month through your door will be Christian content packed with activities that include baking, crafting, games and more!

Designed by Moravians Sr. Laura Wood and Sr. Claire Maxwell, we hope to add opportunities for you to build on your church life at the heart of your home.

For more information go to: [www.funfaithboxes.com](http://www.funfaithboxes.com)  
Instagram @funfaithboxes  
Facebook @funfaithboxes



## Making an Icon

### The Life and Work of Mary Gillick at her Home and Studio in Chelsea

**Saturday 7 May 2022, 11:00 - 18:00 BST**

**Moravian Close, 381 Kings Road, Chelsea, London, SW10 0LP.**



© Courtesy of The Mary Gillick Estate

Exploring the life and work of Mary Gillick (1881-1965), designer of the first effigy of HM Queen Elizabeth II to appear on the coinage.

After arriving in London from her birthplace in Nottingham at the beginning of the 20th century, Mary Gillick pursued her studies at the Royal College of Arts. She later embarked on a career in commemorative sculpture and design that lasted until the 1960s. Mary, and fellow sculptor husband Ernest, settled in Chelsea where they established their studio in the former stables of the 16th century estate of Sir Thomas More, author of Utopia, next to the chapel now used by the Fetter Lane Moravian Congregation, on the famous King's Road. Through two world wars and the cultural revolution that dominated the 1950s and 1960s, the green one-acre expanse of Moravian Close in Chelsea remained a peaceful oasis where Mary produced one of the iconic portraits of the 20th century.

The Gillicks played an active part in the Chelsea arts community and Mary's work can still be seen at various local sites including Moravian Close.

In 1952, the world's press came to Chelsea to turn a spotlight on the 71-year-old artist and her winning design that was chosen to depict the new monarch, HM Queen Elizabeth II, to be featured on the coinage and later on Royal Mail stamps. Now in this Platinum Jubilee year, the softly spoken Mary is once again centre stage as we revisit her special achievements.

The Making An Icon presentation will explore Mary's life and work with a special focus on her time spent in Chelsea at the site of her former home and studio. There will be an exhibition of photographs as well as an opportunity to explore the historic site. There will also be a talk by local historian Ian Foster who has spent several years researching Ernest and Mary Gillick.

Details can be found at: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/making-an-icon-the-life-and-work-of-mary-gillick-at-her-home-and-studio-tickets-264169898277](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/making-an-icon-the-life-and-work-of-mary-gillick-at-her-home-and-studio-tickets-264169898277).

**Dates to remember!**

## Congregational Register

### Baptism

16 Jan 2022 Daisy Geddis Belfast University Road  
16 Jan 2022 Courtney Miller Belfast University Road

### Confirmation

16 Jan 2022 Kyle Geddis Belfast University Road

### Death

26th Mar 2022 Mary Horsfall Gomersal

1	Eid-ul-Fitr - Muslim Ramadan ends
3	Beginning of Watchwords in Herrnhut 1728
12	The signing of the Brotherly Agreement which marked the Renewal of the Unitas Fratrum at Herrnhut, Saxony, 1727
15-21	Christian Aid Week ( <a href="http://www.christianaid.org.uk">www.christianaid.org.uk</a> )
26	Ascension Day





© Sr Lorraine Shorten

# Leominster Moravian Church

**Welcome to Leominster! Our church is one of the oldest buildings in town.**

John Cennick preached, by invitation, several times in Leominster from 1749. His visits resulted in the formation of a Moravian Society in the district. A donation of land off South Street enabled the Society to develop into a regular congregation. The foundation stone for a chapel was laid in April 1760. The church was consecrated and opened on 17th January the following year. A manse was built adjacent to the chapel, and a burial ground was laid out at the rear. Entrances to the chapel were central to the West and East walls. The interior had galleries to three sides, with the pulpit on the East side. Remodelling after 1875 resulted in all galleries, except the North gallery, being removed and the pews realigned to face the relocated pulpit at the South end. The original entrances were replaced with windows, and a new doorway was built in North wall. A new belfry was added in 1891. The whole refit gave the church an appearance that it generally retains today.

Buildings nearby included a sisters' house from 1780, rebuilt as a school with a Lecture Hall in 1872. A Sunday School was established in 1829.

Supplied from Leominster Chapel, groups of Moravians gathered in numerous out-preaching places, such as those at Ludlow, Toington, Cholstrey, Cobnash, Westhope, Apperley, The Broad and more, extending out to Builth, Culth Wells, Rhos Goch, the Gore, and Llanafan. At one time, these formed a continuous line of chapels and preaching places stretching from Leominster almost to Haverfordwest.

Since the opening in 1761, our church has enjoyed the sound of a pipe organ, although the make and location has changed over the years. The present organ was built by Driver and Haigh of Harrogate. The hand pumped bellows were located in a distant cellar, necessitating a communication system between the organist and the blower. Fortunately for our gifted organist, Rob, an electrically-driven unit powers the organ today.

In 2003, the old school hall underwent major refurbishment, providing seven new flats in 'Cennick Court' and much improved facilities for use by the congregation and local community.

There have been nearly 70 ministers at Leominster over the years. Our present minister is Reverend Lorraine Shorten. Together, we guide and encourage each other, respecting the traditions and ways of our predecessors, whilst recognising the need to adopt and adapt in this ever-changing world. We are an active part of Churches Together in Leominster. Our annual garden party is a popular event for bringing people together. Most weeks we meet and 'get crafty' with our Busy Fingers group. Last year we completed a display in the hall about the adventures of J.C. Jackson, Captain of the last Moravian Mission Ship 'Harmony'. (Captain Jackson was a member of our congregation and is at rest in the burial ground). We recently hosted Rev Lorraine's consecration, and regularly join our Brothers and Sisters in Birmingham in worship via Zoom. We love Leominster!

**Br Kit Shorten**

## The Moravian Messenger

Official Journal of the Moravian Church in the British Province.  
Published monthly by the authority of the Provincial Synod.

**Advertisements and all communications concerning distribution and supply should be sent to the Editorial Team.**

**Editorial Team**, Church House, 5 Muswell Hill, London N10 3TJ  
editorialteam@moravian.org.uk

Contributions for the Messenger should reach the editorial team by the 7th day of the preceding month.

**Design & Artwork**  
**David Bull**

dave@redragdesign.co.uk

**Printing & Distribution**  
**G. R. Walkden**

Tel 01253 681338