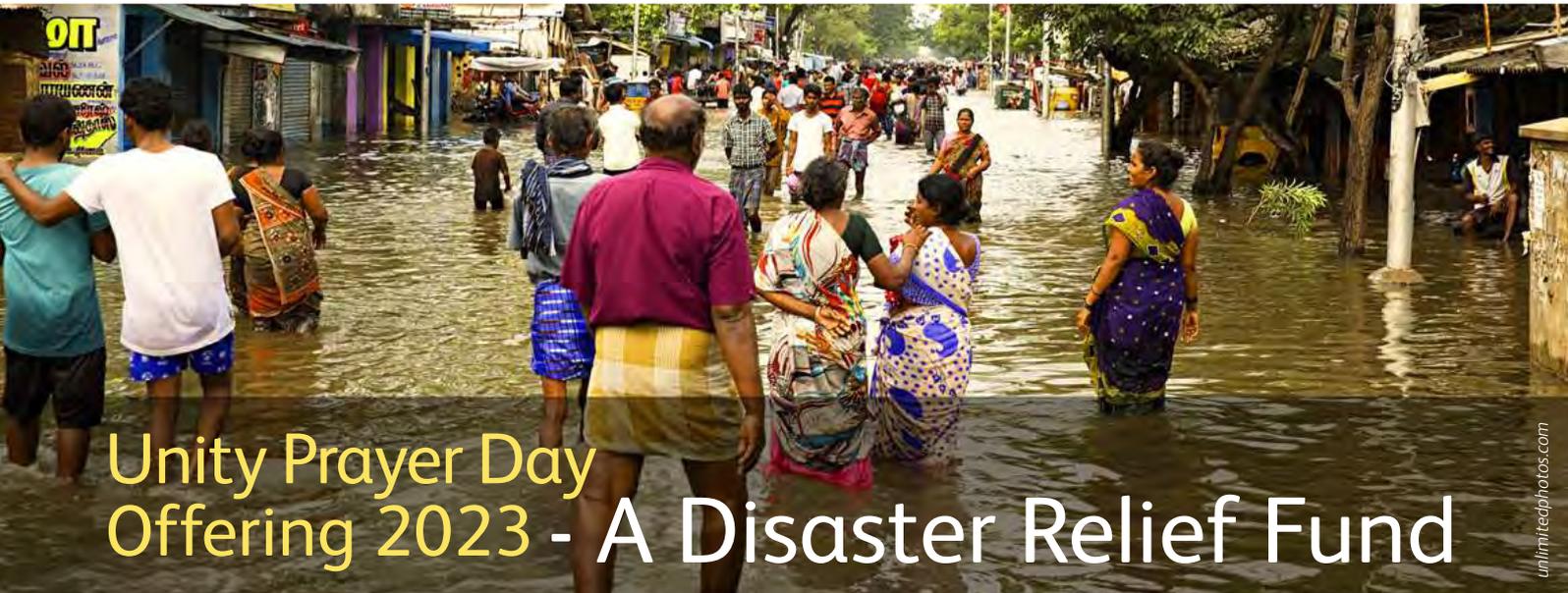


moravian messenger

MARCH 2023



Unity Prayer Day Offering 2023 - A Disaster Relief Fund

Every year, to mark the anniversary of the founding of the Moravian Church, a collection is taken up across all the Moravian Churches to help with a particular project. Often this collection has helped with building projects in various parts of the Unity. However, particularly with the recent climate issues brought about by global warming, a need has developed for the establishment of a Moravian Unity Disaster Relief Fund (MUDRF) to enable funds to be dispatched quickly to areas who require urgent assistance. This year, the Unity Prayer Day Offering for 2023 will be used as start up capital for this fund.

Many Moravians live in very vulnerable areas. It is not long ago (October 2017) that Moravians in Nicaragua were dealing with terrible flooding. Then there was flooding in East Congo in the winter of 2019 and more recently dreadful flooding in Assam (June 2022). There has also been the devastation of homes by fire in December 2018 in Wuppertal (South Africa) and the destruction of homes in Goma (Congo) in May 2021 by lava flow from the nearby volcano.

Following this start up collection, the MUDRF intends to identify both internal Moravian and external international funding, including bodies that provide matching funding for disaster relief work. The plan is to first obtain a capital of 500,000 US dollars to start the fund and hope then to increase this capital amount.

A communication plan will be created within the Moravian Unity (the worldwide Moravian Church) for how to respond to disasters wherever they may occur within the Unity. This will also include the involvement of the Unity Mission Development Board (UMDB) in decision-making about and coordination of response to disasters within the provinces of the Unity, in cooperation with national and international relief agencies, and to include the delivery of resources, funds and supplies.

The objective is to establish response teams within the regions of the Unity and to provide a disaster recovery plan template for their activities. These teams will consist of Moravians experienced in disaster relief work and with good knowledge of the Region and of the Unity. This will build upon the work of the Moravian Church in the United States where some members have formed teams that helped with the rebuilding of areas after disasters such as Hurricane Katrina when it hit New Orleans.

This Unity Prayer Day collection will help to form the start-up capital as well as promote and publicise the aims and work of this new Moravian Unity Disaster Relief Fund which in the long-term could assist Moravian Provinces to seek support for disaster relief in the event of natural or manmade disasters occurring in the area of operation of the Moravian Provinces.

Editorial Team



Rev Paul M. Holdsworth

(page 28)



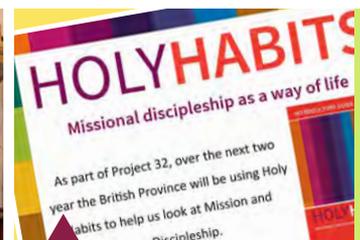
Irish Council of Churches (ICC) Centenary

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Rev Desmond Quaite

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Holy Habits

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Editorial

It has been a very sad couple of weeks since the last Moravian Messenger. In that time three of our ministers have been promoted to higher service, Br Paul Holdsworth who was still in active service and Br Desmond Quaitte and Sr Shelagh Connor both of whom had retired. Desmond and Shelagh's lives had been full of service to God and his people and we are able to thank God for their lives and their ministry amongst us and we grieve with their families at the loss of beloved parents, grandparents and great grandparents.

However, Paul's death has shocked us profoundly as he had so much still to give to his Lord and to his Church. We do not understand God's purposes in calling him home at this time when we needed him and his energy and gifts.

But then there is so much we do not understand, living in a fragile world. Why do terrible things happen; some things we can attribute to our own fault: wars, climate change and shoddy building design. Other things like genetic illnesses, and natural phenomena seem so random. The sights of the recent terrible earthquake in Turkey and Syria bring all of those things to mind, no one deserves that! But war, poverty and building faults have all added to the mix of the suffering of the people there.

So why do terrible things happen in a world that God has created? Is God in control of everything, as some Christians and some Muslims would hold? Or has God created the world

and just abandoned it? Or are we just some spinning rock, an accident of evolution caused by star dust and electrical impulses.

I don't think there are any easy or pat answers to this and I would be instantly suspicious of anyone who tried to give one. We live in a world where we have so many facts but so little understanding, where comment is cheap but wisdom is rare and where good news and good deeds get easily overlooked.

So despite what often looks like evidence to the contrary I will continue to believe that: this is a world that God has made and that God still cares about; that bad things happen but God does not will them; that God in his love for us sent his son to us as one of us, helpless in a hard world and bearing the consequences of it on the cross; that on the cross God entered into the suffering of the world; that in the resurrection of Jesus we see the promise of new life beyond the suffering; and that every kind touch and loving action has an echo of God behind it.

Finally, I believe that Faith, Hope and Love are cardinal virtues and are what God wills for his people. So let us do God's will, as we discern it, with faith, with love and living in hope.

Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team



© Sr Jane Carter

British Mission Board (BMB) News in Brief

In January Br Joachim Kreusel and Sr Jane Carter visited the Mission area of South Asia spending a week in Assam and a week in Nepal. A number of events took place in Assam including the unveiling of a memorial to Br Kagachung Rongmei (known as Br Kabui) and the wedding of Br Dimchui Rongmei (ordained in October 2022). In Nepal ministers and congregation representatives from all of South Asia gathered for the 2nd South Asia Moravian Church Conference and discussed the transition from Mission Area to Mission Province. We were thankful that an agreement was reached and an Interim Provincial Board was elected. The visit culminated in the ordination as deacons of five student ministers, Br Bir Bahadur Rana, Danish Sandhu, Jacob Gangmei, Levi Ruangmei and Nathaniel Gengmei which was an amazing service and a great blessing to the region. More details of this visit to follow next month.

Clean Slates by Sr Claire Summers

*An early sharp shower gave way
To glorious late October sunshine.
Leaves of red and gold rustled gently
In the Autumnal breeze.
High above two buzzards floated lazily
Until a murder of crows chased them away.
A kestrel hovered, seemingly effortlessly
Searching for its next repast,
While a sparrowhawk darted towards a charm of goldfinches
Eager to find sustenance.
Down below the tide peeled back
Revealing a pristine sheet of sand
Birds soon strutted along seeking worms and leaving their mark.
A horse rode along creating deep imprints in the sand.
Paws and boots followed, making patterns
Chasing the waders and running in circles.
Holes were dug and sandcastles constructed
By eager children with buckets and spades.
There was pleasure for all.
And then the tide returned
Washing the sand clean for a new adventure.
Life is similar.
We are given a clean slate and
Each day God wipes it clean again
Of our misdemeanours,
Allowing us to continue to strive
Towards a perfect day in His company.*

Safeguarding: Street Harassment and the Bystander Effect



So, what is street harassment? Do you feel you've never had to put up with it? Most women have at some time been harassed in a public place: in the street, on the tube, on a bus, inside a bar or pub, at the gym ... the list could continue. Many men have also suffered from unwanted and unsought attention from another person. It can come in many forms and doesn't have to be physical and provocative gestures but is any unwanted comment. This is street harassment. It makes you feel uncomfortable or threatened and made to feel objectified. The biggest barrier to tackling this is often the bystander effect.

Would you intervene if you saw someone being harassed or abused in public? Many would not and choose to be a bystander. There are many reasons for this:

- **'I'm scared it will turn on me.'**
- **'It's not my problem.'**
- **'I'm afraid I'll make it worse.'**
- **'I don't fully understand what is happening.'**
- **'I can't make a difference.'**

The Suzy Lampugh Trust (<https://www.suzylampugh.org>) are providing workshops where these issues can be discussed and the attendees are given strategies to manage situations. The opening session at the Safeguarding conference I went to in November was such a workshop.

Intervention takes courage and isn't necessarily directly confronting the harasser. The Five 'D's are ways to intervene and stay safe.

- **Distract** - can you draw the harasser's attention from their victim? Dropped papers, coffee, or something else to cause a disturbance might work.

- **Delegate** - ask someone for help, ideally this will be someone with authority: the bus driver, ticket collector etc.
- **Document** - take out your phone and film or photograph what is happening and offer this to the victim or take it to the police.
- **Delay** - you may not want to intervene while the harassment is taking place but offering support afterwards when it is safe can make all the difference to the victim.
- **Direct** - offer the victim your support while the event is happening: 'are you Ok?' and 'can I help' are useful ways to intervene. Men may feel uncomfortable doing this to women, but they could approach the harasser with a question and interrupt that way. Before this happens you must do a risk assessment; this might be fine on a crowded bus but not on a quiet street.

What to do if you are the victim of street harassment? Firstly, remember it is never your fault, and isn't your responsibility - that belongs with the harasser to not abuse you. Your response must be for you: do whatever you need to. The Right to Be website has lots of ideas: <https://righttobe.org>. Person safety advice is also available on the Suzy Lampugh Trust website. And if you have no idea who this woman was please read the news articles about her disappearance and the work they do to keep women safe in public spaces. Their work has extended over the years to include everyone recognising anyone can be vulnerable.

Sr Joy Raynor

Provincial Safeguarding Lead

<http://moravian.org.uk/provincial-life/information/safeguarding>



Summer Camp

This year we are trying to relaunch Summer Camp! We are inviting members to consider sending a donation towards the costing of summer camp. A donation of any kind, large or small is very welcome. To give an idea of costs, to pay for a child to attend summer camp is £130, £5 would pay for a meal or £15 would help pay towards an activity.

If you feel able to donate you can either send a BACS payment to CAF BANK Ltd, The Moravian Union, Account 00023436, Sort code 40 52 40, and label it 'Summer Camp donation'. When the BACS payment has been made please notify: lindsey.newens@moravian.org.uk.



Rev Paul M. Holdsworth (1969-2023)

It was with shock and great sadness that we learnt of the sudden death of Rev Paul Holdsworth on the 25th January 2023, and our love and prayers remain with his wife Sr Patsy, his father Br Alan and their whole family.

Paul was born on 21st February 1969 and raised in Lower Wyke. He was educated at Shirley Manor before going to Fulneck School where he became head boy, followed by a Law degree in Leicester. Paul offered himself for Moravian ministry training in 1993 and was called as a student minister to Fulneck Moravian Church in 1998. The following year, in February 1999, along with his wife Patsy he moved to London when he was called to serve Fetter Lane and Harold Road congregations. It was in the same year he was ordained by Br Joe Cooper at Hornsey Moravian Church.

In 2004, Paul answered the call to serve Kilwarlin and University Road congregations. He spent more than ten years in the Irish district, also serving Cliftonville congregation when Patsy completed her training and was called to Ballinderry and Kilwarlin. In 2015, Paul and Patsy were called to serve the congregations in the Western District where Paul became the minister of Bath Weston, Bath Coronation Avenue and Swindon congregations. At the time of Paul's passing, both he and Patsy were preparing for their next move to serve the Lancashire district.

For more than 20 years, Paul's ministry took him to many contexts throughout the British Province and over the last number of weeks stories have been recounted that evidenced his zeal for fellowship and community outreach. From the World's End in Chelsea to the community interface in North Belfast, each call that Paul undertook came with a determination to bring the Light to everyone and anyone who was willing to stop and have a conversation with the minister wearing shorts. He also never failed in finding the local Gilbert and Sullivan Society in every place he went!

Paul's passion was in building community, and he remained unfailingly committed to on the ground local engagement, but this was only one facet of his ministry in the Moravian Church. Paul often recounted his experience at Moravia, a European Youth meet, as playing a pivotal role on his journey into ministry and opening up the structures of the worldwide Unity to him as well as fuelling his passion for Youth Work.

Paul would go on to lead countless Summer Camps and youth weekends, putting his own unique stamp and energy on all the activities, undoubtedly exhausting himself in the process but never failing to bounce back. His activities and ideas, at first seemingly implausible - from 24-hour game marathons to



transatlantic youth exchanges - never failed to attract campers and create memories that will last lifetimes.

Paul used to muse that his Summer Camp leadership set him up well to take on other provincial tasks including Chairing Synod and eventually leading him to the Provincial Board and British Mission Board. It may seem strange to associate youth work to matters of governance and order, but at the heart of it all was Paul's unwavering dedication to teamwork. Paul was a team player through and through, despite his much-proclaimed affinity to Mr Grumpy of the Mr Men series and his longings to disappear and be hiking up Skiddaw in his beloved

Lake District.

In a time when churches across the UK are grappling with declining numbers, Paul, in his own words would always 'rage against the dying of the light.' As such, during Paul's time on the Provincial Board, he was committed to promoting the collegiate nature of our work and ensuring that we were an accessible body that supported both the development of congregations and the welfare of all our ministers. While on the British Mission Board, he travelled to Nepal and was instrumental in fostering pastoral relations with the student ministers as well as organising a ministerial retreat, following a successful first conference of the South Asia Moravian Church.

On a personal note, I've known Paul through many stages of my life and indeed my own formation in the Moravian Church. He was my camp leader, he was my pastor, and then he was my colleague. I know we challenged each other on occasions, and always approached problems from different angles yet we always seemed to suddenly hit upon the same solution. I have many memories and reflections that I could share of Paul, but that is for another day and many more pages. However, I will always be grateful for his open, unrefined, and human approach to ministry, that gave me and many others the confidence to serve the Moravian Church and wider community.

As many who knew Paul well would know, he was a great enthusiast for all things Dr Who, with his favourite of all incarnations being the fourth doctor, Tom Baker. With his mix of goofiness and seriousness, a memorable image, booming voice and an endearing devotion to his travelling companions, I think many will see why Paul was drawn to such an enigmatic character and all his adventures.

Rest well, my brother and friend.

Sr Roberta Hoey
Chair, Provincial Board

Irish Council of Churches (ICC) Centenary

One hundred years ago last Monday as I write this, the first meeting of the organisation that would become the Irish Council of Churches (ICC) took place. As a founder member, the Moravian Church was present. Then called the United Council of Christian Churches and Religious Communities in Ireland, it comprised representation from seven churches: Moravian Church, Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Church of Ireland, Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church, Congregational Union, and the Religious Society of Friends/Quakers.

The genesis of the organisation can be traced back to 1904, when the Presbyterian General Assembly and the Conference of the Methodist Church exchanged deputations, leading to an establishment of a joint committee of the two churches. Soon afterwards, the General Synod of the Church of Ireland and the General Assembly appointed a Joint Committee to 'encourage the cultivation of friendly relations between the two churches.' One of the issues that was an early concern of the PCI - Church of Ireland Joint Committee was temperance. Their advocacy on this issue was notable in that it demonstrated a willingness to cooperate with the Roman Catholic church on matters of common concern, evidenced in a letter to the Prime Minister dated 15th March 1915 and signed by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, the Moderator, and the Methodist Vice-President. The United Council itself was formed following resolutions passed in 1921 in the General Assembly and the General Synod recommending 'the formation of a United Council of the Christian Churches in Ireland' and inviting other churches to co-operate, resulting in that initial meeting of seven churches on 23rd January 1923, at the height of the Irish Civil War, shortly after the partition of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland.

Although it took a further fifty years for formal engagement with the Catholic Church to take place, engagement with the Catholic Church was by then a regular occurrence, though ad-hoc in nature. The 26th of September this year will be the 50th anniversary of what is known as the



'Ballymascanlon Talks', when about ninety representatives of the Churches in Ireland met in Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk, for what was officially referred to as an Inter-Church Meeting. That meeting was the first of a series, and led to the establishment of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting (IICM), which is the body through which the Catholic Church and the member churches of the Irish Council of Churches (ICC) engage, dialogue and act together.

That the word 'Ballymascanlon' is still significant in the memories of many Christians across Ireland indicates the importance of this meeting, coming, as did the formation of ICC, at a time of turmoil and violence in the history of our island. As Archbishop Eamon Martin said in his recent address at the service marking the Centenary of ICC and the 50th anniversary of the Ballymascanlon Talks in St Anne's Cathedral last month: 'Although I was only eleven years old in September 1973, somewhere lodged in my boyhood memory are news images of Church leaders gathering for an historic meeting - while others marched in protest. I knew instinctively that something special was happening at Ballymascanlon - it was a beacon of hope in dark times.'

The press tended to regard that first 1973 meeting as a 'peace conference', and expressed impatience when proposals for the solution of the political problem did not emerge. It became necessary to emphasise that this was a dialogue about the standing issues that divided the Churches, and that any political outcome would be the indirect result of improved relationships and the removal of misunderstandings.

This underlying desire for closer and deeper relationships has underpinned the work of ICC and IICM, which since

the beginning has explored theological concerns such as the authority of scripture, baptism, eucharist and marriage in parallel with matters of social justice, peacebuilding and reconciliation. In their account of the early Ballymascanlon meetings, Cardinal Cathal Daly and Stanley Worrall note that:

'Prayer together at Ballymascanlon has been a vital part of the total exercise ... It is a spiritual experience of listening together to the same Word on which our faith is based; a being together in love of the one Lord, whose name we hold in common.'

During this milestone year the Churches in Ireland, through the Irish Council of Churches, and the Irish Inter-Church Meeting are reflecting on the circumstances of their origins, their work in the years since, and their ways of working together today. This reflection is seeking to discern how we need to adapt and change in order to effectively serve the common good of the people of this island, and bear witness to the good news of the Gospel through our love for one another and the communities in which we work.

This is the first in a series of four articles that will be published in the Moravian Messenger over the course of the year. Future articles will look at the work of ICC and IICM over the years, how the churches in Ireland work together today through ICC and IICM, and the future plans of the organisations.

Dr Damian Jackson
General Secretary,
Irish Council of
Churches



Rev Desmond Quaite (1935-2023)

Obituary based on the address given by Rt Rev Sarah Groves at his funeral at Gracehill on Wednesday 25th January 2023.

Br Desmond Quaite died after a very short illness on 20th January 2023 aged 87. He had been born in his grandmother's house in Gracehill on 24th June 1935 although his family lived in Dublin. Due to the atmosphere of the times Desmond, along with his two brothers David and Tom, and his parents had to return to Gracehill and make their home there.



© Sr Sarah Groves

So, Desmond's schooling continued at Gracehill Primary School and then at local secondary schools. He was taken with his parents to Trinity Presbyterian Church in the nearby village of Ahoghill in the mornings and was sent to the Gracehill Moravian Church Sunday School in the afternoons. He met the love of his life, Lily Gaston, whilst still at Primary School. They were clearly destined to be together for life and they married two days after Desmond's 21st birthday at Trinity Presbyterian Church on 26th June 1956. They were married for 66 years and in that time were blessed with four children, Desmond, David, Anne and Colin, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Desmond joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary in 1953 and served in the Constabulary until 1965. By then he had offered to serve for Moravian ministry and went to do his theological training at Union Presbyterian College in Belfast. He did very well there and gained the student prize which was incredible as he was also serving as a student pastor at Kilwarlin and Ballinderry at the time. I know that the years at Kilwarlin were golden years for Desmond and Lily's children in the wonderful grounds and manse.

Desmond was ordained deacon here at Gracehill by Bishop Foy in 1968 and it was lovely that we were able to celebrate his 50th anniversary ordination here at Gracehill in October 2018.

In 1969 Desmond and Lily accepted the call to serve the Gomersal and Heckmondwike congregations in Yorkshire. When I was serving at Gomersal there were still people there who remembered Desmond and Lily with affection. In 1971 the family went out to Carmel in Jamaica to serve there. Sadly, the climate really did not suit, and everyone had to return home in 1972 - but I was so touched by the memory that Desmond's children had of the kindness of the Carmel folk who showered them with fruit of every kind and were so sad to see them leave.

Returning to the UK, Desmond served the Swindon and Malmesbury congregations, and he was consecrated a Presbyterian by Bishop Gubi at Swindon. I first met Desmond when he came to preach at Brockweir when I was just 15. I remember he preached on the Trinity, but I can't remember the details of the sermon.

Time moved on and a return to Ireland was arranged because Lily's parents needed care. So, in 1980 Desmond resigned from active service in Moravian ministry and returned to Ballymena and to the RUC where he served until his retirement in 2000. However, he never ceased to be a member of the Church and in 1980 he and Lily were received back into membership of the Gracehill congregation.

In 1996 he began non stipendiary service back in the Church and served as Associate Minister in the Irish District, retiring from that role in 2000. But Desmond never really retired - he was always taking services including weddings and funerals, sometimes at very short notice. He read from the Bible beautifully, making even genealogies sound like poetry, and he preached eloquently.

In his retirement he was proud to serve as the Chaplain to the local RUC George Cross Association. It was very fitting that the Standard of the RUC George Cross Association was placed in Church for his funeral along with his police cap, gloves and medals.

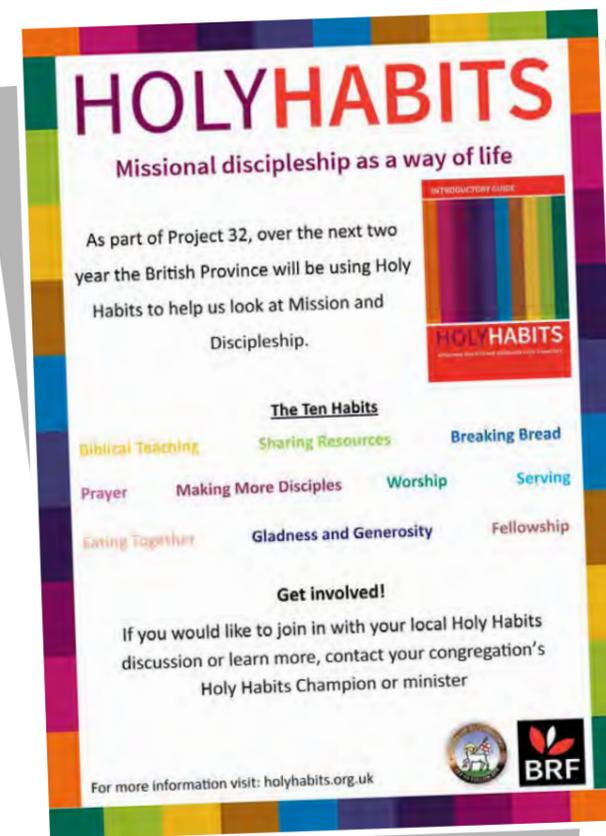
His preaching Bible was also placed at the front of the Church as a tribute to his faith and his commitment to his Lord. Desmond had chosen the Bible Reading for his funeral - John 14:1-6 and v2i. It showed his unshakeable belief as Jesus as the way for life and to life, the way and the truth.

Desmond loved his family, his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and all their friends and partners. All were made welcome in the family circle. He and Lily were also very supportive to the children in Gracehill Church, and they were incredible donors to the Young People's Missionary Association. Desmond had planned that the organisation to benefit from donations in his memory would be the Elim Home in Cape Province, South Africa; even in death he cared about young people!

He was friends with so many people in Gracehill and knew so much about old Gracehill. He loved chatting and you knew you were in for a long story when he folded his arms and put his foot back and began ... sometimes Lily despaired of getting him out of Church on a Sunday morning!

The Church was full for his funeral, with family, Church members from Gracehill, Ballinderry and Kilwarlin along with many past members of the RUC and current members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Desmond had a full life and a deep faith in our Lord and we thank God for his life, service and witness and offer our deepest sympathy to Lily and his family as they grieve for him.

Sr Sarah Groves



Introduction

The Holy Habits books are missional study material based on Acts Chapter 2 which provides a set of building blocks to help equip Churches both spiritually and physically. Synod 2021 agreed to introduce the Holy Habits material within the British Province, through Resolution 15. This resolution is now applicable to all congregations and each person regardless of age can participate. So, the work has started with the purchase and distribution of a set of Holy Habits books for each congregation in the British Province. A plan was formulated and agreed with the Provincial Board for the review of the study material, but it is not a pick and mix option. Each congregation was required to identify their Holy Habit Champions, details of which are below. Even if a congregation has previously looked at the Holy Habits material you are asked to engage with your new experiences.

Holy Habits Focus

The Holy Habits books are based on Acts Chapter 2, and we can take on-board a set of these good habits to direct us as

in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Order for studying the Holy Habits books

The plan is to work on the 'Serving' book first in January and February, then to move onto the 'Prayer' book in March and April (as we move through Lent and Easter). The third book will be the 'Biblical Teaching' book for May and June. It would then be logical to adopt the 'Eating together' book when the weather is at its best in July and August.

Holy Habits Champions

The role of the Holy Habits Champions is to provide information and encouragement to the local congregation; liaise and offer feedback with the Province; engage with the material, and build new Holy habits within the congregation; attend Provincial Holy Habits meetings 4-8 weekly; and liaise with the Minister, local teams, Church Committee and others to promote Holy Habits.

Holy Habits

we journey with our Saviour. The first steps are important on any journey. Once a wheel starts turning it is easier to keep it going.

Acts Chapter 2 vv 46 - 47 (NIV)

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread

Launching Holy Habits

Holy Habits was launched at the Ministers' monthly meeting and meetings on Thursday 12th January 2023, where the identified Holy Habits Champions attended. The plan is to follow each study book for a period of two months, with the aim of completing five books in a year (with two months for follow-up). This will allow us to complete the course in two years.

Outcomes

The following actions are needed as congregations follow the study material:

- during the two-month period a sermon shall be preached in each Church on the topic of the book that the congregation is studying.
- identify three local actions to embed that Holy Habit within the congregation.
- move onto the next book in a timely manner as you aim to complete the study.
- feedback any updates from the congregation to the Province.

Prayer

Loving Lord and God, we pray for each congregation of the Moravian Church that you will challenge us and equip us for your service. Use us to build your kingdom. Strengthen our resolve to follow you and walk in your way. Amen

A note for small congregations (from the Holy Habits website)

Please don't think you are too small to explore and practise holy habits. All of the churches in Acts were small! Being small has some advantages too and can make planning a lot easier.

Br Edwin Quildan
Provincial Board

'What I Believe'

Moravian Messenger Editor Sr Sarah Groves interviews Sr Zoe Taylor

Sr Zoe Taylor served on the Provincial Board of the Moravian Church from 2016 to 2020. Zoe currently serves as a Trustee of the Mrs EM Bates Trust, a charity that was set up in 1813 to benefit the Moravian Church. Zoe was also a leader at summer camp for many years working with the junior and middle age groups.

Tell us about your background, early years, education, and family

Born and raised in Birmingham to two Caribbean parents, I grew up with one older brother. I had a brilliant and happy childhood. At 18 I moved to Sheffield to attend Sheffield Hallam University studying Business and Human Resource Management. A couple of years after my degree I lived in various parts of Canada before ending up back in Birmingham where I live with my husband and two children.

How and when did you come to faith?

I was raised in a Christian home and have attended church for as long as I can remember. I would say that though my early years' belief was blind, almost learnt by rote, it turns out that they were great foundations for when I came to have faith of my own in my early 20s. My grandad was also a great role model for faith: so firm in his belief and well respected in the community as a man of God. Despite me never having lived in Jamaica, the church he worshipped at, and my mum was raised in, feels like home to me.

Tell us briefly about your working life and how you integrated your faith with that?

I work in Learning and Organisation Development. This means I help individuals and teams develop knowledge skills and behaviours that help them to reach their goals. Faith doesn't often explicitly come into my day-to-day work, but I am one Zoe and my faith influences the nature of who I am and how I act in all areas of my life. I think the way in which I try to promote compassion and understanding in the workplace is very much grounded in my faith.

What has been your greatest joy or highlight in your Church life?

Greatest highlight was Connect 2014: an 18+ youth trip to Herrnhut and Dresden. The trip was organised at short notice by Sr R Hoey, Sr J Raynor and myself after the cancellation of Moravia that year. I'm proud of how it came together, and it ran very smoothly. I had a wonderful time sharing Moravian history and fellowship with UK and European Brs and Srs. It's amazing what three determined ladies and a bottle of wine can achieve!

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

I can't say I've ever been angry with God as such. Impatient, annoyed and confused sometimes but I can't remember ever being angry.



Are you afraid to die, or can you look beyond death? Do you believe in a resurrection, and if so, what will it be like?

The older I get the less afraid I am of dying. Being a mum of young children I'm more afraid of missing my children growing up and not having the chance to support their lives. I do believe in a life after death but have no idea what it might be like. I suspect it exists in a way that, with our human limitations of understanding, we can't comprehend.

What can we learn from other Churches and other faiths?

My understanding of Buddhism is that it's not a religion but a way of life. Following the Buddhist way does not preclude you from following the teachings of other traditions. We are multifaceted beings; we like and are inspired by many things. Why should our faith journey be any different? Let's seek out the ideas of other traditions and faiths and look to learn from, be challenged by, and be inspired by them to deepen our own relationship with God.

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

My experience of church is like a family and if you aren't part of a family from a young age it can be then very difficult to penetrate at a later date. Especially if you don't have a strong connection to a particular person already in the group.

I also think society's trust in institutions is at a low after so many leaders who should be demonstrating the right thing to do and upholding the rules are the very people who display some of the worst of humanity.

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

I'm not a big reader but I have a fairly broad taste in music. My favourite artists are Mariah Carey, Emeli Sande, Beyonce and P!nk. Music gives me time and space to reflect often articulating my thoughts and feelings better than I can. They also have many songs that empower me and give me a boost of confidence.

What makes you feel closest to God?

Listening to music; walking (doesn't have to be in nature it can be around a city too); hugging close family and friends; walking alongside someone in need.

What inscription on your gravestone or epitaph, if any?

I really don't know what to say here!

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

I don't have any real regrets; I don't see the point in lamenting something I can't change. I'm also very lucky. I've had a lot of opportunities; I've experienced and achieved a lot and I have the things I need. I love and am grateful for my life.

Gracehill takes step closer to becoming Northern Ireland's first Cultural World Heritage Site



© Gracehill Old School Trust

Press Release from the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland

A bid to secure Northern Ireland's first cultural world heritage site and elevate it alongside the likes of the Taj Mahal and Great Wall of China has been welcomed.

The proposal to UNESCO is part of a transnational bid involving three global sites - Bethlehem in Pennsylvania (USA), Herrnhut in Saxony, Germany and Gracehill, County Antrim.

All three settlements are associated with the Moravian Church, including Gracehill which is the best-preserved Moravian settlement on the island of Ireland.

The picturesque village, located on the rural outskirts of Ballymena, was laid out in the 18th century as a settlement of the Moravian Church and was designated as Northern Ireland's first conservation area in 1975.

The nomination is being led by the United States in conjunction with the German and UK governments. It is the first multi-country bid in the 45-year history of the World Heritage Convention to be led by the US.

Colum Boyle, Permanent Secretary Department for Communities, has welcomed the development and thanked the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) for coordinating the UK part of the three-nation bid.

'Gracehill is an important part of our diverse heritage and the Department has been pleased to work with the local community and council over many years as they have sought to preserve the village and ensure that its potential can be realised.

If successful in securing World Heritage Site status, Gracehill and the wider community will benefit culturally and economically from this important accolade that will further protect an important piece of history for future generations.'

UK Arts and Heritage Minister Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay said: 'This wonderfully well-preserved 18th-century settlement offers a fascinating insight into the history of the Moravian Church and its community of worshippers.'

The village of Gracehill would be a worthy recipient of the first cultural UNESCO World Heritage Site in Northern Ireland, complementing the natural heritage of the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast. I look forward to supporting this bid in the coming months.'

David Johnston of the Gracehill Trust believes securing World Heritage status would be 'hugely significant' to Northern Ireland. He said:

'Gracehill has been a good news story for 250 years and for the last 20 years we have been working with international partners to achieve World Heritage status. The prize of World Heritage designation would be hugely significant, and granting Northern Ireland its first cultural World Heritage listing would bring benefits for tourism, the economy, regeneration, job creation and even reconciliation whilst enriching the profile for the whole region.

This is a unique opportunity to achieve something of lasting significance that everyone can be proud of and share in, with substantial potential benefits now and for generations to come.'

The Department for Communities and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council have provided financial support and expertise to Gracehill Trust to commission an international consultant to carry out research and prepare a nomination document to UNESCO.

Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Alderman Noel Williams, added:

'World Heritage Status for Gracehill would benefit Mid and East Antrim considerably by raising the global profile of the Borough, supporting the local economy, especially the visitor economy, and impacting on education, quality of life and civic pride.

The purpose of World Heritage is to help recognise and preserve the named area for present and future generations. Gracehill is an area of our Borough that we are very proud of and for that reason we would champion any plans that preserve it.'

The transnational nomination will be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee next year.

The historic Moravian district of Bethlehem in Pennsylvania is an 18th century community created under the auspices of the original Moravian congregation in Herrnhut, Germany.

The Giant's Causeway was designated as a Natural World Heritage site in 1986, but if successful Gracehill would be the first in Northern Ireland to be granted Cultural World Heritage status.

Cliftonville, Belfast

The Cliftonville members are shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of their former minister, Br Paul Holdsworth. In October 2007 he accepted a call to the ministry of Cliftonville in addition to the University Road church and remained until April 2015 when he moved to a shared ministry with his wife Patsy of the congregations in the West of England. Our sincere sympathies to Sr Patsy, and to his father Br Alan Holdsworth. Our sympathy also to Sr Lily Quaitte and family on the death of her husband. Br Desmond presided at services for us on many occasions during his years in retirement in Ballymena.

We moved to the church hall for two weeks in January while work was carried out to the interior of the church and



© Sr Sharon Walker

some external repairs. Thanks to the men who met to prepare the church for the work and afterwards to wash the floor and seats to remove the plaster dust and restore the building to its usual welcoming appearance.

We would like to record our thanks here to the Salem members for their generous gift of lovely blue chair cushions that they no longer require, and to Sr Broadbent for packing them for transport. Our good wishes to the Salem members in their new home in the Royton congregation.

We thank Demi Walker-Dallas, who has a School of Dance, and her cousin Lucy Walker for entertaining us to a pre-Burns Night celebration with Highland dancing, poetry and Ulster Scots information.

Sr Edna Cooper

Horton, Yorkshire

Here at Horton we are celebrating a wonderful start to 2023 by welcoming our new minister Sr Claire Maxwell and her family. Sr Claire has been called to serve Horton and Lower Wyke and we wish her every blessing and look forward to getting to know her, Steve and the children.

On 21st January a District welcome service was held for Claire at Lower Wyke and on 29th January a joint service was held at Horton for both congregations and in true Moravian fashion it was followed by lunch, laughter and lots of talking! After a difficult few years with COVID restrictions (and no minister!) it was lovely to join together to worship and celebrate.

Since Br David Howarth's leaving in September 2021 and Sr Claire joining us we have been supported by local ministers, lay preachers and members of our own and other congregations and we are so thankful for their time and fellowship.

Sr Linda Barraclough



© Sr Linda Barraclough

From Church House

Br Paul Holdsworth

The Provincial Board are deeply saddened to announce the sudden and unexpected death of Br Paul Holdsworth on Wednesday 25th January 2023. Please remember his wife, Sr Patsy, father, Br Alan, and wider family in your prayers at this difficult time.

We give thanks for Br Holdsworth's life, his wide and varied service, and we commend him to his Lord, Jesus Christ. He has touched the lives of many people, not only through his congregational ministry in the Eastern, Irish and Western Districts, but also his leadership of Summer Camp, among other things. He has also been a member of the Provincial Board since 2018 and served the wider Unity on the British Mission Board. His loss will be felt by many across the Province and further afield.

Sr Shelagh Connor and Br Desmond Quaitte

The Provincial Board were also saddened to hear of the deaths of two of our retired church servants, but we give thanks for their lives lived in service.

Sr Shelagh Connor was ordained in 1986 and served Bedford Queen's Park and Kimbolton congregations and was previously a missionary in Tanzania. A family funeral has taken place in Orkney and a memorial will be held in Hornsey on Saturday 29th April at 2pm.

Br Desmond Quaitte, was ordained in 1968 and served in the Irish, Yorkshire and Western districts as well as in Jamaica. Br Quaitte's funeral took place on 25th January 2023 at Gracehill.

We keep the families of Sr Shelagh, Br Paul and Br Desmond in our prayers and give thanks for their ministry.

Call

Sr Sue Groves will serve the Brockweir congregation as a non-stipendiary Lay Pastor, supported by the ordained ministers in the Western District. Sr Groves' call began in February and will initially be for six months while she receives training to fulfil this role. The role of Lay Pastor is defined in section 22 of the Book of Order, which says, 'A Lay Pastor is a lay person called to pastoral charge of a congregation to meet a specific need as identified by the Provincial Board.' Please keep Sr Groves and the Brockweir congregation in your prayers at this time of transition.

Special Synod

A special Synod will be held on Saturday 17th June, and this will be held on Zoom. More details will be sent out in due course, but this is to give notice to ex-officio members and for congregations who can make the necessary arrangements to elect deputies. Congregations with between 66 and 130 members (as at 31st August 2022 and reported on the 2022 A form) are entitled to send two deputies and those with 131 or more members are entitled to send three deputies.

The United Church Kingswood (Moravian & URC)

The congregation of the United Church Kingswood made the decision to close and to cease meeting for worship. A service of thanksgiving was held on Sunday 15th January with the wider district and members of the Provincial Board in attendance. The congregation met for a final time together on Sunday 22nd January 2023. We give thanks and praise for the work the Holy Spirit has enabled in Kingswood and the wider Bristol area.

Provincial Diary for March

9	CSC	(Online)
11	Western District Conference	(Bath Weston)
11	Lancashire District Conference	(Online)
14-15	Provincial Board	(Church House)

Congregational Register

Baptisms

18th Dec 2022	Archer Blaise Hudson	East Tytherton
18th Dec 2022	Nellie Grace Hudson	East Tytherton
22nd Jan 2023	Lana Faye Weir	Dukinfield

Reception into membership

22nd Jan 2023	Janet Cooper	Gomersal
5th Feb 2023	Anthony Benjamin	Hornsey

Confirmation

5th Feb 2023	Jean Wilson	Hornsey
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Deaths

6th Aug 2022	Doris Wilson	Hornsey
12th Sept 2022	Daniel Stewart	Hornsey
15th Sept 2022	Keith Matthew	Hornsey
4th Oct 2022	Lilybell Phillip	Hornsey
30th Oct 2022	Icilda Wright	Horton
24th Dec 2022	Brian Hugh Williams	Swindon
16th Jan 2023	Ian Hawley	Gomersal
20th Jan 2023	Desmond Quaitte	Gracehill
25th Jan 2023	Paul Holdsworth	Minister of Bath Coronation Avenue and Bath Weston Congregations
9th Feb 2023	Shelagh Connor	Diaspora List

1	Founding of the Brethren's Church in 1457 St David's Day Unity Prayer Day
3	World Day of Prayer (www.wwdp.org.uk)
6	Purim - Jewish Holi - Hindu
8	International Women's Day (www.internationalwomensday.com)
17	St Patrick's Day
19	Mothering Sunday
20	Spring Equinox
22	Ramadan begins - Muslim
25	UN International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade (www.un.org/en/events/slaveryremembranceday/)
26	Summertime begins

Dates to remember!

JAM in Northern Ireland

No, its not raspberry or strawberry jam but JUST A MINUTE

JUST A MINUTE is an initiative by the NOW group, in Northern Ireland, who work with and

an easy way of showing that they might need a bit extra time or help. Some disabilities are obvious but many are not although are, never the less, very real. Examples of these would be dyslexia, dyscalculia, dementia, hearing loss, short term memory issues and neurodiversity. The JAM cards are becoming increasingly popular with people in Northern Ireland and it is important for users to know where they can easily use their card or



phone app. So, organisations can apply to be JAM card friendly and can display the JAM Card signage in their premises. JAM card users' welcome signs are now appearing in many locations. The aim is now for the Irish District of the Moravian Church to become the first group of Churches accredited as JAM card friendly in Northern Ireland.

To become a JAM card friendly organisation, we need to have all our door stewards and those who have significant outward facing roles, like ministers to undertake and pass the training for JAM cards that has been set

up by the NOW Group. We are actively encouraging as many people as possible in the Church to undertake this training. Although the JAM training is not Church specific it does highlight things we all need to remember in our dealings with people who have obvious or hidden disabilities.

The training goes through five scenarios, each one with three sections: JAM card users' comments, things to consider and then tips to help the organisation. There is then a short test - if you are dissatisfied with your score you can retake the test. The important thing is that, for example our door stewards, recognise the JAM Card and have some idea of how to assist the JAM card user. The other factor is that JAM card users would be confident coming to our Churches knowing that they would be treated with dignity and helpfulness.

Being a Door Steward is such an important role in the life of our congregations, it is the human face of the Church and the first person that visitors meet. A warm and friendly welcome makes such a difference to people coming into Church. Being a JAM Card Friendly organisation adds another layer to that welcome and indicates that all are welcome in our Churches.

Sr Sarah Groves

Minister of Gracehill Moravian Church



advocate for people with various learning issues. The JUST A MINUTE Card allows people with a hidden disability or communication barrier to tell others that they need extra time and understanding in a private and easy way. It comes either as a plastic card or as a phone app. The person with a hidden disability or communication issue shows the card and then turns it round so that the person they are dealing with understands something of their issues and can give more time or appropriate help. You can go onto the JAM card website at: <https://www.jamcard.org>, and see how the card works. The Now Group website is: www.nowgroup.org. It is a small idea that can make a big difference to people. As a Church nationally and locally we are committed to making anyone who comes to Church feel as welcome as possible. Visitors and regular attenders need to feel that they will not be rushed or made to feel stupid. I personally have seen some lovely examples of door stewards noticing a need that someone is showing and reacting straight away to getting it sorted.

But we are not always aware of people's needs and until now people have not had

Baildon Moravian Church



© Sr Sarah Groves

Baildon is the most northerly Moravian congregation in England, perched on the edge of Baildon Bank, on the north side of the river Aire. Baildon Moor looms above and although only a few miles from both Bradford and Leeds, a five-minute walk from the church, takes you into open countryside. Baildon township, often referred to as 'the village', is a vibrant community with a monthly Farmer's market and annual events including a carnival, a world famous motorbike rally, a scarecrow festival and a village wide Christmas fair.

Places of worship include Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist churches and Baildon Moravian congregation is active in Churches Together in Baildon, with events including Lent lunches, carol singing, Good Friday Walks of Witness and the World Day of Prayer. The branch secretary for this event is one of our members.

Our congregation dates officially from 1806 but its origins are much earlier. Whilst engaged in the building of Fulneck Chapel in 1740s, David Emmott, a stonemason from Baildon became so impressed by the Moravians there that he invited them to preach in Baildon and subsequently by 1755 three licensed preaching places were established here. Both John Wesley and John Cennick came to preach on more than one occasion. The societies grew and by 1780 it was decided to appoint a permanent preacher because up to then they were reliant on preachers coming from Fulneck and members had to go to Fulneck for Holy Communion. Br James Grundy became the first dedicated preacher living in a house probably near to the present church hall but by 1805 it became obvious that larger premises were needed and with the support of Fulneck and Br Christian Ignatius La Trobe of London, an appeal was launched for funds to build a chapel. On 24th September 1806 the first chapel was consecrated (although the building was later remodelled and enlarged) and in 1810 the first resident minister was Br Richard Edwards.

The church building adjoins Moravian House dating from 1824, which until 2022 had been used as our Manse but as our current minister, Br James Woolford and his family live in Fulneck, the house is at present let out.

Beyond the manse is our Burial Ground and Garden of Rest. The grounds although beautiful require a lot of upkeep and working parties are constantly needed.

Baildon members' memories are full of stories of church pantomimes, sports days, barbeques, congregation walks,

musical events, flower festivals and the ongoing Beer Festival, now in its 21st year (28th-29th April 2023). Ministers and their families from these times are also remembered with much affection.

Until recently we have been in a unit with our friends at Horton but now we are in a similar unit with Fulneck which is very appropriate considering our early history!

We are at present a small congregation with an ageing membership although we do have young families either as members or connected through the uniformed organisations attached to our church. Scouts, cubs and beavers attend church for monthly lively parade services with Br James who encourages the groups to take an active part in worship.

Our services are held at 10.30am each Sunday with Holy Communion once a month and Lovefeast and Holy Communion, once a quarter. As with so many congregations, our Christmas services are the best attended, including the Children's Presentation service, Christingle and Christmas morning Lovefeast where stollen is served in place of buns!

Despite being small in number, we are a sincere and friendly congregation with a Prayer Group, Craft Club and MWA, who all meet regularly and some members, along with Br James, also belong to the Moravian Singers, the Yorkshire District Choir. During the pandemic a church WhatsApp group was started which kept us linked together and is still ongoing. Members are always willing to help take services on the Sundays Br James is at Fulneck.

We have a large church hall with kitchen and other rooms opposite the church which was originally the Sunday School building with a stage for performances. In the 1970s the top floor of this building was converted into three flats which are rented out, but we still have large premises underneath. Used for church events such as the Beer Festival, church fairs and coffee mornings, this room is available for hire and one room at the back is let to a piano teacher for lessons.

We are proud of our history and heritage as a Moravian congregation and as part of the wider Unity and we pray to continue our Christian witness for as long as we are able in this beautiful part of our Province.

Sr Ruth France

I am indebted to the late Sr Winifred Warren and her book 'A history of Baildon Moravian Church 1806-2006'.

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