



Seafarers and their Families

**A Personal Reflection for
Sea Sunday 10th July**



© St Sue Groves

Recently I was listening to a choir singing sea shanties and as they launched into 'When Johnny comes down to Hilo' I was immediately transported back to childhood as my father used to sing this to us when he was home on leave. Sea shanties and tales of the sea were prominent in my childhood as my father was a seafarer, as was my uncle, my grandfather, and his father before him. I loved to hear stories of how my grandfather, sailed round the Cape Horn in a sailing ship called the Ochtertyre; and, how skippering his father's Severn Trow he got it stuck in the mouth of the Avon holding up all the other shipping in and out of Bristol that day. I can also remember crossing the Severn on the old ferry which he skippered and going out in his own boat the Firefly.

My childhood also included many trips to see my father on board ship whenever he came into port on the south coast. He was a Captain in the Royal Fleet Auxillary and it was very exciting being 'piped aboard' as we crossed the gangplank onto the ship. It was exciting to go out on exercises and watch them practising refuelling at sea. My father also brought back many exotic presents from around the world, including a Cockatoo which, since being acquired by a crew member in Singapore, had bitten his way around the crew until he landed with my father. My mother who was remarkably unfazed by things

welcomed this creature into our home and called him Fred!

This all sounds quite idyllic, but to misquote Gilbert and Sullivan, for many seafarers and their families, 'A sailor's life is not a happy one'! My father was often away between six and nine months at a time, and in pre-internet and mobile phone days, this meant the only communication was infrequent letters. There was always a honeymoon period when my father first returned home but afterwards there could be difficulties as we adapted to the changes his presence meant. Talking to friends who also had fathers at sea, this almost schizophrenic existence was common to all of us. It must have been very difficult too for my father who would each time have found us very different to the children he had left behind previously.

Until speaking to sailors as an adult, I never really appreciated how hard life on board ship could be, not just from the time away from loved ones, but the 24/7 on duty life they lived. It is not surprising that sailors have a reputation for going wild when first in port after being cooped up on board ship for months on end. Mental health never used to be talked about, but the seafaring life can be very bad for mental health, loneliness and depression are very common for both the seafarers and their families.

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I know that its old news, but I am delighted that Bradford has been chosen as City of Culture for the year 2025. Every four years a City of Culture is named, and this UK wide competition attracts interest from many boroughs and cities across the UK. The first of the UK Cities of Culture was Derry-Londonderry in 2013. My husband Chris and I went to several of the events there and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the city in a new light through the art installations. We learnt much more about the city's history than just the city walls and the recent history of the troubles.

We lived in Bradford for 13 years and grew to love the city, the countryside and of course the people and our son and his family still live there. So many people looking at the Bradford area only see the problems that exist. The BBC 2 Television programmes, 'Bradford on Duty' highlight these powerfully including the health issues and the work enabling communities to integrate and understand each other.

But Bradford is also a city with some wonderful architecture and amazing countryside on the edge of the Pennines. It is a young city, with a UNESCO World Heritage site in Saltaire, the Bronte Parsonage in Howarth, the National Science and Media Museum and the hometown of David Hockney. It also has a rich heritage of immigration which has resulted in a multi-cultural population and three lovely Moravian Churches.

The City of Culture tag draws interest, visitors and investment to the area and should do much to help improve perceptions about the city and use art, in its widest understanding, to improve life for all. But cultural events should not just be left to the arts professionals. It is also a wonderful opportunity for the Churches individually and together to share the gospel message through art in all its forms.

Churches have become very adept at using flower festivals and Christmas tree festivals to illustrate themes and draw people together. There is the wonderful Methodist Modern Art collection that can be borrowed, art trails can be set up, cultural/historical trails around areas, storytelling evenings. Food, and the stories behind it, can be a great means of bringing people together particularly in cross community events. Churches often have wonderful organs and music is a vital part of the Christian faith. The possibilities of linking events to faith and churches are only limited by our imagination.

For me, there are two key Biblical texts that would underpin the churches possible involvement in this. One is from Jeremiah 29:7 where Jeremiah writes to the exiles in Babylon saying, 'seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare'. Although we may not be in exile literally, we should always work for the good of the society in which we are set. The other is from John 10:10b, 'I came that they may have life and have it abundantly'. Jesus wants people to have abundant life, which does not consist in an abundance of possessions but in all the things that make for a full and fulfilling life. Art and cultural heritage surely count as part of this.

So, in the years that lead up to 2025 and during that year of culture, I wish the whole metropolitan borough of Bradford well and I pray that the Churches can use this time creatively and imaginatively and build partnerships to share their heritage and faith.

Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team



Letter

Dear Editors,

This petition, appropriately worded is in the hands of Bradford Labour M.P. Imhran Hussain.

'Moravian Christian Alan requires Her Majesty's Government debate that, when United Kingdom child poverty levels reached three million that Government promised to eliminate that poverty by 2020 at which time numbers were 3.4 million, however now this Government's own Social Mobility Commission predicts that in 2022 1.8 million more children will become poor making the number more than 5.2 million so why is the number increasing?'

Yours as ever,

Br Alan Holdsworth

Summer Camp 2022 Notice

It is with regret that PYCC have had to postpone Summer Camp 22 due to lack of interest. There will be a camp in 2023 - watch out for the announcements.

We already have booked Beverley Friar Youth Hostel and PYCC is now offering this for **'A Moravian Gathering'** for adults of all ages to get together to share stories, skills and enjoy fellowship. At the moment the fee hasn't been set and we are not sure what catering we may organise BUT it will be no more than £130. To express an interest in this or to obtain further information please email youth@moravian.org.uk or phone Joy on 07713853184 and she will get back to you once everything has been decided. It would be helpful if you could indicate what catering arrangements would suit you. To see pictures of the hostel please go to their website at: <https://groups.yha.org.uk/hostels/yha-beverley-friar/>

'Travelling with God'

- Retreat at Ockbrook organised by the Pilgrimage Group on 20th-22nd May



© Sr Joy Raynor

After the madcap pilgrimage around the Province last September the group wanted to have a British event before the Herrnhut trip in September 2022 so decided that a retreat with the theme of travel would fill that gap. Ockbrook was chosen as a central point that had accommodation for the group (and Joachim was part of the organising group) if they wanted to camp or stay in a hall overnight.

The group gathered on the Friday evening from Northern Ireland, Yorkshire, Western District and the Midlands having travelled a range of ways: train, plane and automobile! When we had all arrived the group ordered their supper (from the fish and chip shop) and moved to the home of a congregation member - some walking, others going by car. After supper there was time for introductions and 'getting to know you games', although these were superfluous so just short introductions and where you had travelled from and where your home congregation was only needed to get things started. Moravians together can make so much noise as they chat, debate and laugh together. Jared led us in a short evening devotion and we then dispersed to our different accommodations - no one camped or slept on the lecture hall floor.

Saturday morning was bright and clear which was ideal for our day's programme. Prayer, followed by breakfast and then a tour of the settlement. The latter was really interesting and the group engaged with the tour guide, asking questions as well as investigating further. For me the story of Dr Planta was particularly fascinating. I recognised the name but couldn't

remember why until vaccination was mentioned! Moravians at the forefront of medical science. It was also great to see the mulberry tree grown from a cutting of the tree John Cennick preached under. Sr Susan, soon to start her ministry as a student minister, posed under it for a photograph.

Lunch followed, then a walk to the ice cream shop for most, with the reward of delicious ice cream at the end! Most walked back and after a cup of tea we gathered in a circle for the Godly Play presentation 'The Great Family', the journey of Abraham and Sarah. After the brisk walk it was good to rest and listen. There was lots of great discussion. The group then split into two groups - one to do craft organised by Sr Patsy and the other to do poetry/hymn writing with Br Paul.

A bible study lead by Br Paul followed and we could have spent twice as much time on this but a table was booked for dinner so there was a deadline. At this point two of us left to go home because of church obligations the next day and everyone else went off to the pub. As I was one of the two I don't know how the rest of the weekend went but what little I have heard is all positive.

Thank you to all those involved in the organising, for the hospitality of Ockbrook, and for the great weekend. The highlight for me - singing graces loud and clear, how I have missed Moravians singing together.

Sr Joy Raynor

Diary of a 'Pilgrim' at the Retreat at Ockbrook

Friday evening, 20th May, we met in Ockbrook Church. A 'Chippy Tea' followed at Kath's home, fish and chips being ordered from a local fish and chip shop.

Saturday 21st May we all met in the lecture hall with morning prayers led by Sr Patsy Holdsworth. Breakfast followed and at about 10.30am there was a tour around the settlement led by Alan McGibbon before we had lunch.

At 1.45pm some walked, and others were given a lift to an ice-cream parlour set up on a farm nearby. When we all met, we lined up for our ice-creams in different flavours and sat outside at tables to eat them - in the sun!

On our return to the lecture hall a 'Godly Play' was given by Sr Joy Raynor, followed by a choice of activities: arts and crafts led by Sr Patsy Holdsworth, Music and Poetry led by Br Paul Holdsworth and 'Life

Stories in God's Acre' including one from an 18th Century trip to/from Herrnhut, led by Bishop Joachim Kreusel. Mosaics of butterflies and bees were made for the craft activity. Background music was played by Br Paul who accompanied the verses we had written.

At 5.30pm there was a bible study led by Br Paul before we went to 'The Pheasant' for our dinner.

Afterwards, back in the lecture hall, we had a quiz.

On Sunday 22nd May, we had morning prayers in the hall before breakfast there at 9.30am.

At 11am on Sunday Morning Worship took place in the church led by Bishop Joachim Kreusel. Some of the pilgrims took part by reading out verses written on Saturday afternoon. Background music was played by Br Paul Holdsworth

on the keyboard.

About 12.30pm we had lunch on tables on the path outside the church.

Throughout our journeys we were blessed with some warm, sunny weather! Back in the hall there was a bible study and reflection before we were ready to leave at about 3pm.

Sr Brenda Griffin

Coronation Avenue, Bath

At Ockbrook - Acrostic Poem:

**On we go to our
Chosen hosts
Kind and ready in every way for
Bed and breakfast when we need
Ready for the day
Out on our itinerary and
On our return
Kindness was shown all the way**

Moravian Worship Leaders Course

© Sr Sarah Groves



Proverbs 23:12 - Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.

In September 2021, a request went out for any interested Church members to commit to a 'Worship Leaders' course, due to start from November 2021 and run to May 2022.

Seven Church members signed up for these sessions conducted on the whole in Zoom remotely due to Pandemic conditions still being in place. Representatives from Fairfield, Lower Wyke, Harlesden, Dukinfield and beyond studied hard, laughed lots, and shared in great fellowship throughout this time.

The course had input from many serving Moravian ministers who generously gave their time and expertise. Format wise, the modules were held across two days, once a month leading up to a residential

course to finish this section of the training. The aim was to give confidence and resources to Worship Leaders, some of whom had never preached before and others who had more than 40 services under their belts.

Subjects covered included:

- What we mean by Worship?
- The meaning and forms of Prayer.
- Public Speaking, Preaching and the Word of God Sermon preparation.
- Hymns, Singing and Music.
- Clarifying what matters for meaningful Worship.
- Gadgets, visuals aids and Modern Technology.
- The Christian Calendar and Memorial Days.

Discussion and engagement were encouraged to advance skills, gain understanding and learn new techniques.

The culmination of this meant meeting all 'students' who attended the residential held at Whaley Hall in the High Peak area during mid May 2022. All seven (Catherine Gledhill, Stephen Gledhill, Janet Cooper, David Cartwright, Nicholas Battelle, Sandra Bailey and Penny Weir) prepared services which they presented with hymns, prayers and a sermon to show off their newly honed abilities, whilst being monitored by serving ministers. This may have seemed nerve wracking, but real bonds were made and togetherness in faith was very much present on these days.

I am happy to say I was one of these 'students' and found the course, the instruction and the residential worthwhile and enlightening. Heartily recommended to anyone interested in furthering his or her call to praise the word of God.

Sr Penny Weir
Dukinfield

Seafarers and their Families *continued*

One of the things that surprised me talking to a friend who worked as security on board ships, is that the risk from pirates is still very real, especially in the Indian Ocean. Cargo ships are often targeted by small boats of armed men who are prepared to shoot their way on board. Security staff are not allowed to carry guns themselves and only have a water cannon with which to repel these pirates. It can be very scary and sometimes it is safer just to let them board and negotiate the safety, and release, of the crew.

Where ships are not registered in the UK, there can be very few safeguards on the pay and working conditions of the crew. Most of you will recall the way a famous shipping company recently sacked all it's British workers and replaced them with lower paid foreign workers. Crews are often exploited, with foreign crews particularly vulnerable. Sailors are also at risk from abandonment, where companies cease communication with their ships, leaving them and their crews often anchored at sea with no money to pay for port costs and wages.

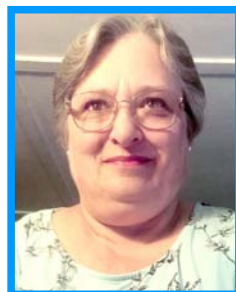
Another group of sailors are our fishermen, who still put out to sea to catch fish for our tables. At school we used to sing a hymn, 'When lamps are lighted in the town, the boats sail out to sea, the fishers watch when night comes down, they work for you and me'. This brings to mind an idyllic scene of a harbour town with little boats chugging out into the night, but the reality is very different. Our small boats now have to compete with large factory ships who decimate the fish population. They are

forced to put out even in rough weather and if they are unfortunate enough to fall overboard, even with a life jacket, there is a high chance of death from cold water shock.

In the UK, 90 % of our goods and fuels still come to us by sea. Worldwide there are approximately 1.5 million seafarers and despite modern advances, seafaring is still one of the world's most dangerous jobs with extreme physical labour, harsh weather, antisocial hours, no guarantee of a stable income, and months of being away from families. Improved navigational aids have improved safety, but sailors still face many perils from ferries capsizing to ships being struck by rocket or torpedo in a warzone! It used to be said that sailors didn't learn to swim so that if the worst happened, they would die sooner than if they tried, and failed, to swim to safety!

Sea Sunday is on 10th July, the day on which we think of all those who put out to sea, in big ships or small, and their families. No doubt we will sing that most famous Seafarer's hymn, which having been sung at many of my family's funerals still brings tears to my eyes, with the immortal line: O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

Sr Sue Groves
Brockweir



Hospitality in Herrnhut

It was difficult to stay in Herrnhut before the Berlin Wall had come down, even though the East German border had been opened to those with special permission. I had spoken with Bishop Theo Gill about a possible visit in August 1987 for me and my wife, Beth, and two friends. Br Theo was very encouraging and said he would make arrangements for hospitality. We planned to travel by car and our route was planned and had to be declared to the tourist authority in East Germany. The authority told me it was not possible to stay in Herrnhut but we would have to stay in Dresden in a Government approved hotel and they would supply us with details. It took some strong words to say that we had been offered hospitality in Herrnhut and that was what we planned to do.

On arrival at the border we were searched, and so was the car. I asked what the guard was looking for as he pushed a large piece of machinery underneath the car. He did smile as he replied 'Pershing missiles'! Having just come from a few days in Königsfeld in West Germany via Bayreuth the contrast in the severity of

the regulations and living conditions was extreme and shocking.

We stayed in the Feierabendsheim on the corner of the main square of Herrnhut. The accommodation provided was simple and the food basic and I do remember that we found the green tea rather unpalatable!

Our first morning was a Sunday and we had to report to the police in Löbau at 8.30am and so were a little late back for the 9.30am service, but we sat upstairs in church and Br Vollprecht preached. After lunch at Sr Ilse Lehman's flat we went in the car for about forty minutes to visit Niesky. We saw the church and Br Georg Schmidt's grave, and we also met some of the sisters in the Emmaus Mutterhaus.

While staying in Herrnhut I know I made two visits to the Burial Ground looking for familiar names on the gravestones, and also being amazed by the Zinzendorf family graves. We visited the Abraham Durninger factory, and we went out to Kleinwelka and went into the church and the burial ground there. Sr Lehman

showed us Herrnhut and took us round the Vogtshof where she worked in the PEC offices. We went to Berthelsdorf (inherited by Count Zinzendorf) visiting the chapel and we were also shown the remains of the Groshennersdorf buildings, where Zinzendorf had been schooled by his grandparents. We also had a tour of the Comenius home for the handicapped where Br Mihaan was in charge. It was good to visit with the Bishop Gill family for coffee and to be able to thank him for helping to make possible such a memorable first visit to such an important historical place in our churches story. We knew we had to be careful in what we talked about at that time, and we appreciated very much the bravery of all our brothers and sisters who were so willing to share with us and made us so welcome.

Br John McOwat



Irish District Summer Camp Taster Day



© Sr Debbie Armstrong

The Irish District Summer Camp Taster was originally due to take place at Cliftonville Moravian Church. However due to the Centenary Parade in Belfast on the same day the decision was made to move the event to Gracehill to avoid any disruption in Belfast.

Our day started with an opening prayer led by Br Jared Stephens and was followed by a leisurely stroll around Bishop's Walk in Gracehill. This walk is used by so many in the locality and by Gracehill Primary School pupils to complete their daily mile. It was a brilliant way to start the day as it let the young people see the beauty and nature that surrounds the village.

After the walk the young people and leaders enjoyed a well-deserved snack and cup of tea. Then the hard work began as they found the selected Bible Study stories in their Bibles and discussed briefly about each one and decided which one they would make into a short film using Stop Motion.

Each group drew out a story board to help them tell their parable. Then the fun began as they built the sets and acted

out the Stop Motion with LEGO. The two groups had a great time using the app and really got to grips with the task they had been set.

Lunch was a chance to come together and share their ideas and have a short break from the LEGO. Then they had a chance to finish their videos and add a voice recording. This led to lots of laughs due to strange voices and sound effects being added in.

Once the videos were completed we all took the opportunity of the good weather and walked to the local park to play some football and get ice-cream.

The day ended back at the church hall making some thank you cards for each of the churches in the district for their continued support of our young people. Sr Sarah led the group in a closing prayer.

Thank you to all of the young people for attending and to Br Jared and Sr Elaine Stephens for their help throughout the day.

Sr Debbie Armstrong
Gracehill

Opening of Food Pantry at Leicester



© Br Joachim Kreusel

Throughout the COVID pandemic poverty and isolation have increased. This is noticeable in places like Leicester.

But the pandemic has also contributed towards extensive neighbourly networks. In our Moravian congregation in Leicester there are dozens of phone calls each day that members make in order to keep in touch with each other. And that's wonderful!

Wesley Hall Community Centre (previously Sunday School building of Wesley Hall Methodist Church, where we worship) gives an opportunity to widen our network and engage with people of different walks of life. After all, we can only be church if we are church for others: 'The Church is the Church only when it exists for others ... not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell people of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.' (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*).

I felt that being involved in particular with the installation and opening of the food pantry at the community centre is living out this calling which we have as a church. It also provides a great opportunity for further networking.

The programme 'Together Leicester' is a faith-based partnership working with the Church Urban Fund (Church of England), in Leicester specifically through the Cathedral, which has given wonderful support.

Through the food pantry we are also connected to All Saints' Church in Leicester, an Anglican church which closed in 2008 due to lack of attendance, and re-opened in 2012, and is now a striving community, a church that is built - as all churches should be - on the Good News that God came to us in Jesus Christ, and if God is with us ('Immanuel') we need to be with each other, not just in a particular group, but crossing boundaries as God himself did.

The two Food Pantries (All Saints' Church and Wesley Hall) opened on 9th April 2022. At Wesley Hall it was a transition from Food Bank to Food Pantry. The

Right Reverend Martyn Snow, intended to come for the opening, but as he had COVID at that time, he sent The Ven Richard Worsfold, Archdeacon of Leicester, who opened both Food Pantries formally and gave heart-warming speeches, and so did Revd Canon Alison Adams, Canon Pastor and Sub-Dean of Leicester Cathedral, and also a good friend of one of our Ockbrook friends! Many other community leaders such as leaders of different faith groups, Councillors and many others expressed their appreciation.

A big thank you goes to everyone at Wesley Hall, in particular to Anita Rao, who is managing not only the Food Pantry, but so many other programmes at the centre and beyond. And she would always emphasise that she couldn't do it without all the staff and volunteers. Thank you, everyone!

I too had an opportunity to address about 150 people who came for the launch event at Wesley Hall:

Dear friends,

I love Leicester, because it's so colourful. I love Leicester because of it's people, you who are here together today.

Leicester means 'United Nations' in one place.

People from all corners of the world are living together quite peacefully.

When I go to any corner shop here, I notice different languages, different cultures and different food. There is a great richness in this place.

And specifically, Wesley Hall Community Centre is a place where all are welcome, irrespective of their background, religion, culture or colour.

I wish the eyes of the whole world were on Leicester, and everyone would join in in saying, 'Look, it is possible that people live together in peace.'

And if the eyes of the whole world were on Leicester, all nations would realise that peace is possible, but they would also

notice that a conscious effort has to be made in order to achieve this.

Wesley Hall Community Centre has an open-door policy. Many people regard it as their second, or almost first home.

By coming together, by talking to each other, by beginning to value each other, we build bridges between cultures and religions, and different backgrounds.

We try to overcome language barriers and so much more.

I grew up in a divided Germany, and I know what division means and what prejudice means.

We have to learn from history and try everything to overcome such barriers.

I'm not talking about removing boundaries and mixing everything together to one big mishmash, no, differences can be productive and make life interesting.

I'm talking about lowering thresholds so that people can easily move from one area to another, that we visit each other and learn from each other, that we cherish our differences and discover them as richness.

I believe that as long as we live in this world, there will always be room for improvement.

We will only reach perfection in the presence of God, our maker.

But this will not stop us from reaching for higher moral grounds in this world, it will actually encourage us!

When we think about room for improvement at the local level, we see the opening of the Food Pantry as such.

It is built on Wesley Hall's efforts of the food bank and other programmes throughout the pandemic.

I wish to praise staff and volunteers who have given their best!

Transitioning from the food bank to the food pantry helps people to have a choice of goods, it increases the level of dignity, it helps people to stretch their budget in a time of almost unprecedented inflation.

Education and integration are going on at Wesley Hall, so that people can see the bigger picture of society and the world.

What we do locally, will affect the world globally, and vice versa.

There are many ways we can improve life locally and globally, e.g. by cutting down plastic use (which is much better than recycling), or by lobbying our politicians to invest more in renewable energy etc.

We are blessed that we are not alone on our way. At least what the food pantry is concerned, we go together with All Saints' church in Leicester, and with the whole community, and in other areas we have other partners.

'Your local Pantry' has grown out of a movement which is 'Church Action against Poverty'. This is based on the insight that all people are equal in the eyes of God.

Their statement is: 'In Leicester we are seeking to tackle three key areas of social inequality: food security, loneliness, and the stigma around mental health.'

We thank 'Together Leicester' and the 'Church Urban Fund' and all organisation involved, for their support.

We go hand in hand: the local community (most of all!), the Moravian Church (which I'm a minister and bishop of), the Methodist Church and the Church of England.

As Moravians we know what it means to be excluded and even persecuted as our church came into being in the 15th century during a time of severe persecution.

I believe that a divided world can become a better place through prayer and action.

I believe that all people, created in the image of God, are equal.

I believe that the gap between rich and poor does not have to remain.

I believe that differences in religion, culture or any other aspects of life enrich us, and are no reason for separation or even fighting.

I believe that inequality can be overcome.

I believe in a better world, for heaven's sake.

May God bless you all.

Br Joachim Kreusel

Minister at Leicester and Ockbrook Moravian Churches



What do you want the Church to look like in 10 years' time?

An introduction to Project 32

It seems like a simple question, but once you start thinking about what you want the church to look like in 10 years' time then it becomes more complicated than it might first seem. Will it be growing? Will the Church look the same as it does now? Will Moravian's behave differently then? Now think about how to practically implement a programme of change to get us all collectively to that point - then you will have some insight into what Project 32 is about and some of the challenges that we all face in implementing it!

I am the Chair of the Project 32 Implementation Board: a group of both Ordained and Lay members who have been charged with implementing the synod resolution on Project 32. Since we first convened in January 2022, over the past five months we have worked to discern the practical intent from the original Project 32 document.

'If I only had an hour to chop down a tree, I would spend the first 45 minutes sharpening my axe.' (Abraham Lincoln) During this time, we have worked hard to develop five principles to give structure to the implementation of Project 32 and ensure we are 'making the boat go faster' and not diverting our efforts in unproductive areas. These are Magnify, Mission, Membership, Maturity, and Ministry - but more on this in another month's issue!

We have also been doing the less exciting but vital governance work which always occurs at the start of a programme. This is needed to ensure that we position the work in the right place within the Church structures, as well as developing the programme management documentation. Finally, we have been helping to develop a job description for a new role: the Project 32 Programme Manager. This role will help resource us as a committee by helping to keep us on track as well as doing the supporting work in the background between meetings.

We have also been developing our engagement work with the rest of the Church. I understand from my efforts to engage with elements of the church that there is some frustration with the speed and level of detail coming out of this work at the moment. I hope that you can now see from the above description of our efforts that when starting a new

endeavour, it is worth spending time laying sound foundations before building the rest of the structure.

Our next steps following Synod will be to look at something called Holy Habits, a model for increasing discipleship in our daily lives and how we can use it to support the Project 32 aims. You will also see a monthly Project 32 article in the Moravian Messenger, written by a different member of the Implementation Board each time on an aspect of our work, which will keep you informed of the inner thoughts of the Committee. We will also be developing our engagement work by producing an annual survey. This 'state of the nation' survey will help you to add your voice to the shape of Project 32, and will allow our committee to measure the success of Project 32's initiatives.

When was the last time you did something new?

I have talked a lot in this introductory article about what we are doing and why in the Project 32 Implementation Board, but ultimately it isn't about our committee. It is about you.

Project 32 will not be a success unless everyday Moravian members, Church attendees, and Space users work together to create the culture, infrastructure, and engagement that are features of sustainable and growing churches.

My challenge to you over the next month is to do something new. You could pick something like trying a new food, or a different route to the shops. It doesn't matter whether the new thing is big or small, but it does need to be something which you haven't done before, then note how you feel during and afterwards, and whether it took you a lot of effort to make the change to something new or whether it was easy. This simple exercise may show you how ready you are for change, and I invite you to reflect on this over the coming month.

Br Stephen Maxwell

Chair of the Project 32 Implementation Board. In his day job, Stephen is an emergency planning officer for the NHS in London, and a member of the Fetter Lane Congregation.



What I Believe

Moravian Messenger Editor, Sr Sarah Groves
interviews Br Phill Battelle

Br Phill Battelle is active in his local Church and also at a national and international level in the Moravian Church.

I'm a member of the Ockbrook Moravian Church and living in South Derbyshire. My mum, Michele brought me and my sister Clare to church from when we were babies. My dad, Nick, became a member later in life. I left school to work for the family business.

How and when did you come to faith?

It wasn't until my early teens that I really felt a connection to faith. My mum signed me up to attend Moravian Summer Camp, which sounded really uncool at the time, but was an eye-opening experience. Since then, it has been a non-stop journey of connecting with life-long friends, travelling, learning, discussing, growing, building and so much more.

How does this faith play a real part in your life?

I see faith as a constant development. Each and every day I am amazed by the ways that God plays a part in our lives when we look for Him. Having things like the Daily Watchword help me to recognise what is going on around me and give thanks or ask for help when I feel it is needed.

What is your day job?

I work with my parents in the family business which supplies parts for old and new tractors to the agricultural and restoration marketplace. My main role(s) are sales, website development and pro-biscuit eater.

What youth work are you involved in, locally, nationally and internationally in the Moravian Unity?

I am currently the European representative for the Unity Youth Committee which works to share news and information around the Unity from its different areas and provinces.

What do you enjoy about this work and what have you learnt?

It's amazing to see how far our church reaches. Not only on a worldwide scale but also out to individual people in churches, in different countries. It's very fulfilling to bring people together and spend time discussing, sharing and learning from each other.

How has your faith and your attitudes been shaped by the faith of other people in the wider Moravian Church?

Having had such wonderful times with others and seeing how they live out faith has made my day-to-day faith wider and stronger. There are times when I question or doubt, but I usually overcome these by remembering experiences and opportunities that have been answers to prayers or hearing the right message at the right time.

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

I feel at some point I must have been, but I honestly cannot



remember when. I think it should also be remembered in those moments of frustration that God isn't 'testing' us or sending us times to be angry. God is with us in those moments and whatever it is that is causing us to be angry may be part of a bigger picture.

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

I don't think so. I am still generating my ideas on what death is and what may come after, but I hope there is more. Will it be a party and a reunion with friends and family? Will we be able to queue to listen to guest speakers like Moses or Freddie Mercury? More likely I think we will become part of a bigger entity. Something completely unimaginable beyond our minds.

What can we learn from other Churches and other faiths?

The opportunity to learn how we connect better, how we share more, how we develop community and strengthen people through their lives. New ways of being and doing 'church' which fits with how people live in the 21st century.

Why are young people finding it difficult to relate to and become involved in our Churches?

This may not be a question about young people but people from all ages and walks of life. Perhaps there is more encouragement needed to share what we get personally from church or faith? OR more need for outreach and interaction in bringing people positive experiences? Maybe more education about how the church works within people's lives and around what we do and why? We need to remember it's not about putting bums on pews or keeping old buildings going - it's about bringing people closer to God.

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

I love a good comedy, or sad song or a horror story. I suppose my absolute favourite film is 'About Time'. Really rewatchable film about someone who is looking to take control of their life but ultimately ends up deciding that living each day in the faith that it can be great is the best way to live.

The place where you feel closest to God?

Usually somewhere quiet. It can be anywhere but just a moment where you get a chance to sit with this 'old friend' and talk it out - the simplest things to the more complex ... or just enjoy the peace.

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

Regrets are probably not having more confidence or conviction in deciding what I was going to do with life or more genuine goals. However, in allowing life to be what it has been and saying yes to some great opportunities I have had many great joys. Travelling, meeting people from many places, having some wonderful friends and family and being part of a great worldwide community.

Bath (Weston)

Here we are halfway through the year, where have those six months gone!!

Here in Weston, we have been busy, lots of tidying up after the alterations we have had done, a room re-decorated by a couple of talented ladies. Our lettings are going extremely well, and all the different groups are now back using the facilities. Lunch Club is run by Butterfly Care now and it is going well. Feedback from the people who go, say the food is delicious and the tables are laid out beautifully.

On Friday 4th March we held a quiz night in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support, nearly £500 was raised. Our lovely treasurer Dave Ward and team won the wooden spoon - the excuse was they were rubbish on the music round: this round could score you 40 points! They enjoyed it and so did everyone else. The next one is on Friday 24th June, charity this time is for Bath Mind (for better mental health).

Family Fun Nights have been introduced in the church hall with the Boys Brigade involved. We are about to hold our third one on Friday 10th June 6 at 8pm. The event is for families with school aged children. There are lots of activities and games available to enjoy. Food and drinks are provided at no cost, but we do have a donation plate available for people to contribute if they so wish.

On Friday mornings in the church a toddler group have fun, this is run by one of the mums. Br Paul Holdsworth enjoys playing the piano for the little ones to sing nursery rhymes. Drinks and fruit snacks are served by members of the church, this is done on a rota basis of two or three people. A donation of two pounds is asked for, which is very affordable for the morning.

Friday Love Weston Cafe is now starting to see the numbers getting back to before COVID which is a good sign. Meals are at a very reasonable price and the volunteers are all very helpful and kind.

Most important item: Church Services - we have preachers to fill in the Sundays that our own Minister cannot fulfill. We have just started back alternating every other second Sunday with our friends at Weston Methodist Church. When they come to us we have a Methodist pianist to play the hymn tunes for us, which is great, as otherwise it's CDs.

Just one other item - with funding from the council, we have had a small patio area built near the front at the west end of the church grounds. This is a place to meet friends or sit for a rest and watch the world go by, you can learn a lot by just watching! The patio area will have plants surrounding it and colourful bench seating.



© Sr Shirley Ward

Platinum Jubilee

Love Cafe Jubilee

Friday 3rd June, Love Weston Cafe put on a Full Afternoon Tea or sandwiches, sausage rolls, cream tea and cakes. Their usual menu was not served, and the time was changed to 11am-3.30pm.

This was a huge success, and the weather was good, so tables were set up outside as well as in the hall.

One never knows in these situations how many people are going to turn up, so you hope for the best and luckily for us people did turn up.

On Sunday 5th June there was a Jubilee WestFest on Weston rec. A church service kicked it all off at 11am, all churches in the district were invited to attend and of course anyone else who would like to join in. Br Paul Holdsworth was asked to do the prayers. After the service there were various stands (the Boys Brigade had one), local displays, dog show (especially if you had a corgi to bring along), tug of war plus food and drinks. The rain kept off until packing up time.

Sr Carole Young



© Br Edwin Quildan

Bedford Queens Park

Two trees have been planted as part of the Jubilee Celebration and the environment, one on Sunday 8th May and the other on 15th May when three children planted some soil into the hole. We also planted a Queen Elizabeth rose which was provided free by the supplier of the plants. Our open day in June was put on two websites; Allen Park Friends and Queens Park Community policing. Two people connected to the church, a former member and a relation of one of our former members, said they would come as they had seen it on the website. At the open day two people came who got married in this church in 1978 and they also came to our Sunday service. Despite mixed weather it was a fairly successful day.

Br Eric Moore

Fetter Lane, London

Fetter Lane marked the Queen's Jubilee with a picnic in the beautiful Moravian Close in the heart of Chelsea. It was a Saturday full of warm sunshine and plenty of cupcakes and sandwiches. Our minister Sr Claire Maxwell organised a royal-themed scavenger hunt and we were joined by two local groups, a book sale that supports the charity Mary's Place and the World's End Under Fives centre who helped the children fashion fancy paper crowns. As well as congregation members telling people about Moravian history and worship, local historian Ian Foster gave informal talks about the sculptor Mary Gillick who, in her studio at Moravian Close, created the famous profile of the Queen which was engraved on British and Commonwealth coinage from 1952. An exhibition called 'Mary Gillick, Modelling the Queen's Portrait' is at the British Museum until 31st July. Ending with a prayer of thanksgiving, it was a day of conviviality and community, looking to the past, present and future.

Sr Cynthia Dize



© Sr Norah Procter

Gomersal, Yorkshire

March saw our first social and fundraising event since the start of the COVID pandemic. We held a Yorkshire Quiz and supper evening which was well supported, and it felt good to be socialising again.

A coffee morning took place at the beginning of April, organised by the Church Committee. The following day we celebrated the Golden Wedding of Jeff and Joan Hopper by having drinks and cake after the morning service. On

Palm Sunday evening we hosted the Yorkshire District Service led by the District Choir. This was well attended by all congregations and the singing was superb.

At the end of April, we had a three-course meal and games evening, organised and hosted by Brs David Adsetts and Chris Spanton, assisted by Jeff and Joan Hopper. We enjoyed a fantastic evening of food and fun.

At the beginning of May the Ladies Fellowship visited Fulneck for a tour of the settlement and Museum, finishing with an enjoyable cream tea.

On Sunday 5th June we held a service of thanksgiving for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, followed by a faith lunch. We were very pleased to welcome to this service the Rev Dr Amy Gohdes-Luhman, Pastor of Waconia Moravian Church in Minnesota USA, who was on a visit to England.

Sr Norma Machell



© Sr Norma Machell

Gracehill, Northern Ireland

Gracehill records state: '15.6.1887 the Queen's Jubilee was celebrated. 200 sat down to tea under the trees in the square; there were flags on the Academy and Ladies School; there were tea-cups cakes and flowers; there was the 'drum and fife' band of Gracehill and Galgorm in their smart scarlet uniforms. 'All gave the eye a feast of colour among the green'.

As darkness fell, bonfires were lit on the hills around. Slemish, about 10.30 broke into a bright red glow, which in our telescope seemed a mass of roaring flame and was still burning at midnight. Truly a memorable day - who will see the like again?

This time round for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, again we used the square for a Jubilee Picnic in the Park on the Friday afternoon. As in 1887 there was great colour with bunting around the square and cakes and tea, this time provided as people entered the square. Then folk went on to set up their own picnic areas in the immaculately mown square.

Music was provided by a Highland piper, the Petticrew Memorial Band and T2 Party Disco who kept the party atmosphere going all afternoon. We had a bouncy castle in one corner and informal children's games in another corner along with bubbles, balloons and line dancing. One highlight was a hilarious tug of war where the adjudicator seemed to



© Sr Sarah Groves

be continually swapping sides to help the losing team.

We were blessed with the good weather and that so many people joined us and the estimate of numbers at the peak of the afternoon was around 350 adults and children. Many thanks to the Church volunteers and Gracehill Village Association who joined with us to put on the event and also to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council who gave us a small grant to pay for the various activities.

Sadly there was no beacon on Slemish to illuminate the night sky, but I think we all felt our celebrations for Her Majesty's 70th Anniversary of her reign had exceeded that of the 1887 Jubilee!

Sr Sarah Groves

Horton, Yorkshire

Another occasion to give thanks for as we were able to hold our annual 'Sisters Festival' in May. Sr Brenda Hirst has been organising this event for many years, for which we thank her, and it was lovely to be back in church to celebrate and to join together afterwards for lunch in the Sunday School rooms. Like most Moravians we are very good at fellowship, tea, cakes and a good chat! Sr Diane Bolland was our guest speaker, and it was lovely to hear her story and her links to the Moravian Church. The Brethren joined us for the service, and we thank them for kindly serving refreshments during our lunch and washing up afterwards!

Sr Linda Barraclough



© Sr Linda Barraclough

Ockbrook, Derbyshire

On the two Platinum Jubilee bank holidays, Ockbrook took part in the Ockbrook and Borrowash Scarecrow Festival, with some very distinguished scarecrows! By selling refreshments, we raised a good sum of money for church funds. The event brought lots of people onto the Settlement, visiting the church and generally looking round and chatting.

On Saturday afternoon we welcomed brothers and sisters from Leicester, as well as some Settlement residents, to a bring and share meal in our recently acquired garden, next to the lecture hall. An afternoon of fun and fellowship was enjoyed!

Srs Rosie & Julie Hague



© Br Joachim Kreusel

Fairfield, Greater Manchester

On Sunday 5th June the country celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee and here at Fairfield an afternoon of fun and fellowship was planned on the Church Terrace.

Word had gone out to bring your picnic lunch and or something for sharing if you wished. Drinks would be provided and there would be a raffle, a quiz and games for the children. The Square was bedecked with bunting and the fun could commence ... but then the weather did its worst! And so it was that plan B came into action, the whole event was moved into the College Hall; how lucky we are to have that facility for such occasions.

Brethren and Sisters, you will see from the picture that the weather did nothing to stop the occasion being a great success and immense fun was had by all, it was a great turn out and



© Sr Denise Lee

although this was organised purely as a social event, the raffle and donations raised £150 for church funds.

Sr Margery Sutcliffe

Lower Wyke, Yorkshire

Jubilee Celebration at Lower Wyke following our Pentecost service with 80 people in attendance.



6	Martyrdom of Jan Hus at Constance in 1415
10	Sea Sunday (www.seasundayhero.org)
	Eid-ul-Adha - Muslim
	Disability Awareness Day (www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk)
17	World Day for International Justice
30	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
	Muharram/Islamic New Year - Muslim

Dates to remember!

From Church House

Provincial Synod

There is an open invitation on Sunday 17th July to the Synod service of Holy Communion at the Hayes Conference Centre which starts at 7.30pm. At this service Br Jared Stephens will be consecrated presbyter of the Moravian Church and Sr Sarah Groves will preside.

Provincial Diary for July

14-18 Provincial Synod Hayes Conference Centre

Congregational Register

Baptism

29th May 2022 Taylor Dani Hopkinson Fairfield

Reception into Membership

22nd May 2022 Eileen James Fairfield

22nd May 2022 Elaine Wragg Fairfield

Marriage

1st June 2022 William George Edward Sanders & Laura Elizabeth Larkin Fairfield

Ockbrook Moravian Church



© Sr Rosie Hague

The village of Ockbrook is located just off the A52 between Derby and Nottingham. The Moravian church is on top of the hill, at the edge of the village.

Its history dates back to 1739 when Isaac Frearson, a farmer from Ockbrook, heard Rev Jacob Rogers, curate of St Paul's, Bedford, preaching in Nottingham. Rev Rogers had already come into close contact with the Moravians in London. At Isaac Frearson's invitation, Rev Rogers preached at his home in Ockbrook. A Society was formed in 1740 with the help of John Töltschig, who was sent from Yorkshire and in 1750 the congregation was settled by Bishop Peter Böhler. Land was eventually bought from Isaac Frearson and the church was built, being consecrated by Bishop Böhler in 1752. The first minister was John Ockershausen.

Originally, the seating was aligned lengthwise, north to south along the building, with the pulpit on the west wall and separate entrances for Brethren and Sisters, however the layout was altered to what it is today in the 1870s. The congregation was originally summoned to worship by French horns, before a bell was added in 1760, and a clock was installed in 1827. The original manse was behind the church. The current manse was built in 1822.

The first day-school for girls was begun in 1751, a boys' day-school in 1806, and the main school was built in 1822 as a boarding school for boys. This closed in 1915, the boys moved to Fulneck, and the girls moved in. The school, by now co-educational, closed in 2021 and the future use of the buildings is still uncertain.

Other buildings on the Settlement included the Single Sisters'

house, Single Brethren's house, cottages for families, an inn (now Greenside House), and a congregation shop. The Brethren's house has now disappeared and the Sisters' house is divided into separate houses and flats. In the centre of the Settlement is a sloping field or meadow; hay is still cut from it and used by a local farmer. Larger houses were built at the top end of the field, some in the 1750s and one in 1826 to house the Provincial Offices of the Moravian Church in England.

The burial ground, or God's Acre, was consecrated by Bishop Böhler in April 1752 and an extension was consecrated in April 2018 by Bishop Joachim Kreusel.

The Lecture Hall was built as a boys' Sunday school in 1867 on the foundations of the old brewhouse for the former inn next door. As well as being used for congregation events, the Lecture Hall is rented out to community organisations and individuals.

Worship services are held each Sunday morning and one or two evening services are held each month. During the pandemic, a new audio/visual system was installed enabling people to join services online.

Membership numbers have fallen over recent years, and the demographic is ageing, however some of the younger people meet on an informal basis and are known as 'Twenties' (twenties and thirties). Unfortunately, there are currently no children regularly in the congregation.

Bible studies continued throughout the pandemic online and are well attended and received.

Sr Julie Hague

With thanks to Br Allan McGibbon

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