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New Member of the Provincial Board

My name is Edwin Quildan, the new non-stipendiary member on the Provincial Board. I am currently the minister of two Churches:

- Queen's Park, Moravian Church Bedford and
- St Margaret's and St George' URC and Moravian Church, Harlesden.

I was born in London to Antiguan parents, who came to London in 1954. I was raised and schooled in London. Both my parents were God-fearing, hardworking and wanted the best for their family. As

a family we were taught to pray at a young age and encouraged to attend Church and Sunday school.

I am married to my wife Wendy. We have three adult children Rianne, Rebekah and Benjamin. We were married at Hornsey and our three children were baptised at Hornsey.

I was an active member of the Hornsey Congregation for many years (before training for the ministry) and also a member of the Church Committee there. I was encouraged by our minister Rev Clarissa Johnson to attend the lay Training Course that was run at Church House with a number of Brothers and Sisters from the Eastern District. This course was run by Rev John Smith and was direct, encouraging and challenging. I started leading worship and was further encouraged by my Church Brothers and Sisters to consider applying for the ministry. I dismissed the encouragement many times. Yet the voices did not stop but became clearer and stronger - I knew God was calling. I eventually applied for consideration for the Moravian ministry.

I was allocated a space on the North Thames Ministerial Training Course, (on the Oakhill site in London) to commence

my theological formation studies and training. This was the Anglican Church, weekly part-time course, with a number of weekends that I attended as well as maintain my paid occupation with London Underground. I have held a number of Managerial positions with London Underground and gained a wide range of experiences that will assist me as your Provincial Board member.

I was ordained in March 2003 as a Deacon of the Moravian Church at Queen's Park Bedford, by Bishop Geoffrey Birtill. At that time, I served the Bedford and Woodford Halse congregations under the guidance of Rev Hilary Smith who I also thank.

The call to become a non-stipendiary Provincial Board member, I recognise is a challenge. I ask that you continue to lift the whole Provincial Board in prayer and ask God to bestow us with wisdom.

I would like to conclude by thanking the members of Synod 2022 for electing me to join this long heritage of Brothers and Sisters who have served this Province for so many years.

Br Edwin Quildan
Provincial Board



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Synod 2022



© Br Joachim Kreusel

Celebrating the Consecration of Br Jared Stephens, Minister of Ballinderry and Cliftonville Moravian Church, with the ministers from the Procession at Synod.

Editorial

What really matters?

The beginning of September officially marks the end of the summer and the more relaxed time of the summer holidays. There is less stress over July and August, fewer meetings, more time outside and more time for family and friends. Then September starts and so does the pressure.

And so much of that pressure seems to come from education with the new academic year beginning: pressure to get the children to school as well as doing everything else, pressure from homework, pressure as children leave home to go on to higher and further education. Some of us in churches can also feel apprehensive as August turns into September. It is the beginning of all the activity again, not just the regular cycle of worship but the additional groups for women and men, Bible Study and youth and children's groups of varying types.

Then leading up to harvest and Christmas the pace quickens as seasonal events and special services take place, and all of them needing planning and attendance and clearing up afterwards.

I am beginning to think that we should consider and appraise what we need to do and what we should be doing before we start again. COVID has brought this into sharper focus as this time we will be doing things in person for the first time in three years. There are fewer volunteers and folk are now three years older and some may not be so active.

Is going back to the default position of 'we have always done it this way', the best for a new time and outreach in a new world? The world has moved on and some are still trying to use what worked well in the 20th century, and we are nearly a quarter of the way through the 21st century. Our calling as Christians is to share the good news of Jesus and we just can't do that wrapped in last century's old newspapers.

I have no doubt that our communities need to hear about the saving love and grace of God shown through Jesus but are we really doing that at the moment? How do we make our organisation relevant and attractive to people in a time of great social distress with increasing general poverty?

This is not about bums on seats, it is about serving people as best we can, where they are. Perhaps we should strip it all down to what is essential in our Church life, worship in various forms and outreach, and look at how we do that and do it better. Then and only then look at what else we should be doing and making that outward facing rather than inward facing because it pleases us and brings no risks and fear of failure.

Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team



Report from the 2022 Provincial Synod

Our first in-person Synod, since the COVID pandemic, was held at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire, from 14th July to 18th July 2022. It was a time of fellowship and conversation which Zoom cannot enable, and it was good to see people again in the flesh and share in meals and coffee together.

The opening service was led by Br Peter Gubi, and the preacher was Br Mikie Roberts who is a Moravian Minister serving at the World Council of Churches in Switzerland. The Synod was ably facilitated by Br Philip Cooper (Chair) and Sr Jane Carter (Vice-Chair) and was conducted in the usual orderly fashion. Bishop Joachim Kreusel was elected as President of the Synod and Bishop John McOwat was elected as Vice-President of Synod. There were Ministers and Deputies present from each congregation in the British Province, as well as Ecumenical and Unity guests. There were special sessions on 'Youth Work' and the 'Call to serve the Church'. In the 'Youth Work' session, our awareness of the needs of young people was heightened and some ideas were provided on how to include them more in the life of the Church; in the 'Call to serve the Church' session, we were made aware of the need for more ordained ministers (ten of our serving ministers, out of the current seventeen ministers, will be eligible for retirement in the next ten years!) and we were shown a video of Claire Maxwell, Jane Carter, Christine Emanuel and Michael Newman discussing their calls to ministry, which stimulated discussion on how we might encourage others to respond to God's call. Both sessions provided much food for thought. Reports were received on the work of each provincial committee, and memorials were received from various organisations within our province e.g., MWA, Men's Fellowship, YPMA, The Moravian Messenger, Diaspora, etc.

Proposals were passed: to determine a statement of inclusivity; to authorise the blessing of same-sex civil marriages and same-sex civil partnerships (providing that committees and congregation

councils give permission, and that Ministers are in agreement); and to further the implementation of arrangements that provide for interchangeability of ministry with the Church of Ireland. Proposals were also passed to determine working hours for ministers; to give provision for Lay members of PEC for when, or if, their term of office ends; to raise Choir House assessment; to give the Provincial Board the authority to make commercial decisions about Fulneck School if necessary; to change Moravian Union Investment Trustees to Moravian Union Investment Advisors; to determine ways of formally recognising ministers from other denominations into Moravian ministry; to determine the composition of the Provincial Youth and Children's Committee; to dissolve the World Mission Committee (as their work was duplicated elsewhere); to change how congregational representation at Synod is determined; and to seek not to immediately change advice on investments but allow a more gradual move towards Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investments due to the significant loss in income for the province that a faster rate of conversion would incur.

The highlight of Synod was the consecration of Br Jared Stephens as Presbyter. This was a lovely and moving service which was led by Bishop Joachim Kreusel. Br Livingstone Thompson was the preacher.

Election results were as follows:

- Provincial Board: David Howarth (full-time for four years); Livingstone Thompson and Edwin Quildan (part-time for four years);
- Unity Synod 2023 Representatives: Philip Cooper and Jane Carter, with Daniel Newman and Lorraine Shorten as alternative representatives;
- Finance and Property Committee: John Costley, Chris Drake and John Kilner (for four years) and David Cartwright (for two years);
- Church Service Committee: Peter Gubi and Robert Hopcroft (for four years);
- Church Book Committee: Gillian Taylor

- and Henry Wilson (for four years);
- Mission and Society Committee: Eunice Hoey and John Kilner (for four years) and Alan Holdsworth (for two years);
- Youth and Children's Committee: Rachel Hamilton, Laura Wood and Kieran Hopton (for four years) and Alishba Khan (for two years);
- Faith and Order and Ecumenical Relations Committee: Susan Groves and Martin Smith (for four years) and Joy Raynor (for two years);
- Archive and Heritage Committee: Christopher Shorten (for four years) and Jayne Brewster (for two years);
- Moravian Union Investment Advisors: Graham Mallinson, John Cooper, Tony Harvey, Daniel Newman, Kenneth Evans and Norma Maynard;
- Advocatus Unitatis Fratrum in Anglia: Gillian Taylor;
- Secretarius Unitatis Fratrum in Anglia: Robert Hopcroft;
- Chairperson for Synod 2024: Philip Cooper;
- Vice-Chairperson for Synod 2024: Jane Carter;
- Reserve Chairperson for Synod 2024: Christine Emanuel.

Appreciation was shown to Sr Joy Raynor who is retiring as Provincial Youth and Children's Officer (although she will continue as National Safeguarding Lead for the Moravian Church). Appreciation was also shown to Br Peter Gubi for his work on the Provincial Board. We thanked all of those who served the Synod and looked after our needs (Sally Ann Johnston, Clerk; Rachel Hamilton, Assistant Clerk; Chris Drake, Steward; Sue Selby, Minute Secretary; Susan Quildan-Foreman, Teller; Lindsey Newens, Admin; Lorraine Parsons, Technician) - without whom Synod could not happen. Voting was carried out electronically (with some success) and by other more traditional methods. Overall, it was a lovely Synod, full of courageous, difficult but largely gracious discussion, and good humour.

Br Peter Gubi
Minister for Dukinfield
Moravian Church



Youth Musical Meet 2022 in Leh, Ladakh



© Sr Roberta Hoey

The plan to start organising an All India Moravian Youth Meet in Leh began in November 2019. But the pandemic stopped us from hosting it for the following two years.

However, I still believed that God would surely fulfill the vision of the Youth Meet. Truly, by God's grace the vision began to take shape slowly by slowly in November 2021. That same month we formed a Planning Team and began to meet from time to time. The objectives of the event were to facilitate the interaction and fellowship among the young people of various congregations across India, and to discuss the challenges faced by young people and provide guidance to live righteously.

We thank God that He had prepared so many people to help us in one or the other way. With the financial support of the BMB and Sr Maureen Colbert, most of the youths from other parts of India could travel to the Meet. A big 'thanks' to the BMB and Sr Maureen. After much anticipation, on 30th June nearly 90 youths arrived in Leh, including those who lived locally, who attended. We are grateful Sr Naomi and Br David Sonam for generously donating their Snow View Hotel's rooms for five days to accommodate the youths from outside Ladakh.

They were welcomed with the presentation of the ceremonial 'Khatakh' by the Leh Moravian youth and we received warm greetings from Sr Roberta, the chair of the BMB, Br Joachim Kreusel and Br Paul Holdsworth via Zoom. The event was opened by a worship service and sermon given by Rev Ricky Medom who preached on the sub-theme 'A Call to a Righteous Living in a Challenging World', at Snow View Hotel. His message was simple yet touching. We were glad to have Rev Ricky Medom and Mrs Virginia Medom - they have been ministering amongst the Naga students in Delhi for over 30 years.

On Friday morning the first session began with the preaching of Rev Ricky Medom, followed by Rev Thsespal Kundan presenting the history of Unitas Fratrum in an interactive and interesting way covering all the major events of it's history. Br Nathaniel Gengmei, a student pastor in Assam Bible Study, held a Bible Study in which he challenged the youths to be excellent even at such a young age and to live up to the callings. Later that evening a musical event kindly held in Br Tadbar Joldan's field provided a blissful and very special evening with choirs from

different regions, solo, duet, group singings, and dances. It was so refreshing after the long tiring day and the evening ended with a delicious dinner sponsored by Br Nawang Shunu.

The first half of Saturday was similar to the previous day starting with Rev Ricky's sermon followed by another session from Rev Thsespal about Unitas Fratrum's practices and its structures. After lunch Br Chandra Prakash, who works with Teen Challenge corporations, spoke on 'Relevant Issues faced by Today's Youths'. In the next session, Sr Sherilyn Deldan, Sr Lydia Sonam, Br Bir Bahadur, Sr Christiana Gengmei and Br Sunderman Tamang presented their congregational historical backgrounds and ministries. It was truly exciting in the evening as different teams cooked their respective regional foods and we got to taste the different cuisines from other regions. Thanks to Br Yonah Paljor who bore the expense of both lunch and dinner.

It was amazing to see many people gathered for service on Sunday morning. Again Rev Ricky preached a straightforward and heart-warming sermon. We were also blessed by the northeastern choir as they sang to the delight of the audience. The service concluded and we rejoiced with the celebration of Holy Communion led by Rev Thsespal Kundan conducted in Ladakhi with translations into English and Hindi.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Leh Committee for their financial and moral support; to Moravian Welfare Society and the Principal of Moravian Mission School; to Br Odpal George who supported the trip to Pangong Lake for the youths, especially the youths from outside Ladakh; to Peter George who funded all the refreshments throughout the Meet; furthermore, a 'thank you' to all individuals for their contributions: Br Elihud George, Sr Zhidey Kundan and Br Joseph Kundan's family, Sr Rachel Dendol, Sr Sumita Dana, Pastor Danish, Br Odpal Sonam, Sr Spalzes Wangmo and the Rajpur Moravian Congregation. Additionally, my sincere appreciation to the planning team members: Br Anub Paljor, Sr Sharon Sonam, Br Enoch Spalbar, Sr Lydia Sonam, Br Rohit Amos and Br Thomas Paljor, and to all the local youths for their active corporation with the organisation of the event and to all the youths as a whole for the active participations throughout the Meet.

Br Dimchui Rongmei
Leh, Ladakh

This is not your Obituary;
it isn't even a Goodbye.
It is a sincere

thank you to Joy Raynor

Sr Joy Raynor joined the ranks of the Moravian Church in 2008 as our Youth and Children's Officer following the pivotal work started by Sr Sheila Mitchell a number of years before. Since then, her role has taken a few twists and turns, as well as being central to the Provincial response on several issues on occasion. Throughout her time in this role, Sr Joy has always been on hand to give support and advice, and the occasional pastoral 'pep talk' to the Provincial Board, ministers, youth leaders and many others besides. She is very much a trusted member of our Provincial team.

Over the years it has become apparent that Youth and Children's work and Safeguarding, although connected, are two distinct areas of work. Since the inclusion of the safeguarding of vulnerable adults, the role has expanded from how it was first envisaged. Not only has Sr Joy held our hand through this time of change, but she has also led the way. She has worked diligently on preparing policies and used this knowledge and expertise to great effect ecumenically too. Over the years, a comment that been made several times is that the Moravian Church punches above its weight. Sr Joy has certainly been an example of how this might be true. Additionally, she has also been key in building and strengthening links with Moravian Youth leaders across Europe.

Summer Camp and other youth events have also been central

to Sr Joy's role, and many of our young people have benefitted from her wise counsel and organisational skills. Sr Joy has walked alongside our congregations throughout the Province as they have sought to implement youth initiatives and activities, her resourcefulness appears unparalleled. Always supportive, Joy also was a critical friend ensuring that youth leaders kept engaged with developments in youth ministry and that we engage and be inclusive of the full spectrum of youth and children. Speaking personally for a moment, she has certainly kept me on my toes over years, often putting my mind at rest and coming up with a plan of action to engage with a particular pastoral challenge.

But this article is not an Obituary; it isn't even a Goodbye. Instead, it is a sincere thank you to Sr Joy for all the work she has done. Sr Joy is not leaving us completely as she is continuing with the role of National Safeguarding Lead. Retirement, full retirement is not on the horizon just yet. This is nothing more than an appreciative recognition of a change of role.

Finally, if you are wondering what the significance of the title for this piece is, it relates to what was said at Synod in July of this year.

Br David R Howarth
On behalf of the Provincial Board



© Sr Roberta Hoey



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Nola Reed Knouse, executive director of the Moravian Music Foundation in Winston-Salem, NC, and Gwyneth Michel, assistant director, both retired in August 2022. Sr Knouse has served as executive director since 1992 during which time the new facility housing the Music Foundation and the Moravian Archives, Southern Province, was constructed. Sr Michel joined the staff of the Music Foundation in 2007. She headed the Foundation's office in Bethlehem, PA, and has copyedited many music editions published by the Foundation.

Summer Camp 2023

Will be held at
**The Chellington Centre,
Bedford**
(<https://www.chellington.org/>)
31st July - 4th August
- more details to follow.

The PYCC will be organising this and details of the age range and cost will be sent out after the first PYCC meeting in September.



© Sr Betsy Miller

A view of the Provincial Synod from a Unity Representative

It was an absolute delight to be present with brothers and sisters in Christ at the British Provincial Synod. Thank you for your warm welcome. I was honoured to be invited as a Unity representative from the America North Province. From the outset, I was greeted by Br David Howarth at London Heathrow and delivered to the Hayes Conference Centre. David and I had met one another at a synod of the European Continental Province. I had met other ministers and deputies at the 2017 Unity Mission Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa. And, of course, I have worked closely, first with Br Bob Hopcroft, and more recently with Sr Roberta Hoey, on Unity Board. One of the great gifts of the Moravian Unity is getting to know brothers and sisters at various gatherings around the Unity and then meeting them again at a later time. The other blessing is meeting new people with the assurance that I will see them again in another Moravian setting. I experienced much joy and laughter, hearty singing, and wonderful fellowship over meals and after hours.

Your synod, with about 48 voting members, is much smaller than my experience at the America North synod, where we have about 250 members. Your gathering is more like a family reunion, characterised by caring relationships, deep respect for one another, and a collective desire to seek and follow God's will. I saw evidence of all three charisms throughout synod. You know one another well and can be honest in your opinions, without acrimony. You express deep love and respect for one another by attending to the varying perspectives among you as you listen for God's leading.

Synod started with a challenge by Br Mikie Roberts to take risks, to tend to the seeds of faith that are planted in God's realm. Throughout synod you demonstrated that willingness to risk - not for your own sakes, but for the sake of the gospel. Sunday evening's consecration and Holy Communion service offered another challenge - to remember the urgency of the gospel and remain boldly prophetic in the face of injustice.

I was deeply humbled by the commitment of your clergy and lay people who work tirelessly to proclaim the gospel and take care of children, worship, church buildings, properties and finances - all to further your witness in the world. You asked hard

questions of one another, not to tear down, but to pursue the best, and build up the Body of Christ. I was excited to learn about Project 32 and pray that it brings about a new spirit of experimentation and pioneering in every congregation and community. I anticipate with hope the celebration in 2032 as Moravians around the world celebrate the 300th anniversary of sending missionaries out from Herrnhut to bring the gospel throughout the world. I can't wait to hear stories of how the congregations in your Districts found new ways to bless their neighbours and bring about a better world.

Your statement of inclusivity is a powerful testimony of your commitment to welcome all in your midst. I am confident that the words on paper will become living invitations by your members to all those who may wonder if they are truly welcome. Your statement shouts an emphatic - yes! Similarly, your statement allowing the blessing of same sex civil marriages and partnerships, stands as a commitment to justice and theological hospitality to couples that wonder if the church loves them.

One of the gifts of attending another province's synod is learning about customs, ideas, programs, and resources. Sr Joy Raynor shared the

Safeguarding program with me - something that will better equip our province to protect our children and vulnerable adults. I was able to share some stewardship resources with members of your provincial board - and make connections to people in America.

Above all, I was reminded of the gift of the worldwide Unity and our ecumenical relationships. Approving the interchangeability of clergy with the Church of Ireland represents another big step toward Christ's prayer that we all may be one. Being with you, the guests from the Czech and European Continental Provinces reminded me that we are all on a journey together, seeking to bear witness to God's amazing love for all the world.

Sr Betsy Miller

President of the Provincial Elders' Conference for the Moravian Church in America, Northern Province



© Br Kenneth Evans



© Br Joachim Kreusel

Perhaps one of the most significant developments of Synod was the passing of the proposal which now allows the ability to provide an interchangeability of Ministry with the Church of Ireland. This work has been ongoing for a number of years, dating back to the Fetter Lane Agreement. Here Bishop Michael Burrows of the Church of Ireland presents a signed copy of the Common Book of Prayer to Br Philip Cooper, Minister of Fairfield Moravian Church and Ecumenical Officer for the Province and Br Michael Newman, PEC Member and Minister of Hornsey Moravian Church in honour of the occasion.

Synod 2022: Unpredictable Certainty

- a reflection from a Synodal of their first time at Swanwick

The theme of Synod was set by our opening distinguished speaker Rev Dr Mikie Roberts, a Moravian minister representing us all on the World Council of Churches. It was a profound and meaningful address, and the two words 'Unpredictable Certainty' resonated with me throughout the five days.

Was it indeed a predictable or unpredictable certainty that I would enjoy Synod so much? As a first time synodal, my initial unease was assuaged by the familiar and inspiring face of Br John McOwat. Finding him initially at Reception ensured a warm welcome and a seamless means of meeting new Moravian friends as, of course, everyone knows Br John!

My overriding memory remains the joy of the opening service and of the Synod Communion and Consecration service for Br Jared Stephens, and indeed, the zeal with which we all relished the hymns, prayers and graces which heralded the opening and conclusion of each session. Our bishops chose the hymns with great glee and relevance to the topics discussed, and the chairpersons, clerks and stewards ensured that the schedule of business proceeded with just the right amount of timeliness, consideration and humour.

The enthusiasm of the laughter and chatter each time we arrived and departed from the Conference Hall was testimony to the fellowship and fun that was celebrated by us all.

There was of course serious work to be done, and the proposals covering such a variety of topics whether ecumenical, fiscal, national or international were especially enlightening for a first-time attendee. The reports and memorials from so many important committees and hardworking, dedicated Moravians demonstrated the broad extent of our church and our influence. It was with a sense of pride and excitement that landmark proposals were discussed and passed, especially those enhancing our relationship with the Church of Ireland, and the opportunity for a service of blessing to be offered under certain agreed procedures for civil marriages and same sex partnerships. In the words of the visiting Church of Ireland Bishop, Rt Rev Michael Burrows, 'may we travel happily together'.

It was particularly encouraging to hear of new avenues and initiatives to grow our membership and ministry for the years ahead, with a resurgence ahead for youth work and events planned for the coming year. Indeed, the wisdom and commitment shown by our younger synodals was also most refreshing, and their confidence in their proposals and their lasting contribution to Synod was outstanding.

Whilst the conference centre itself, the location, food and staff were all first class - not forgetting the welcoming goats and Canadian geese! It was with great pride and sincerity that we were able to discuss our church and our mission with other ecumenical groups that we encountered at Swanwick from time to time.

As Fulneck's deputy, it was enlightening to meet so many colleagues with direct and indirect associations with our church and school. It was a testimony to our recently retired master baker Ron Davey that so many recalled their visits to Fulneck over the years for Lovefeast and Communion, and Ron's buns remain the best ever!

Whilst there are too many names to mention, my thanks go initially to our Fulneck membership who elected me as their synodal. The visiting and distinguished speakers, members of the PEC Board, serving and retired ministers, fellow synodals from far and wide that I met for the first time and also those from West Yorkshire who were so encouraging and helpful - everyone truly demonstrates that we are all equal as well as committed and proud of our church and heritage.

It was also important to attend all the sessions, and anyone failing to attend the 8am morning prayers and Bible Study would have missed the delightful and provocative tale of Mr Mouse. We also discussed the important theme of hope, and later, the meaning and derivation of our own names.

Whilst Br Mikie Roberts reflected wisely on the theme of unpredictable certainty, I would have anticipated a predictable uncertainty for myself in terms of how readily I might have approached and enjoyed Synod. Thanks to everyone involved for their professionalism, expertise, encouragement and support, it turned out undoubtedly to be an unpredictable certainty that Synod 2022 for me was an unforgettable and most fulfilling experience. I would encourage all Moravian novice members to contemplate being nominated by your congregations for Synod 2024, as the knowledge gained, friendships made and fellowship sustained will remain with me for many years to come.

Br John Holmes
Fulneck



Celebrating Heritage Open Day at Fetter Lane

To celebrate our 275th anniversary, Fetter Lane will participate in Open House London on Saturday and Sunday, 16th and 17th September with Moravian Close open from 1pm to 5pm on each day. Open House started in 1992 to promote public appreciation of building design and architecture in the capital.

As well as giving an historical overview of the Moravians in London, past and present, visitors will learn about the site's evolution and special features including the renovation of the Tudor wall surrounding God's Acre and the restoration of the Gillick Pageant, a set of heraldic shields showing the ownership of the estate from Sir Thomas More in 1524 to Sir Hans Sloane in 1737. Sculptors Mary and Ernest Gillick lived and worked in the Close from 1914 to the 1964. Refreshments will be served.

Fetter Lane Moravian Church is located at 381 King's Road, London SW10 0LP. Please note that there is no parking inside the Close but pay and display can be found in the immediate area.



© Imogen Newens-Hill

CONGREGATION NEWS

Tytherton, Wiltshire

I start my news from East Tytherton this year by sharing with you the sad loss of Margaret Smith (1925-1921). Margaret was a regular worshipper here and we miss her wisdom, gentleness and intelligence. We had a lovely service to celebrate her life, prepared by her, on the 16th of October. She will be remembered with love.

The annual 'Ride and Stride' was able to take place last year and although there were fewer cyclists, they were all happy to take a moment of relaxation and refreshments in the church.

We also welcomed the 'Moravian Pilgrims' on their historic journey and it was great to put some friendly faces to names!

On the 19th of September Sue Groves returned, by popular request, to conduct our Harvest Festival service. We were asked to reflect on 'What makes a good Harvest?' We considered words that can be made from 'Harvest', e.g. have, share and starve.

'When we SHARE what we HAVE with those who STARVE', that is what makes a good harvest. Our scripture reading was from Luke 12, The Rich Fool, and this was acted out as a drama featuring Patsy and Paul Holdsworth, Patsy as the conscience and Paul as the rich fool. We all felt Paul deserved an Oscar for his performance!!!

Our village carol service with Christingles, was held outside on the lawns, due to COVID restrictions on numbers. However, a good many braved the elements to sing carols, while the Advent star shone out through the windows.

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we opened the church for a Flower Festival. We invited local organisations to create floral arrangements in the four windows, The WI, Brownies, Village Hall Committee and Book

Club took part and others displays were in various other parts of the church, including one to show off the brass plaque of the old Moravian Girls School in their colours of blue and yellow and a pedestal of red, white and blue flowers. It was wonderful to watch armfuls of flowers and greenery gradually transformed into these wonderful displays.

Last Saturday 9th July, was one of our Burial Ground Days organised by Nigel Pocock. I had been very interested in the article, 'Rewilding God's Acre' in the March issue of the Messenger. As a result, we have dedicated natural habitats for our local wildlife. There are so many birds, squirrels, the odd hedgehog, rabbit and Muntjac deer who pass through to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of this beautiful place. So, I was delighted to meet the author of this article, Imogen Newens-Hill, who came to join us for the day with her mother Lindsey Newens, a really great surprise. Thank you for joining us!

Things will change here at the end of this month as we bid farewell to Patsy, thank her and wish her well and welcome Jane Carter, as our new minister. Jane will live in the Upper Flat of the old Manse. It will be good to have someone here with me 'on site'. We look forward to seeing what this change will bring for our future. We also look forward to renewing a relationship with the Swindon Congregation as we share Jane.

As always a big thank you for all who have supported me with the buildings, tenants and grounds over the past year, especially Lynda, I couldn't manage without you!

Sr Anne Waldron



© Sr Clara Sykes

Jack Ives, Polly Ives, Benjamin Ives, James Woolford, Arthur Ives and Hannah Ives.

Baildon, Yorkshire

We continue to enjoy our church life and are often left spell bound by our minister Br James Woolford's sleight of hand tricks! 'It's magic!' One little beaver was heard to say in awe during a parade service.

On Sunday 22nd May we welcomed Polly and Arthur Ives through infant baptism in a beautiful service led by Br James.

We celebrated Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at a garden party, in glorious sunshine, at the home of Sr Sara Clark, one of the many congregation parties we have enjoyed thanks to her generous hospitality over the years. We were all extremely sad therefore to learn of her sudden death overnight 28th/29th June. Sara was a friend to everyone, a dynamic, charismatic person who served on church committee and was the driving force of the beer festival in its early years. She was equally active within the Baildon community, the packed church being a testimony of this at her funeral on 11th July.

Sr Ruth France

Harlesden, London

The Harlesden Congregation is slowly moving back to normality, following the restrictions of the Coronavirus. The question is, what normality? The congregation members are encouraged to consider the vulnerable members as we meet in person. Yet our Bible Study and Prayer meetings have nevertheless continued on Zoom as our new normal.

The numbers attending our Sunday services continue to improve in April, May and June as a number of special events are celebrated e.g. Easter, Pentecost and special personal celebrations. Some members have not yet returned or have become housebound, yet we continue to remember them in prayer.

We have a planning group who organises a monthly Saturday activity for the Church and community. In May they arranged a High Tea, July they plan to visit Kew Gardens, August they plan another High Tea.

Food seemed to play a part in a number of our activities of late. On Sunday 5th June the congregation held a 'bring and share' lunch as our part in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. Bunting was positioned outside the Church and an open invitation given. Our service was enhanced by the presence and excellent playing of the Hornsey Steel band, who also played in the service and during the lunch.

We hosted the Brent Churches Men's Breakfast on Saturday



© Br Edwin Quildan

18th June, in our hall at 11am. A good time of Fellowship was had by all. At our Father's Day Service on Sunday 19th June, the Sunday School participated in the worship by presenting their excellent Father's Day tributes.

Br Donald Elliott a member of our Church was acknowledged for his 60 years of Service to the wider Church, since his ordination. He was presented with a card and gift, by Br James (Elder) on behalf of the Church in the service on Sunday 3rd July 2022. This was also a dual celebration as Br Donald Elliott and his wife Odette were also celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary. They shared a beautiful diamond shaped cake with the congregation and were presented with a wonderful cake from the Congregation.

Sr Geneva Adjei and Br Edwin Quildan



© Br Stephen Gledhill

Sr Jane Carter, Sr Diane Thornton, Harriet Thornton and Isabel Thornton

Lower Wyke, Yorkshire

The New Year saw Lower Wyke return to 'almost' normal, but the joy of worshipping together again was, at Easter, tinged with sadness as we learned that Sr Jane Carter was leaving us to begin a new ministry in the Western District. We have enjoyed her time with us and hope that her hard work has sown seeds that will take root and grow in the future. Her last service was on 10th July when, at our cafe Church Service, we finally said

goodbye and wished her every blessing.

All our social events during the year have been as usual very successful. Our annual Spring Festival Art Exhibition and evening meal, Scarecrow Festival and Strawberry Fair all enjoyed beautiful sunny weather and attracted many visitors from the local community. Of particular note was the extremely enjoyable sponsored walk to raise money for Ukraine. A very handsome amount of money was sent to Church House boosted by many members of other Moravian Churches in the district who joined us for the day. Another day of celebration was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee when the Wellhouse congregation joined us for morning service and the following BBQ. The Sunday School was packed with members, friends, community residents and visitors. A Wonderful time of fellowship. At the ever-popular Proms in the Paddock the Clifton and Lightcliffe Brass band once more gave of their best and, being Sr Jane's last event, over 100 people gave her three cheers to speed her on her way southward!

We now face an interregnum and await further plans for our congregation. Our strong, although aging congregation will continue to be a very positive witness to God in 'little heaven' as a previous minister always called Lower Wyke.

Sr Diane Thornton

Notices

Hymn Writing Competition

In order to mark the 275th Anniversary of the first Christingle Service on the 14th December 1747, The Faith and Order & Ecumenical Relations Committee would like to announce the launching of a Hymn Writing Competition for young people up to the age of 25.

The hymn can be either new words to an old tune or even new words for a new tune, as long as the new sheet music is submitted as well. The deadline will be the 1st October so that the new hymn can be printed in the November Messenger and then distributed throughout the province and sung during Advent this year.

Please send all entries to Sr Patsy Holdsworth at patsy.holdsworth@moravian.org.uk. Good luck!

MWA Gathering 2022

Remember that on 15th October 2022 we are having a long awaited MWA gathering. This is at Fairfield and registration is 10:00-10:30am. Sr Chistine Emanuel will be our speaker at the morning service and Sr Jane Carter will be leading our Communion Service in the afternoon. Circles have been sent forms to complete for workshops and I am looking forward to meeting my sisters in person after such a long time.

Sr Gillian Taylor

Property to Let at Ockbrook

A one bedroomed, ground floor flat at 20b The Settlement, Ockbrook is now 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 Friday 9th September 2022.

From Church House

Call

Sr Susan Quildan-Foreman has received and accepted a Call to serve the Hornsey congregation, working in a team ministry with Br Michael Newman.

The Call will take effect from Thursday 1st September 2022. From this date, part of Br Newman's time will be spent working at Church House on Provincial Board work until further notice.

The Provincial Board are delighted that Sr Quildan-Foreman has accepted this call to serve the Hornsey congregation. We are excited to see how the team ministry approach develops over the next year. Please keep Sr Quildan-Foreman and her family in your prayers during this time.

Yours in Christ's service,

Sr Roberta Hoey
On behalf of the Provincial Board.

9-18	Heritage Open Days (www.heritageopendays.org.uk/)	Dates to remember!
11	Education Sunday (https://cte.org.uk/education-sunday/)	
15-22	World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel (www.worldweekforpeace.org)	
21	UN International Day of Peace (www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/)	
22	Autumn Equinox	

Worship Leaders needed

If you are interested in honing or developing your skills and ability to conduct worship in your own congregation, or that of others in the province, then please sign up for the next intake of the Worship Leaders' Course.

The course will be run online (on Zoom) on the following dates:

11th November 2022, 6pm-8pm & 12th November 2022, 9am-5pm (with breaks)

9th December 2022, 6pm-8pm & 10th December 2022, 9am-5pm (with breaks)

11th February 2023, 6pm-8pm & 12th February 2023, 9am-5pm (with breaks)

10th March 2023, 6pm-8pm & 11th March 2023, 9am-5pm (with breaks)

14th April 2023, 6pm-8pm & 15th March 2023, 9am-5pm (with breaks)

... and culminate in an in-person residential weekend to be held from 12th-14th May 2023.

The course will be taught by a team of experienced Moravian worship leaders, consisting of: Sr Sarah Groves, Br Peter Gubi, Br Paul Holdsworth, Br Michael Newman, Sr Lorraine Shorten, Br Livingstone Thompson and Br James Woolford.

If you are interested in taking part as a participant, please contact Br Peter Gubi (peter.gubi@moravian.org.uk) by 7th October 2022 to register your interest. You will be required to pay a £50 deposit which you will get back if you complete the course in full. Your congregation may be able to support you if you ask.

Provincial Diary for September

17	Archives and Heritage Committee	Online
19	Finance & Property Committee	Church House
22	Lettings training for Church Committee/Stewards	Online
24	Provincial Youth & Children's Committee	Church House
27-28	Provincial Board	Church House
29	LAMM (London Association of Moravian Missions)	Online

Congregational Register

Baptism

24th July 2022	Dexter Maddox McMahon	Fairfield
24th July 2022	Jasmine Joan McMahon	Fairfield
31st July 2022	Cameron Matthew Hyland	Fairfield

Reception into Membership

24th July 2022	Ntombomhlaba Sipamala	Fairfield
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Marriage

30th July 2022	Adam Alexander Foster & Rachel Jane Crabtree	Fairfield
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Death

9th July 2022	Marion Brierley	Fairfield
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Weston Free Church (Moravian), Bath

© Sr Sally Biggs



Weston Free Church (Moravian) is located in the village of Upper Weston, on the western outskirts of the Georgian city of Bath. The church grew from the destruction of the Fetter Lane Moravian Chapel in London, during the blitz in May 1941. Money obtained from the war compensation fund was used to build the new Church in Bath and a brick rescued from the ruins of Fetter Lane is still displayed, commemorating this gift, on 10th February 1957.

Initially, the hall was built and used as a Church and Sunday School and three years later, in November 1955, a service was held to celebrate the laying of the foundation stones of the Church building. Villagers were offered the opportunity to sponsor a brick, by purchasing a book of tickets priced at 3d each. The opening ceremony and dedication were performed on Saturday, 13th October 1956. The Church was a focus for village family worship and a contemporary photograph shows around 60 children in the Sunday School. The Church has continued to serve the area and held its 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2003, which included a Civic Service, attended by the mayor and previous ministers.

However, over time, deterioration in the fabric of the building, heating system and a sustained water leak from the tower roof, meant difficult decisions had to be made about what could be done to protect and manage the futureproofing of the Church. After a long period of discussion and consultation, an innovative plan was created that would repair and improve the structure of the building, whilst allowing a major alteration of space and creation of new rooms and opportunities.

Initially a new kitchen and toilets with disabled access were constructed as part of the hall building and the wooden pews were removed from the Church. The heating system was improved, the roof and waterproofing of the tower was completed, and work was ready to begin on the internal structure of the Church - and then in early 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic struck! This was obviously a very worrying and distressing time for the whole country, but after our initial despair that services and lettings could not take place, it was recognised that this time could still be used productively by the craftsmen involved.

The renovation has produced a spectacular change of space and facilities. By removing the choir stalls, steps and dais at the

front of the Church and bringing the back wall forward, there is now room for a corridor behind the wall, containing another suite of toilets, utility room and office. Opposite is a large storage area, with stairs to a room above for the Boys Brigade. The old vestry and rooms were combined to make a second kitchen, with access into the Church. A new sound and hearing loop system has also been installed.

Following a water leak which flooded the Church parquet flooring, blocks were subsequently replaced and polished and everything was ready in time for our opening celebrations and service in September 2021. The mayor attended and it was lovely to welcome everyone to explore the new space, followed by cream teas and displays by the organisations who meet at the church.

Our congregation is small, but enthusiastic and there have been some changes in the Church groups using the buildings since the pandemic period. Sadly, we have no children in Junior Church at present, but the Boys Brigade is strong and as we now have two separate spaces available for letting, a new weekly Church Toddler Group meets at the same time as the 'Love Weston Cafe', a joint church initiative, which serves affordable food to local people in the hall. We have good links with neighbouring churches and regularly meet for shared services and events. The MWA group plans to meet in person again and the Lunch Club is now run by a family business on a not-for-profit basis. Our lettings to local groups have increased and include, Karate, Yoga, Fitness, Townswomen's Guild, Brownies, a Brass Band, Singing, Drama, a Parkinson's support Group and private parties.

Our next project for the building is to install Wi-Fi and we also hope to produce a new Church Website. Initiatives for the local community that have proved popular recently are our Charity Quiz nights, and the Family Fun Evenings for families with school aged children, which include games activities and free refreshments. We are currently in the process of building a Community Garden in the Church grounds, offering a quiet space for people to sit and talk, or just relax.

A lot has changed since that gift of the Fetter Lane brick, and we thank God for His steadfast guidance and support as we continue to worship and serve our community in His name.

Sr Sally Biggs

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