



New Member of the Provincial Board

My name is Jane Carter, the new non-stipendiary member of the Provincial Board. I am currently minister at East Tytherton and Swindon Moravian Churches in the Western District and for the past 18 months I have served on the British Mission Board, more recently as the Chair.

I was born in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire and apart from attending a Church of England primary school I had very little religious attachment. When I left secretarial college in 1979 my family moved to Daventry in Northamptonshire and there I began my association with the Moravian Church when I started attending Priors Marston Moravian Church in Warwickshire.

I became an active member of church committee and minute secretary for the Eastern District Conference. When I became a local Circle Leader for the Moravian Women's Association some very persuasive sisters suggested I might make a good secretary on the MWA Executive which eventually (after more persuasion) led me to become President. My work with women was extended when I served on the steering committee for the Women's Consultation, and I am currently on the steering committee for the European Women's Conference. These long associations mean I have many friends all over the Province and indeed the Unity which is a great blessing.

When Priors Marston Church closed I became a member at Ockbrook. It was during these years that I began to feel a much stronger sense that God was calling me to a life of some kind of service. It took a few years and many encouraging

conversations for me to discern that ordained ministry might be the shape of that call. At the time I had been working for the same roofing company for 23 years in various roles (administration not labouring!), but I happily walked away knowing that my life was in God's hands. I started my training in 2010 and moved to Manchester.

After successfully graduating from Northern College my first call was to the churches in Royton and Salem and I was ordained in 2016. Moving to Lower Wyke and Wellhouse I was subsequently consecrated in 2019. My most recent call was last year taking me back to my southern roots but this time in Wiltshire. I love my congregations and live happily in East Tytherton with my cat Bernie, enjoying the peace and tranquillity of village life.

My call to serve on the British Mission Board has given me more opportunities for travel within the Unity which I love. I have recently been to India, Nepal, Tanzania and America and am looking forward to Unity Synod in South Africa. In my spare time (ha!) I have a love for all kinds of needle crafts including sewing, knitting and crochet. I rekindled my love of dressmaking when I realised how limited female clergy wear was and so started making my own. I now have an extensive mix of styles (and a considerable fabric and yarn stash!).

My nomination and subsequent election to the Provincial Board was another time of discernment and persuasion. It often takes the observations of others to help us realise the gifts and talents that we may possess. I am grateful to those who persisted and indeed to those who had the confidence in me to vote for me at the recent Synod. Serving on the PEC for the next year is a challenge I am looking forward to embracing.

So, that is my story so far: as the next chapter unfolds I would ask for your continued encouragement and prayers, not just for me but for the whole Province as we move forward in faith and unity.

Sr Jane Carter
Provincial Board



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Editorial

One of the most treasured photographs from my wedding is a picture of my dad and I before we went to Brockweir Church. We are standing in front of my mum's lovely trellis of American Pillar rambling rose. A number of years ago Chris and I planted an American Pillar rose here in Gracehill so it would flower at our wedding anniversary. Yes it has flowered and flourished despite various setbacks but it has been in full flower prior to 12th July and by that date is looking sad with the flowers well over. The season has shifted by at least 10 days since my wedding 43 years ago. A subtle but nevertheless real signal of climate change.

The news of temperatures in the high 40s in southern Europe have been a much scarier indicator of climate change and global warming. We have naturally heard of the inconvenience for tourists and of the dangers for people living and trying to work in these countries. But the effects of this heat will also have terrible effects on the farming and wildlife in the areas. How will the livestock and the production of food be affected? Can the crops be irrigated sufficiently? How will the wild animals and the wild plants adapt? Where will the water come from for irrigation? What about the increase in use of electricity for air conditioning - what will produce that? Lastly but no means least, what about the terrible risk of fire and the destruction of trees and habitats in general?

Of course, along with this goes changes in rainfall patterns. Rain seems to fall in sharper bursts and when it falls on hardened ground it just runs off and causes flooding. Snow with its gentle water soaking into the ground slowly has almost become a thing of the past.

I don't want to repeat statistics, but I am concerned for the future, my own but more urgently for the future of my children and my grandchildren. Watching the weather move into more inhospitable and unpredictable patterns is not good. So much of this is of our own making - we are the ones who have trashed

the earth with our unsustainable energy demands, our mounds of rubbish and our squeezing of the rest of the created order into little corners that we are not ready to develop yet. All of this is sin, the Bible tells of a man, Adam, put in a garden and told to till it and keep it, the opposite of what we have done in so many places.

But as Christians we tell of a new man, a new Adam who comes to rescue us from our sin, individual and corporate sin. He gives us faith, hope, and love to live by. He tells us to pray for thy kingdom to come and thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. I know that we need governments to come together to agree actions on the world scale but it is not all up to them. We too must set an example by the way we live and the pressure we put on our local and national politicians and businesses. What do you buy, can you refuse extra packaging on goods, can you buy local and eat less meat, can you choose sustainable bamboo instead of plastic, can you use public transport and perhaps share a car, can you make choices in your garden that are wildlife friendly, can you write to your MP and let her/him know of your concerns?

Only you know what can be done in your circumstances and only I know what can be done in mine but there will have to be substantial changes in all our lives in the future. There used to be a great slogan that said 'Live more simply so that others may simply live'; never was this more true.

It is lovely to hear back from you about what I write so please do get in touch and tell us what you are doing as individuals and as Churches to change your lifestyle - it could be such an encouragement to others.

Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team



LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Br David Newman's editorial in the June Messenger reminded me of how we came to belong to the Church and also welcomed by URC congregations, thanks to Br Victor Launder.

When Jill and I moved into Ockbrook in the 1970s we wanted to join a local Church family mainly that our eldest child who was three to go to a nearby Sunday School. We had never heard of the Moravian Church but after an unfriendly response from the local Anglican Church and not knowing there was a small Methodist Church in the village, Jill decided to try out the Moravian Church in the Settlement. Today we are very pleased when new people come to our fellowship, you can imagine how it was for the congregation to have a new family with three small children wanting to join.

It was only months before the minister Br Fred Linyard got us involved in organising Christian Aid Week not only for our Church but also for the villages of Ockbrook and Borrowash. This has turned out to be real blessing because we organised the 'house to house' collection. This involved making sure all roads were covered, liaising with the three other churches in the area, collecting,

counting, recording, and banking the money. For a month or so we had a lot of envelopes to open, money to count and it was exciting for the children who as they got older were involved in counting the cash. Good experience for us all raising money for people in need, so much so that our eldest determined that she would work in a bank and did so for many years after she left school. It was a real blessing for our family although we did not appreciate it at the time, all three children are still involved in loving and caring for 'family' closely related or not! Early experiences are important and of course we have the Holy Spirit to help and guide.

In all the churches we have served including the URC we have got actively involved in raising funds for Christian Aid and this year we have learnt of Jen and Esther who live in Malawi; like us they are parents and grandparents, part of our 'Christian sisters and brothers' far and near. At Ockbrook we are following the 'Holy Habits' course and we are blessed in that one of our younger members is encouraging us in this. With Christian Aid we develop the 'habit' of Gladness and Generosity.

God bless.
Br Cliff Winfield.

Letter to the Editorial Team

Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. What is, or should be a Moravian Christian vision or imagined concept of heaven? What goes on in heaven that we pray for to be happening here on earth? Did our heavenly father use Moses to relay 10 criteria, 10 rules for Christians to come during and after Christ's time with us? Do we expect a commandment driven existence after our earthly life is over?

If we believe there will be no murder, no theft, no poverty, no starvation in heaven then why do Moravian Christians live with and tolerate such things on earth? Do we believe that the sacrifices that were made, and still being made to make Christianity a worldwide acceptance is stage one of God's requirement of us, then stage two must be to use our democracy to bring about that which we continually ask for. Our nation's life is degrading, and I firmly believe our Christian teachings and way of life are our only redemption. This province must totally accept that 'applied democracy' is the present-day way to bring about heaven on earth. Only then will we be able to pray 'thy will's been done'.

Yours doing my best for Christ,
Br Alan Holdsworth.



© Br Michael Newman

European Continental Province (ECP) Synod 2023, Herrnhut, 22nd to 25th June

I arrived on a warm Thursday afternoon, after a flight and three trains. Most of the Synodals were staying at the Komenský guest house, just five minutes' walk from the church where the Synod sessions took place. The Synod began after dinner. Or at least it should have done, but the coach from the Netherlands was delayed and so we were instead able to learn about the recent refurbishments to the church building in Herrnhut. The opening service eventually took place, but it was 10:30pm by the time the first session was over.

The theme of the Synod was 'Connected'. The main business of the Synod was to elect a bishop, and it was explained that the role of the bishop is a connectional one. The process is different to the British Province, as there is a selection committee who choose suitable candidates in advance. Throughout the day on Friday, each of the six candidates was given half an hour to speak about themselves and answer questions. Having only ever experienced the British way of doing things, this seemed strange, but in such a large province covering many countries and languages, people are not always known to everyone.

Speaking of languages, I would not have managed without the help of the two sisters who translated German and Dutch into English, both of whom have previously attended our own Synods, Sr Frank and Sr Wilson. There were some others who also relied upon an English translation, such as the sisters from Albania.

After hearing from all the candidates there was a proposal that the Synod vote for up to two bishops, and that it was Synod's wish to elect at least one sister. There was quite a lot of discussion, but the proposal was passed. A few other items of business were dealt with including an interim report from the Provincial Board and two financial proposals. We also heard from some of the smaller countries that are part of the ECP, and greetings

were received from the Czech Mission Province and British Province (my big moment!).

On Saturday morning the first round of the election took place, with synodals able to choose one or two names. It only took this one round for Sr Rhoinde Doth from the Netherlands to reach the required two-thirds majority and make history as the first female bishop in the ECP. The Synod then decided to continue to see if it was the will of Synod that another bishop be elected. After two more rounds there was no one near the majority so the election ended. It was good to see how the other five candidates were acknowledged and thanked and each was presented with flowers. The closing session took place in the evening at which everyone was thanked including the chairing panel, expertly led by Br Peter Vogt.

Obviously, I wasn't going all the way to Herrnhut for the first time and not see as much as I could. A small group of us went to God's Acre and saw the graves of famous Moravians such as Count Zinzendorf, Anna Nitschmann, Christian David and Leonard Dober, and climbed the watchtower from where you can see Poland and the Czech Republic. I also saw the room where the Daily Watchwords are drawn, and the bowl used for this purpose.

As I mentioned earlier, the theme was 'Connected'. This was the first in-person Synod held in the ECP since COVID-19 and it was clear how happy people were to feel connected once again. My personal highlight was the Singstunde on Saturday evening at which we sang 'In Christ there is no east or west'. It was a joyful moment singing with sisters and brothers from across Europe. As Moravians, we truly are 'one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth'.

Br Michael Newman
Provincial Board

What's on in your area for your families and young people?

Below is a list of events that have been sent to us for the month of August. If you look at it and see that your family/youth event is not advertised please contact Sr Claire Maxwell so she can collate the information for the month of September for you in this space. Her contact details are: claire.maxwell@moravian.org.uk

Here are the events in August:

Summer Camp

31st July-4th August - at The Chellington Centre, Bedford.
Please keep all those leading and attending in your prayers.

Lancashire

Every Tuesday - Dukinfield Moravian Church runs a Mums and Tots, starting at 9am.

Every Sunday - at Dukinfield Moravian Church there is a Junior Church at 11am.

Western District

Sunday 6th July - Brockweir Moravian Church are hosting a Soft Play for under 5s 2.30pm-4.30pm.

Yorkshire

Sunday 13th August - Lower Wyke's Senior Youth Group (14 years +) meet at 7pm in Lower Wyke Sunday School.

Sunday 20th August - Lower Wyke host Café Church at 10.30am in the Sunday School. A worship designed for all ages.

Sunday 27th August - Lower Wyke's Senior Youth Group (14 years +) meet at 7pm in Lower Wyke Sunday School.

Sr Claire Maxwell
PYCC

Unity Synod 2023

One of the many wonderful gifts of the Moravian Church is that we are very much a global denomination, and we work within the structure known as 'the Unity'. For administrative and governance purposes, we are split into regions and areas known as Provinces, but we are ultimately responsible to the Unity.

This year, the Unity Synod is due to meet in Cape Town, South Africa from 4th-10th September 2023. It represents the worldwide Moravian Church, meeting every seven years. It is responsible for setting the general principles and guidelines for our whole denomination. Each Province sends three representatives to the Synod. Currently there are 25 Provinces in the African, American, Caribbean & Latin America, and European Regions. We will also have representation from Mission Provinces in each of these regions.

For our representation, Sr Jane Carter and Br Philip Cooper were elected at the British Province Synod in 2022, and the Provincial Board have appointed Br Edwin Quidan as the third representative. I will also attend in an ex-officio capacity as

the current President of Unity Board, and Br Joachim Kreuzel has been elected, along with Sr Blair Couch (USA-NP) to represent the Bishops of the Unity. The British voice will be well heard this year!

A full update of this year's Synod will follow in the Messenger later in the year, however if you have attended one of our synods here in the British Province, some of the order and events will be familiar to you.

There will be an opening service, setting our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ, at the heart of all we do. Then the business of the Synod will quickly begin, with reports and updates being heard from the provinces, as well as Unity institutions including the Unity Commission of Theology, the Unity Women's Desk and the Unity Mission and Development Board. Proposals and decisions will be debated, and resolutions of the Synod will be passed. Topics and themes to discuss are still under review, but one notable development will be a resolution for our partners in South Asia to transition from a Mission Area to a Mission Province. Sessions will begin and end with worship. One procedural

difference from our Provincial Synods, will be the need for translation! The Synod will have translations in English, Swahili, and Spanish.

Our hosts, in the South African Province have been working tirelessly to bring together the Synod. I'm sure it will be a very intense week, and the members will look forward to a short break as we will stop halfway through business for one day and we will have the opportunity to visit congregations and sights around Cape Town.

As a global communion, the Unity Synod continually works to discern the will of God in how the Moravian Church moves His work forward, and with this comes the privilege and challenge of holding the balance that will ensure the inclusion of a diversity of views and practices from across many different cultures. I am looking forward to being able to participate and work with brothers and sisters from across the world. Please keep the Unity Synod in your prayers.

Sr Roberta Hoey
Provincial Board

World Heritage Pilgrims



© Sr Sarah Groves

Gracehill was delighted to host a visit from fourteen Americans on Sunday 18th June. The visitors were from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania USA, which is the lead city in the transnational serial World Heritage bid, Moravian Church Settlements. This World Heritage bid includes Gracehill Moravian Settlement. The visitors were very keen to learn more about the other Moravian Church Settlements in the bid.

They had travelled first to Herrnhut in Germany to visit the Moravian Church Settlement there then travelled to Christiansfeld Moravian Church Settlement in Denmark. Christiansfeld is already inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is waiting for the other settlements to join them. The last leg of the pilgrimage, for the visitors, was to come to Gracehill.

The visitors included Bishop Hopeton Clennon of Central Moravian Church, Bethlehem and Bryon Grigbsy, the President of Moravian University, Bethlehem. Torrential rain prevented an early tour of the settlement, but the visitors shared in Morning

Service in Gracehill Church and brought greetings from the United States and spoke about their travels across Europe.

A traditional Sunday Lunch was served in the church hall, and it was fascinating to note cultural food differences, many had not had Yorkshire Puddings or orange squash before! After lunch they had a tour of the settlement which included the Square, which has been restored along the lines of the original plans, the Church, the Single Brethren's House, and the Old Shop along with the Visitor Centre. It was fascinating to note the similarities of the settlements in such different geographical locations and also to note the small differences that working with local building materials made to the architecture of each site.

Gracehill looks forward to welcoming many more international visitors who are interested in tracing the links between Moravian Church Settlements across the world.

Sr Sarah Groves
Minister of Gracehill Moravian Church

'What I Believe'

Moravian Messenger Editor Sr Sarah Groves interviews Br Livingstone Thompson

Rev Thompson is the Minister of University Road and Kilwarlin Moravian Churches in Northern Ireland. Livingstone is a member of the Provincial Board of the British Province, serving also as Provincial Treasurer.

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

I grew up in Jamaica, in the parish of Manchester. Both parents were members of the Bethabara Moravian Church, where I was involved in youth activities and eventually became a member.

For undergraduate studies I attended the University of the West Indies. For graduate and postgraduate studies, I attended McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, the Irish School of Ecumenics and Trinity College, University of Dublin.

Thirty-seven years ago Jean-Marie and I were married and are parents to three girls, Lesley-Ann, JoAnna and Jordana and we have one grandson, Jayden.

How and when did you come to faith?

My parents, minister and Sunday School teachers played a leading role in me coming to faith. A crucial turning point came for me at about age 11, when I tried to imagine life without God. The idea seemed quite frightening and wholly meaningless to me. I accepted the good news of justification by faith and sought communicant membership in the church.

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

The decision for the ordained ministry came after A-levels, when I was thinking about what to do with my life. I had a sense of call one day as I was sitting under a citrus tree, in the cool of the day. I applied for the Moravian ordained ministry and was accepted for training a week before I received acceptance from the technological college, to which I had also applied. I stuck with the decision for the ordained ministry.

What has been your greatest joy in ministry?

My greatest joy in ministry is pastoral visitation. In it there is a sense that the visitation is valued, especially by families in crises, the sick and people who are confined to home. It's really a chance to get to know members better, so that my prayer with them and for them can be more concrete and specific.

Tell us a bit about how you came to Ireland and your work and studies here

I came to Ireland for postgraduate studies. Through the encouragement of former principals of the school of Ecumenics and funding secured, our family arrived in August 1999. In 2003, after completing two post graduate degrees in Trinity College, I returned to ministry in Jamaica. I returned to re-join the family in 2005 and have been on the island ever since.

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

When my mother died in 2002, I was angry with God because I felt that she was let down, having prayed for healing. I felt she died trying to understand the meaning of prayer. Happily, I am not angry anymore.

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?

I am not afraid to die, not least because I have come to have modest expectations about life and living. Life is transitory. I have been helped by learning to hold lightly to life, and things in general. I hope in God and the resurrection but have not bothered myself with trying to imagine what it will be like.

What can we learn from other Churches and other faiths?

Other churches can help us to understand how to grow. The Moravian Church in the UK faces an existential crisis, and we should be modest in our reflection of how we do church. Other Christian communities are more effective in youth work, engagement with young families and involvement in the public square. We should study what they do, as we seek to be more effective.

The existence of other religious faiths teaches us humility. I share with John Amos Comenius the view that if others claim that they have a revelation from God, even though they are not Christians, it would be foolish of us not to listen to them. If we want others to hear our story of faith in God and about the meaning of life, we should also be open to listen to theirs.



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

A growing number of people are finding that they do not need to have a religious worldview to have a meaningful life. This is not a disaster but an opportunity to clarify the meaning of faith and the effectiveness of evangelistic strategies.

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

In terms of films, I like the *Matrix* because of its exploration of virtual reality but most times I watch action movies like *Equalizer* with Denzil Washington. In terms of books, I mostly read non-fiction but fiction like Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*, and Andrea Levy's *Small Island*, I thoroughly enjoyed reading. In terms of music my taste varies: from Bob Marley and Buju Banton, to West Life, U2, the Cranberries and Shania Twain and a host of religious singers like the Gaither's and George Banton.

The place where you feel closest to God?

I feel closest to God in solitude, in prayer and in worship.

What inscription on your gravestone or epitaph, if any?

"Let no one write my Epitaph" [Robert Emmet].

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

Regrets, I have a few but then again too few to mention. My major joys include parenting, marriage, family, great friendships and the privilege to serve others.



Windrush Service of Thanksgiving and Community Celebration hosted by the Moravian Church, on Sunday 25th June 2023, at Wesley Hall, Leicester

© Nijah Paul

What a celebration it was on Sunday 25th June 2023! Friends from Leicester, London, Oxford, Birmingham, Northern Ireland, many other parts of the country, and even as far as Ladakh were present.

Leicester is in the heart of the country, has a sizable Caribbean community, and a predominantly Caribbean Moravian congregation, and was therefore the ideal place for the Moravian Church to choose for this celebration.

Well over 250 people came together at Wesley Hall Methodist Church and Community Centre, raising the roof with strong singing voices. In addition, the sound of Hornsey Moravian Church Steel Band, Jamaican singer Clover Watts, the rousing organ, and contributions from representatives of several Caribbean and Commonwealth High Commissions, from the High Sheriff of Leicestershire and the General Secretary of the Irish Council of Churches, and others, made the opening Worship Service special.

Rev Dr Livingstone Thompson preached on Psalm 137:2, 'We hung up our harps'. Its original context is that the people of Israel were displaced after the Babylonians' onslaught in 586 BC. They refused to play for their oppressors and 'hung up their harps'. In a similar way, Caribbean immigrants were expected to help rebuilding the 'Mother country' (as it was often called), but faced frequently great adversities, culminating in the Windrush scandal a few years ago, and had and still have to stand up strongly against injustices (= 'hanging up their harps').

The time after the church service was equally enjoyable: we gathered at Wesley Hall Community Centre for an excellent Caribbean meal (provided by Olli's Kitchen) and had plenty of inspiring entertainment by Attraction Blazin from EAVA FM, Clover Watts and Peter Weston, Hornsey Steel Band, ET, Tanni Browne, Lavender and others. The music made people get up and dance! What a wonderful atmosphere it was!

Pictures and a Storyboard were on display in the Community centre, telling the story of people's experiences of their journey during this time.

Wesley Hall Community Centre has suffered severe flood damage due to extreme weather only three days earlier. We are very grateful to Anita Rao, the centre manager, and her team, for their tremendous support. We could not have done it without their strong assistance.

We are also grateful to all who supported the event, and joined in, from other community groups, and from Ockbrook Moravian

Church. Mutual support and community cohesion are indispensable if we are serious in our striving for a better world.

We also thank the Police, and almost countless supporters for everything!

We're delighted to say that our project has received #Windrush75 funding from @TNLCommunityFund to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Windrush.

It was a worthwhile and memorable event, and the experience of this day will shed light on our path ahead.



Hornsey Moravian Church Steel Band © Nijah Paul

To see more images of the day, please contact the Editorial Team who will send you a link to view the photographs.

Sr Jacqui Walker and Br Joachim Kreusel
Leicester Moravian Church

We are thrilled to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Windrush event at Wesley Hall on 25th June 2023. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for this memorable occasion, hosted by the

Moravian Church. Your presence made it truly special.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the incredible individuals who helped organise this event. It was a collaborative effort that brought together people from all walks of life, creating an atmosphere filled with vibrant energy and unity.

We are humbled and blessed to have welcomed over 250 attendees, embracing the invigorating music, soulful songs, captivating dances, mesmerising performances and delicious cuisine. It was an unforgettable celebration of culture, heritage and community.

Special thanks to our dignitaries:

- Desreine Taylor, Acting Deputy High Commissioner of Jamaica
- Damian Jackson, General Secretary of the Irish council of Churches
- Carlon Knight, representing Antigua and Barbuda
- Pinehas Auene, Deputy High Commissioner of Namibia
- Henrietta Chubb, The High Sheriff of Leicestershire & Consort (her husband David Chubb)
- George Cole Councillor, previous Lord Mayor
- Denese Daley-Cole previous Lord Mayoress.

Anita Rao

Manager of Wesley Hall Community Centre, Leicester



On 25th June we took a trip to Wesley Hall in Leicester as part of the Windrush celebration organised by Rev Edwin Quildan and Bishop Joachim Kreusel.

A most rousing sermon was delivered by Rev Dr Livingstone Thompson, the litany of prayers was given by Br David Howarth, as well as inspiring readings by Sr Roberta Hoey and Sr Jeanne Moitt.

The evening's celebration was rhythmically accompanied by the talented Hornsey Steel Band from the Moravian Church in Hornsey, which added a full Caribbean flavour to the Windrush evening and elevated spirits.

The Windrush celebratory service was very well attended. I was very impressed that the contribution of the Windrush generation was acknowledged by our church, and that after 75 years the importance of the Windrush generation, who answered the call for help from the motherland (as Britain was thought of by many in the Caribbean) to rebuild her after the end of the second world war was recognised.

People across the Commonwealth, particularly from the Caribbean came to offer their services, notably in transport,

the railway and the NHS. Many came with hope for a new start and the warm embrace of the motherland who they were happy to help. They did not, however, meet a mother's embrace. Psalm 137, 'By the rivers of Babylon', led me to envision how those early Caribbean settlers felt - they came to offer support, service and answered the call for help; instead they were met with coldness, rejection and hostility.

England was not the motherland that they thought she'd be. The lament really hit home and put me firmly in the shoes of the previously hopeful who had become relentlessly hopeless and downtrodden. Indeed Rev Dr Livingstone clarified that Psalm 137, 'on the willows there we hang our harps' was an act of defiance, self-definition and self-determination. The joylessness in the Windrush people's situation, the alienation and rejection of the far reaching 'no blacks, no Irish, no dogs' meant they refused and/or were unable to raise their voice in and sing 'the Lord's song in a foreign land'.

To conclude, the evening was informative and exceedingly entertaining. The musical item by Clover Watts brought alive the joyfulness of the Caribbean,

which was both uplifting and invigorating, as were all the musical offerings on the night.

I would like to thank Rev Michael Newman and Susan Quildan-Foreman for arranging the transport to Leicester as well as the attendees and delegates for their contribution to the success of the Windrush celebration.

We give God thanks that the past has been forgiven and we have moved on from very painful beginnings. Today we have come a full 75 years since disembarking at the Port of Tilbury on England's shores at last with acknowledgement, celebration and appreciation for the cultural richness added and contribution to Britain's economic and social wellbeing.

I end with the words of Rev Dr Livingstone, 'We pray that the pain of the past will be the platform for building a new future; we keep the past behind us; and this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.' Amen.

Sr Patricia White

Hornsey



Some of those who helped with the day at Leicester

Our 75th Windrush Celebration Service in Leicester on Sunday 25th June 2023

Our journey to Leicester by coach, started from Harlesden at 10.30am on 25th June, then onto Hornsey. Once all were aboard the coach, a prayer was said by our minister to take us on our journey. The journey was smooth, and everyone was in good spirits, until we got to Leicester: trying to find the Church led us to some roads which were extremely narrow. This was a challenge for the coach driver, to go down the streets, directed by the Satnav, with cars parked on both sides. One road looked acceptable but was a challenge and needed the skilfulness and patience of the driver to get through (it took over 10 minutes of manoeuvring). It turned out to be only five minutes away from the Church. There is a saying, 'So near yet so far'.

When we arrived at the Church we received a wonderful greeting from the Policeman and members of Leicester and

Ockbrook. Teas and coffees were supplied and were also well received.

A call was made that the service was due to start in five minutes so we finished off and headed upstairs to the Church. The service commenced with a greeting to all present, invited guests and those on Zoom. We sang 'Guide me O thou great redeemer' and prayers were said by Bishop Joachim Kreusel. A number of greetings followed including by Sr Roberta Hoey on behalf of the British Province and Moravian Unity and the Deputy Acting High Commissioner of Jamaica. The Deputy High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda was also present. A video presentation was shown, focused on the time the Windrush generation first arrived in England and the challenges that they endured. Our hearts were blessed with a number of musical songs by Sr Clover Watts, followed by a litany of prayers by Br David Howarth. The Hornsey Steel Band played as the collection was being taken. The congregation sang 'Lift up your voice and sing', this was followed by the message from Br Livingstone Thompson. The hymn 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky' was then sung. After the closing comments and thanks, the service concluded with the hymn 'The right hand of God is moving in this land' and the benediction.

Everyone was invited to stay for refreshments in the adjoining

Community centre. The tables and hall were wonderfully decorated with flags representing the Caribbean countries and other pictures beautified the walls.

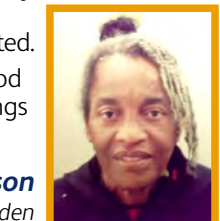
The Hornsey Steel Band played in the hall along with a DJ playing memorable reggae music. Sr Clover Watts sang some Caribbean melodies (for example, 'Long time gal me never see you'). There were also some local artists who also blessed the occasion. The music was fitting for the occasion and touched everyone; it was a real celebration atmosphere. Not to forget the food. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful number of Caribbean dishes that was served. Once everyone had their meal the dancing started. It was such a wonderful day with a great atmosphere; seeing everyone come together. It was good to share in Christian Fellowship, spending time with brothers and sisters in the Lord. It was sad when the time came to leave. Our journey back to London on the coach was safe and happy as we sang choruses and other hymns. We give God thanks and praise for the day of fellowship and thanksgiving.

A memorable, 75 year Windrush anniversary. I thank everyone who arranged the day, everyone who participated.

A wonderful day. To God be the glory, great things he has done.

Sr Heather Anderson

Harlesden





Heris Washington 'Bill' Stennett

(27th December 1930 - 6th June 2023)

Bill was born in the parish of St James, Jamaica, and was the second of seven children. His family attended the local Moravian Church, and his mother was the lead singer in the church choir. Bill remembered going to church aged 15 and hearing a sermon in which the minister said that you should persevere because Christ is there to help you. Those words left a big impression on him.

In about 1953, Bill wanted to go to the USA to become a doctor, however he couldn't find a guarantor, which was required to get a visa. Instead, in 1955 he sailed to England on the Santa Maria and landed on the 13th of September. He immediately gained employment as a railway signalman.

Bill first met Birdie in secondary school in Jamaica. They were married in London in 1956, and two years later bought their first house, before moving to Finsbury Park in 1960, and then to Muswell Hill in 1968. It was at this time that Bill and Birdie, with their four children, started attending Hornsey Moravian Church.

Bill had been working as a clerical officer for the Post Office, and after gaining an economics degree at the London School of Economics, he and Birdie bought a newsagent and sub post office business in north London, which they ran for 18 years. It was hard work, but the family worked together to make it a success. After selling the shop, Bill and Birdie ran a residential home for a short time before retiring themselves.

After retirement, Bill was able to devote more time to the church. He was a Lay Preacher, Church Committee member, and attended Synod several times as a deputy. He was an active member of the men's group at Hornsey and was on the Provincial Men's Fellowship committee. Bill inherited his singing voice from his mother, and regularly sang in church with the choir or sometimes as a solo. Bill said that singing in church was where he felt closest to God.

Bill was also a keen fundraiser for the Jamaican Heart Foundation charity, selling hundreds of raffle tickets over the years. He loved to help other people, whether practically, financially, or simply by sharing advice or encouragement. He found joy in his family, especially Birdie, with whom he shared 67 happy years of marriage.

Bill will be missed by all at Hornsey Moravian Church, as well as those in the Eastern District and beyond who knew him. Just a couple of months ago, Bill told his minister that 'God will prepare me for when he is ready to call me. I pray that I will walk on the path that will lead me to a happy end, and ... a place in heaven.'

Br Michael Newman (with help from Michael Stennett)
Minister of Hornsey Moravian Church

Back to our Future

A new column from the Provincial Archive and Heritage Committee.

Our history needs You... Hello and welcome!

The PA&HC has recently been formed to help ensure the conservation of one of our most unique assets - our rich and fascinating history.

The extensive Moravian archives and collections are of great significance, not only within the church, but also the wider world.

Extraordinary though they are, they are not always easy to access, even within our own congregations. It is our hope to create, research, and preserve a full national archive and our first move is to take stock of what we actually have.



© Ockbrook Moravian Church

This is where you come in ... Are you interested in history, maybe already engaged with our archives and heritage? We would love to hear from you!

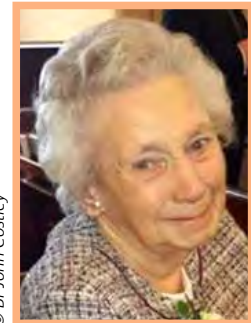
If you feel that you are able to help in any capacity, have an interesting story to share, or would like to tell us about heritage events in your congregation, please contact: lorraine.parsons@moravian.org.uk.

Dates for your diary:

- Heritage Open Days (HOD), 8th-17th September; Register before 10th August.

Deadline for congregations to advertise their 2023 HOD in the September issue of the Moravian Messenger is 7th August. Please tell the Messenger all about your open days, afterwards!

Sr Jayne Brewster



© Br John Costley

Sister Tillie Costley

On Sunday 26th March the congregation at University Road was sad to learn of the passing of our oldest member Sr Tillie Costley.

Tillie (or Matilda to give her full name) was 98 years old and a lifelong member of the Moravian Church. While she was born near Castledawson in Co. Londonderry, to a family with a long Moravian tradition as members of the then Gracefield congregation, Sr Tillie had been associated with University Road Belfast for some 90 years, dating back to the time when as a child she came to stay with an aunt and to attend school in the city.

She and her beloved husband Fred were married at University Road in March 1948 and remained loyal and committed members throughout their lives, introducing their sons Charles and John to the church and establishing something of a Costley 'dynasty' in the congregation, which continues to grow year by year.

Sr Tillie served University Road in many ways over the years, in particular as a member of the Church Committee and as Treasurer - a role which both of her sons have also fulfilled in recent times. She was also Treasurer for our indoor bowls club and indeed was a keen and accomplished bowler, both indoor and outdoor, enjoying local and national success at Northern Ireland and British Championships.

We her friends at University Road will miss Sr Tillie's quiet and gentle presence amongst us, her sense of humour, her words of encouragement and her lovely smile. We assure Charles, John, and their families of our continued prayers and support.

Sr Carol Ackah
University Road Belfast

Bath Weston

I was not quite sure where to begin as we have been so busy over the last few months, but it had to be Br Paul's 'musical soir e' called 'Singing of the Lambs'. It was a fond farewell for Br Paul and Sr Patsy, as they were leaving the district for pastures new. It was a lovely evening, the musical group G&S (Bath and Bristol societies) that Br Paul belonged to came and sang a few songs from their shows. Other people came along and did their own thing. The Committee did a sketch with puppets. It was all amazing, lovely singing and it all ran so smoothly, which was a miracle as Br Paul had organised it and was Master of Ceremonies. Br Paul had a great evening, entertaining and lots of singing. Over £550 was collected for their chosen charity (Cancer Research). Little did we know what was to come. Br Paul was taking the Sunday service the next day, which included Holy Communion and all seemed well.

Then we had the news on the Thursday that Br Paul had passed away, which was such a shock to us all here in Weston and for everyone else - we just could not believe it. We held a Memorial service so that the people who knew Br Paul through the different groups that he was involved with could come along and pay their respects - the church was full.

In March we hosted the Western District Conference.

Easter Services: Sr Jane Carter kindly came and led our Maundy Thursday service, Bath Coronation Avenue, Swindon and Tytherton congregations were welcomed. Cheese and wine followed.

We have had three family fun evenings since Christmas, and all came with a theme. Burn's night came with haggis with potatoes and swede. The next was for St George's day with fish fingers and chips. The latest one was a barbecue, with



© Sr Carole Young

games etc outside. The Boys Brigade help to organise these events and there is no charge, but we do have a donation plate! These evenings are enjoyed by all and include different games to play and a craft table.

On Sunday 7th May we put on a Coronation Lunch consisting of two courses with wine: Coronation chicken with potatoes and different salads, followed by a selection of homemade sweets. A Victoria sandwich competition was won much to her surprise by Sr Patsy, and community singing, and a Royal quiz was held. This lunch was enjoyed by 60 people.

The next event will be a welcoming service for Sr Lorraine, which will be held on Sunday 16th July at 3pm.

Schools will be breaking up soon, so things will be quietening down at church for the summer holidays.

With blessings.

Sr Carole Young



© Br John Cooper

Camilla on 24th May. We planned a picnic in Hazelbank after church on 25th June and despite a rainy start to the day fourteen of us decided to go ahead with the plan. On the way, heavy rain descended so we had our picnic in the cars. Fortunately, the rain ceased, and we had lovely sunshine for the visit to the new garden followed by a relaxing time of fellowship.

The Prayer Watch was observed and we were happy to have Sr Nora Smith in Hertford join in sharing Cliftonville's Watch, as she has done on earlier occasions.

Cliftonville was delighted to welcome musicians from around Belfast and Northern Ireland for A Christian Musicians Jam. Its purpose is to create a space where Christians can share their faith in music and encourage those who are well versed in music to mentor those who are just beginning their journey. It is hoped this might be a springboard for creative collaborative work amongst Christian Communities in Northern Ireland. Each group is asked to bring a piece of music to share with the broader group so that they learn from each other and gain from different traditions so new Christian music might grow out of such meetings.

The first meeting was a blessing, there was a spirit of joy in the air as they played and sang with gusto, and there is a hope to formalise the group by creating a committee to help organise future gatherings.

Sr Edna Cooper

Cliftonville, Belfast

King Charles III has two birthdays, but this year Br Stephens did even better as his special birthday was marked with three celebrations - the first a surprise party in Bangor on the 15th June, organised by his wife, to which all were invited. There was a second celebration with a cake and gift after the service on the Sunday and his real birthday was on Thursday the 22nd June.

Coronation celebrations in Northern Ireland included a Coronation Garden in Hazelbank Park by the award-winning garden designer Diarmuid Gavin, with a Pavilion and ornate gates and was officially opened by King Charles III and Queen



© Sr Penny Weir

Dukinfield 'Whit' service

In the Northwest of England, Pentecost has been traditionally celebrated as 'Whitsun' meaning White Sunday.

Historically Whit walks were held which often featured a brass band followed by Sunday Schools and Churches marching with their Church Banners. Members dressed in their best clothes (often white in colour) to celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit. An article far back in the Manchester Times in 1859 mentions the Whitsuntide celebrations - which were a welcome break for mill and factory workers and a time of occasion and holiday as well as walking in witness of the Trinity. The same article mentions the origin of the walks as possibly 1821 to fall in line with the Coronation of George IV.

Dukinfield: a small town in Cheshire which has a large commercial working tradition of cotton trade and coal industries. No surprise that Whit services are still going strong here then - a combined service in 2023 offered to all churches in Dukinfield was held at Old Chapel Unitarian due to the size of the event but hosted by Dukinfield Moravian Church. A brass band, the sun and the Tameside Mayor were all very much in evidence to keep this wonderful service of joy and fellowship alight. Many thanks to Arnfield Brass for their wonderful renditions of hymns. The turnout was again a welcome and happy surprise, from babes in arms to our more mature members and even some dogs sat out in the good weather to praise together. Long may this fantastic recognition of the testimony of the bible from Acts 2:1, The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost: 'When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.'

Sr Penny Weir

Horton, Yorkshire

2023 continues to be a busy and rewarding year. We have meetings for 'Holy Habits', Bible Study, Women's Fellowship, and soon to start 'Gin Church'.

The baptism of Zachary Maxwell was held in March, and it was lovely to welcome Zach and all his family and friends to Horton.

Our annual Sisters Festival was held in May. It was a wonderful celebration of fellowship, which of course was followed by lunch (and lots of lovely cakes), and we were gratefully served by the Brethren and even more grateful that they did the washing up as well - thank you.

The Birthday Clubs have also held two social events and we thank everyone who organises and supports. We also try to support Lower Wyke, with who we share Sr Claire, in all their fundraising events as well as sharing quarterly services.

Recently we held a special family service, and it was lovely to see lots of children in church and also some 'grown up children' who came to church when they were younger. Sr Claire put



© Sr Linda Barraclough

together a wonderful service and all the congregation got involved. We look forward to many more.

Sr Linda Barraclough

Bedford Queen's Park

Our Christmas service was delayed by half an hour due to a flooded toilet from a burst pipe. A clean up took place but the following day another leak was found from the water already in the pipe. A local plumber came and fixed the leak and did not charge as we are a charity.

Our Shalom group of churches has reconvened, and we had a service and lunch. During the prayer for Christian Unity Week at our church anniversary service in May, Br Nick Battelle joined us and gave his thoughts on the anniversary, and this was followed by lunch. We were sad to hear of the passing of Sr Shelagh Connor and have many fond memories of her time here over ten years.

Br Eric Moore

Ballinderry, Northern Ireland

It has been a busy few months at Ballinderry. In May we had our fair which was a great success. There were various stalls and a BBQ. The weather was kind to us, and we were able to enjoy time in the garden. We also visited the Balmoral Show with each of the district taking a day each at the stand. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and a great opportunity to meet new people. We were delighted to have two Baptisms: Jorja and Amelia. This was a special time with their older brother Ollie taking part in the service by reading a poem and standing as Godfather. We are delighted to welcome them all into our Church family.

Sr Elaine Stephens

Legacy weekend at Fetter Lane, London



© Sr Cynthia Dize

The history of our site, Moravian Close in Chelsea, southwest London, is long and varied, encompassing so many strands. Originally part of Sir Thomas More's property until his execution by Henry VIII in 1535, it sits just south of the King's Road, originally a private road built for King Charles II in the latter half of the 17th century. Bought by Count von Zinzendorf for a Moravian settlement in 1750, it's been a home, place of worship and workplace for many people including the sculptor, Mary Gillick, who in 1952 designed the effigy of Queen Elizabeth II, so familiar on our coinage.

All of this information and much more can be found in a newly printed booklet written by Sr Naomi Hancock that will be given out free of charge when we once again take part in Open House London on Saturday and Sunday, 9th and 10th September from 1pm to 5pm. Visitors will learn about the rich history of the site, its biodiversity and the significance of its long Moravian heritage, past and present.

Come the autumn, we hope to increase our local outreach, making Moravian Close a space for all to rest, reflect, learn and pray.

Sr Cynthia Dize

Lower Wyke Heritage Days

At Lower Wyke in Yorkshire the Heritage Days will be 9th and 10th September 2023.

The church will be open from 10am-4pm on Saturday and 12noon-4pm on Sunday. There will be a display of memorabilia on the history of Lower Wyke and information on the Moravian Church British Province and beyond.

All welcome.

Heritage Open Days

Please can you help?

An Ukranian male student, 19 years old, needs two weeks accommodation in London in early September. He has a place at Westminster University and needs this time in London to find long term accommodation. The family is being supported by Sr Maureen Colbert at Horton, so please contact her on maureenchgs@hotmail.co.uk and she will be able to give you more information.

Dates to remember!

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms		
26th March 2023	Louie Samuel Scullion	Gracehill
26th March 2023	Zachary Andrew Eric Maxwell	Horton
2nd July 2023	Emma Douglas	Gracehill
2nd July 2023	Zak Douglas	Gracehill
Reception into membership		
25th June 2023	Rosemary Colhoun	Gracehill
25th June 2023	Christie Colhoun	Gracehill
25th June 2023	Cherith Knipe	Gracehill
25th June 2023	Derek Montgomery	Gracehill
25th June 2023	Ashleigh Courtney	Gracehill
25th June 2023	Neil Cutcliffe	Gracehill
25th June 2023	Audrey Cutcliffe	Gracehill
25th June 2023	Michael Montgomery	Gracehill
25th June 2023	Joy Montgomery	Gracehill
Marriages		
5th May 2023	Sarah Jones & Mark Kitson	Gracehill
Deaths		
22nd April 2023	Christopher Jones	Gracehill

13	Manifestation of the of the Spirit at Herrnhut in 1727
21	The beginning of the Moravian Missions in 1732
23	UNESCO International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/srd/ or www.un.org/en/rememberslavery/observance/2023)
30	Raksha Bandhan - Hindu

FROM CHURCH HOUSE

Provincial Diary for August		
31 Jul-4 Aug	Summer Camp	Chellington Centre, Bedford
10	Provincial Archive and Heritage Committee Meeting	Online
16-17	Provincial Board Meeting	Church House
21	British Mission Board Meeting	Church House
31 Aug-2 Sep	Unity Board Meeting	Cape Town

Wellhouse Moravian Church



© Br. Kenneth Evans

The story of Wellhouse Moravian Church, in Mirfield, begins in 1742, with a society, formed by Benjamin Ingham, which was under the pastoral care of the Moravian Church. Members of this society lived in Mirfield, Hopton, Dewsbury, Hartshead and Deighton.

About 1748, a minister and his wife were stationed in Mirfield. Mirfield becoming the base, from where the minister would go to preaching outposts in the district. There was no chapel at this time, but, in 1751, a house was rented, and, on 15th December, it was opened for preaching. The following year, this house/chapel had to be abandoned and premises at Wellhouse were taken on lease, and part of these premises were converted into a chapel.

In April 1755, the society at Wellhouse was 'Settled', i.e., it was recognised as an official congregation of the Moravian Church. There were 50 people present at this 'settlement'. Members lived as far away as Ossett and Golcar.

In 1793, the congregation applied for a piece of land, opposite the chapel, for a burial ground, upon which a chapel and minister's house could also be built. The first burial took place on 15th June 1794. In 1803, two youths from Haiti were buried in the burial ground (God's Acre). They were Joseph Oley, aged 19, and Christian Mydo, aged 18. Joseph and Christian had come to this country to be educated, at the Moravian school, at Wellhouse.

On 18th April 1800, the foundation stone of a new chapel was laid, and on 16th April 1801, the chapel was opened. The chapel included the minister's house.

Work on a Choir House for the Single Brethren began in 1768, at the farm called Wellhouse, and was used for this purpose until 1824. For a time, the house was also used as a bakery for the school. James Montgomery, the Moravian hymn writer, worked at this bakery, before running away to London.

A boarding school was in operation from 1801 to 1884, and was situated at the west end of the chapel. One distinguished pupil, later became the first Earl of Oxford and Asquith, and the Prime Minister of England.

On 9th March 1828, a Sunday School building was opened. The building was enlarged in 1841. Members of the congregation remember that in the 1950s the Sunday School had between

80 and 100 scholars.

The chapel was registered for the solemnisation of marriages in November 1859.

In 1873, it was felt that a new organ would be desirable. An organ fund was started, and an extension was put on the north side of the chapel, to house this larger organ.

In the late 1960s, dry rot was found in the roof of the chapel. It was decided, with a great deal of sadness, that the chapel be replaced with a new, multi-purpose building/chapel, and that the Sunday School building should also be sold.

The last service was held in the much-loved chapel in January 1970, and the congregation gathered on the same ground for the opening of the new multi-purpose building/chapel on 19th September 1970.

The new building contained the communion table, three chairs, a hymn board, and a cross from the old chapel. A few years later, a clock from the old chapel was presented to the congregation as a gift. Also, wood from some of the benches in the Sunday School building was used to make a cross, which was placed above the entrance to the new building/chapel.

Today, weekly Sunday worship takes place at 3pm, with Lovefeast and Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday in each month.

Our building is used throughout the week by a dance school and yoga class. In addition to occasional social and fundraising events, we have a number of congregation groups or activities. On the first, fourth and fifth Tuesdays in each month, our Women's Fellowship meets. On the second Tuesday in each month our Golden Oldies Film Club meets. On the third Tuesday in each month our Moravian Women's Association (MWA) Circle meets.

The congregation is also a very active member of Churches Together in Mirfield & District.

Today, Wellhouse Moravian Church is made up of a small, dedicated and hardworking group of members and friends. We support one another and continue to serve the local community and share the good news of Jesus, in both word and deed.

Brn Philip Cooper & Kenneth Evans

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