



## The Olympics: *Running the race and going for gold*



What a summer of sport we have witnessed this year! I realise that for some of you reading this, the mere mention of the word sport will be enough to elicit eye rolls and a quick skip to the next article. But please bear with me because whilst many sports fans enjoy the sheer competition of humans competing against each other, what instead sticks to our souls are the stories that enfold of the athletes and the drama around the competition. Without this, then sport is just hollow and rather dull. Scratch the surface though and you find a wealth of lessons that we can take and inspiration that can motivate even the least athletically gifted of us.

As I write this the Paralympics are still going on and incredible stories are being told and legacies unfolding so I will be focusing more on the Olympics for now, but that is not to undermine the efforts or triumphs of these para-athletes.

I've always enjoyed the Olympics. The past couple, in Rio and Tokyo both proved more difficult to watch because of the time difference so this was the first one since London 2012 where we've had easy access to a huge plethora of sports. You have the more well-established sports like athletics, football and swimming, and then you have handball, water polo and one of my unexpected favourites this year, kite sailing, which saw the UK's Ellie Aldridge win Gold. There really is something for everyone.

The stories that I gravitate towards are the ones where the athletes have had to overcome adversity to get to where they are now. There is something even sweeter about a victory that is hard earned. Simone Biles was undoubtedly one of the biggest stars of this games. A very successful gymnast, she had the courage to speak openly about her battles with mental health and in so doing opened the door for more young people to feel able to speak about their issues and, crucially, ask for help. Biles would go on to pick up three gold medals in the vault, all-around and team events, and a silver in the floor final. Quite a triumph but one image stands tall. Widely expected to win the individual floor competition, Biles instead finished second. On the podium she and her teammate Jordan Chiles, bowed down and showed their appreciation for the winner, Brazil's Rebeca Andrade. 'She's so amazing. She's queen,' Biles said of Andrade in an interview after the event. 'First, it was an all-Black podium, so that was super exciting for us.' Chiles had the idea to bow for Andrade, and Biles quickly agreed. 'She's such an excitement to watch, and then all the fans in the crowd always cheering for her, so it was just the right thing to do.'

People lifting other people up is what good sportsmanship is all about and is one of the great things that sport can do. One story that you most likely will have missed unfold during Women's Handball Semi Final between Angola and Brazil (how could

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## Editorial

Three days ago, I went on a great expedition to see some dinosaur's footprints on the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. The footprints were made by dinosaurs from the sauropod family and date from the Triassic period around 200 million years ago.

It was incredible to stand where they had walked and see the pattern of their footsteps etched for ever in the rocks on the beach at Penarth. The journey to see them was by car and then half a mile by walking over the scabbly shale on the beach - quite a challenge for someone who has lost all sense of balance recently. But that said, in the process of one hour, I had gone back in time over millions of years to a world I could not see and really would not want to be part of.

Two days ago, I visited St John's Church in the centre of Cardiff, a Church that was first built in the 1100s. It was wonderful to be in that historic place and sense the continuous worship that has been offered there over the centuries.

Yesterday I was in London for two events. The first was the Archives Open Day, a chance to see our archives and hear two talks about the collections. Lorraine our archivist gave a fascinating talk on Magic Lanterns. She told us how the slides were made, about some of the original photography in them and how they were used by missionaries and ministers in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

So, my recent journeys into the past have been delightfully comforting and safe. It is gone and I don't have to live through all the problems of those eras. But I am living now and looking into a future that is anything but certain. Who knows what the next few years or 10 or 20 or even 50 will bring us!

However, the other event that I was at yesterday was an event that was forward looking and hopeful. The ordination of Sr Susan Quildan-Foreman was about acknowledging the gifts that she brings to ministry and giving her the authority of the Church to take that ministry into the future. Any ordination is a sign of hope in the future and of confidence in the God, who we believe, is there in the future just as he was in the past.

Naturally we pray for Sr Susan and her developing ministry and those she will serve but we should also pray for ourselves as we journey into that unknown future where things may be very different and change fast. But God is there in all of it, he is able, and he will keep us in the midst of the shifting sands of time.

Let St Paul's prayer be for us all as a Church and as individuals:

*13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)*



**Sr Sarah Groves**  
Editorial Team

## Letter to the Editorial Team

Today after 10.30am church I was speaking with three Christians about the world's richest nation, the U.S.A., and when I said, but it still had the same problems of our sixth richest nation in the world, namely child and other poverty, homelessness, hard core deprivation, etc. one walked away saying that they had enough to be concerned about and thinking about other problems only depressed them. Things that nothing could be done about only upset that Christian and we who remained spoke briefly about rioting that had recently taken place, but surprisingly not in Bradford. Do overburdened Christians believe nothing could be done about eliminating U.K. child poverty? After my attendance recently at a service at Wellhouse Moravian Church a member asked me how our resolution to eliminate U.K. child poverty was getting on. And in all Christian honesty I said it wasn't getting on and when asked why was that my answer, it was that the British Province of the Moravian Church has no intention of moving forward or carrying out the requirement of Synods 2016 and 2018. Why is this, I was asked. You tell me I replied, you are the only U.K. Moravian to ask me that in years. Maybe there are only two of us Moravians who don't think like those mentioned earlier. Very soon I will require 100,000 signatures to take to No.10 - will they support me?

Yours as ever,

**Br Alan Holdsworth.**



Safeguarding Sunday, an awareness-raising campaign organised by Christian safeguarding charity *Thirtyone:eight*, is taking place on 17th November 2024. This is an

opportunity to highlight the importance of creating safer places for all, and to encourage churches to talk about safeguarding throughout the year. Your church can join thousands of other churches across the UK to share this message and demonstrate unity. This is also a good day to thank and pray for those who have stepped up to coordinate safeguarding in our churches so we can protect vulnerable people together. We believe that safeguarding is an outworking of our faith in a loving and just God - the God who calls us to speak up on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves and to defend the rights of the vulnerable. Resources from *Thirtyone:eight* are available from <https://safeguardingsunday.org/> to use in services and in children's groups. These are age-appropriate and inclusive, using language that children can understand to explore safeguarding issues safely. The downloadable pack includes resources for a few minutes or for the whole service. There are additional resources - posters, videos, animations, crafts to download.

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

We are endeavouring as PYCC to collate together regularly the known events and services that are shared to us by the churches across the province of events and services that are deliberately aimed at growing and nurturing our families, children and young people.

Our hope is that by advertising these people will become more aware of the events in their local areas that they can then share with their families, friends and neighbour. All of these events are discipling and feeding this younger end of our church family which as a Province we are hoping to see growth and development in.

Right is a list of events that have been sent to us for the month of October. 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 November for you in this space. Her contact details are: [claire.maxwell@moravian.org.uk](mailto:claire.maxwell@moravian.org.uk).

## Here are the events in OCTOBER

### Lancashire

**Every Thursday** - Fairfield Moravian Church runs a Tots Time 10am-2.30pm in the College (under 4s with an adult).

### London

**Saturday 19th October** - Hornsey Moravian Church has Family Lego Club from 10am-11.30am aimed at children up to 11 years old with a guardian or adult family member. Cost is £3 per child (£2 per additional sibling).

**Saturday 19 October** - Harlesden Moravian Church will be holding their monthly 'Children's Fun Morning' from 10am-12 pm.

**Tuesday 29th October** - Fetter Lane Moravian Church are holding a Family Activity Day from 2pm-4pm. This is aimed at primary school age children. There is no charge.

### Northern Ireland

**Every Sunday morning** - Gracehill Moravian Church hosts Children's Church starts at 11am and then going to the Church Hall for age related sessions.

**Alternate Sundays** - Gracehill Moravian Church Hall hosts Youth Fellowship from 7pm-8.30pm.

**Mondays** - Gracehill Moravian Church

Hall hosts the Boys Brigade from 6.30pm-8.30pm in the Church Hall.

**Tuesdays** - Gracehill Moravian Church Hall hosts Parents and Tots from 9.45am-11.15am.

**Tuesdays** - Gracehill Moravian Church Hall hosts Girls Brigade from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

### Yorkshire

**Saturday 5th October** - Horton Moravian Church from 10am-12pm offers tea, coffee, cake, halal snacks and Under 5s provision. All welcome. Children must be supervised. Cost: £2.50.

**Sunday 22nd October** - Lower Wyke Moravian Church from 10.30am Café Church, offers refreshments and fellowship with All Ages welcome and worship at the centre of this Sunday service.

**Every term-time Friday** - Lower Wyke Moravian Church hosts Adventurers for those aged 9-13 years of age from 7pm-8.45pm. All are welcome. Subs are £1.50 each week for tuck.

**2nd and 4th Sunday** - Lower Wyke hosts a 14+ Senior Youth Club from 7pm-9pm. Subs are £1.50. All are welcome.

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(continued)

anyone have missed that!). Midway through the match Angola's captain Albertina Kassoma suffered a knee injury. The injury was so bad that she knew her game was over. Albertina tried to stand up to make it to the bench but couldn't move, despite the attempted help of Angola's team doctor and Brazil's goalkeeper, Gabriela Moreschi. In stepped her rival, Brazil's Tamires Araujo Frossard. Not only rivals in this game but also in the Romanian Handball league where the Brazilian plays for the team Gloria Bistrita and the Angolan Kassoma plays for Rapid Bucuresti with Kassoma's side finishing second in the league last season, to Frossard's side in third. 'The injury happened close to me', Frossard said afterwards. 'I kept playing at first because I didn't think it was that serious. When I saw her on the ground, I thought she wouldn't be able to get back up, because it's very rare that you fall and don't get up.' Frossard was able to scoop up Kassoma and carry her off court to loud

applause from the 5,800 spectators. Later Frossard would say, 'there was no way I wouldn't help her'.

That's just two stories from a summer that is filled with moments of inspiration that we can all learn from and take courage from. We all have hurdles to overcome, battles to fight and mountains to climb. Sometimes they will feel too big and too difficult to tackle. In these moments, take comfort from the team you have around you. There will always be someone there to cheer you on and carry you when you fall. You are never alone. We have the greatest coach and with God in our corner and the support of those around us, we too can be faster, go higher and be stronger.

**Br James Woolford**

Minister of Fulneck and Baildon Congregations



Edna Weir was born near Gracehill Moravian settlement on 17th November 1925. Her family had deep roots in the Moravian Church and she and her brother Hugo grew up in the Church and Sunday School. She noted in her Lebenslauf that it was a happy place in which to grow up.

Edna met her future husband, Joe Cooper who was in the army doing his National Service in Bath. On leaving the Army Joe went to Fairfield College to train as a minister and he was ordained in 1950. He and Edna married at Gracehill later that year and honeymooned in Newcastle, Co Down. Their marriage was to become a real partnership in ministry and service.

They moved to Joe's first charge, Pertenhall, Kimbolton and Riseley where their first son, John was born. In 1952 they were called to Baildon and Wellfield where they served for seven years. It was during this time that their second son, David was born. In 1960 the family moved to Leominster where Joe served the congregation and two preaching places, the Broad and Cholstrey.

In 1963 Joe was called to serve the Cliftonville congregation in Belfast and he and Edna remained there for 27 years until his retirement in 1990. During this time Edna and Joe were main stays of the local community and figures of strength during 'The Troubles' that impacted everyone in the local area. Edna had a handicraft group that was composed of Moravian ladies and their Catholic neighbours. She later recalled 'firm friendships were made on those Thursday evenings ... people who lived



**Sr Edna Cooper**  
(1925-2024)



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around the manse helped each other when windows were broken by bombs; nobody asked which church they belonged to, they simply got on with helping each other to make temporary repairs.'

## Postscript from Germany:

I have known Sr Edna Cooper for more than 30 years, and I have never met her in person. My first contact with Edna and her husband Joe go back to the time when I was a student at Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, PA. Our shared interest was Moravian history, and I gratefully received twice a year the newest edition of the 'Moravian Historical Magazine' (I am a proud owner

of a complete set # 1 to # 28). Eventually, we also shared Christmas greetings, and I was amazed how much interest Edna took in the life of a young family abroad that she'd never met. I also was amazed at her ability to carry on the work of historical research and editorial management after the death of her husband. The magazines are a treasure-trove of historical information, and - people tell me - she as a person was the same way. I would have loved to have met her, but sickness (once on my part

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At Synod in 1976 Joe was elected a Bishop and Edna was able to travel with him to Herrnhut, Antigua and Labrador. When Joe retired they settled in Glengormley on the northern outskirts of Belfast. During that time, they began working together on the history and archives of the Moravian Church. They rescued, catalogued and protected the Dublin archives, worked helping people research their family ancestry and began the 'Moravian History Magazine'. Sadly after 14 happy years of retirement Joe died. However, Edna kept on the work and research and developed a huge network of correspondents across the world. During this time the 'Moravian History Magazine' continued to be published and Edna researched and wrote a biography of Elizabeth Mary Bates and a wonderful, illustrated book on the Old Houses of Gracehill. This book was launched at Gracehill in 2019 with much acclaim.

She was not afraid of new technology and was active on her computer and iPad until the very end. She was always impatient for replies to her emails and was herself very swift to reply to requests for information. Edna held firm opinions and could appear on first meeting to be quite fierce but once you got to know her you realised the richness of her friendship and the broadness of her views. She was at the heart of her family and delighted in the activities and antics of grandchildren and great grandchildren, and was a great source of information and inspiration to all who knew her.

**Sr Sarah Groves**  
Editorial Team

and once on hers) prevented our planned visits. So, I like to use this opportunity to say a belated 'thank you, Edna', for friendship in the Moravian spirit, and to offer heartfelt condolences from Herrnhut to her family and members of the Moravian community in Northern Ireland.

With much appreciation for a life spent in the service of Christ and the Moravian Church.

**Rev Dr Peter Vogt**  
Co-Pastor Herrnhut Moravian Congregation

# 'What I Believe'

Moravian Messenger Editor Sr Sarah Groves interviews Sr Janet Warr

*Sr Warr is the Chair of the Lancashire District, a member at Fairfield Moravian Church and a guide around the Fairfield Settlement.*

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

I was born in Droylsden and have an older sister. At the age of two we emigrated to Canada as my Dad had a job over there. He was a metallurgist making and testing railway wheels. However, my Mum was never happy or settled there. When my Dad got a chance to come home he took it. I do remember leaving Canada and some of the journey home on the boat as we were all extremely seasick. They bought a house on Broadway which backed onto the burial ground of Fairfield Moravian Church. I remained there until I got married. I remember my first day at school as it was on my 5th birthday and my Mum sat next to Mrs Stonehewer who had brought Anne (now Wood) to start school as well. Anne and I became best friends and are still some 60 odd years later. In my 30s I took an OU course and gained a BA.



## How and when did you come to faith?

I was baptised at Fairfield Moravian Church and went through the Sunday School and was confirmed by Br Mellows when I was 15 years old. Looking back, I am not sure how strong my faith was at that time. However, as time has gone on it has grown, reading the Bible, learning and understanding more. Praying has definitely helped as has talking and listening to people who have a greater knowledge.

## Tell us about your own family

I have been married to Ian for 43 years and have one son Christopher.

## How have you integrated your faith into work life?

I am retired now. When I did work people who I worked with were aware I was a Christian and attended church regularly and that it was an important part of my life.

## What part of Church life have given you most satisfaction and what have been the real challenges?

Fellowship with other members and meeting new people at various gatherings, synod and heritage work. It was also a privilege to visit Christiansfeld, Herrnhut and other Moravian churches in this country. Challenges - apparent apathy of others and frustration that despite a lot of hard work by many people in our church it doesn't appear to bear fruit. Let's pray that Project 32 changes that!

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

I often wonder why there is so much suffering, poverty, wars and needless violence in the world. However, I don't see that as God's fault but humans. If only they would follow Jesus' teachings the world would be a better place.

## 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 realise that death is inevitable and I do worry sometimes about the manner of my death. I would like to go in my sleep and not wake up, but unfortunately that is something we have no control over. I do believe that we will be like angels when we die as Jesus says in Luke 20: 34-38.

## What can we learn from the history of our own denomination?

Firstly equality, I find the fact everyone is considered to be equal in our denomination very important and something that as a church today we should not forget. Also, how important universal education is, something promoted early on by Moravians, and how it does change people's lives.

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

There are several reasons for it but it's hard to really put a finger on it. I think the media's lack of respect for people who have faith,

and faith is seen as a joke. Everybody seems so busy these days that they don't really feel they have time to go to church; and are influenced by the worshipping of some celebrities and definitely money. I also think that too many people feel faith is irrelevant to them.

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

One of my favourite books is a 'A Gentleman in Moscow' by Amor Towles. It is a well written, beautiful and interesting story. My other is the Anne of Green Gables series. I read these as a girl and loved them, re-visited them recently and enjoyed them just as much. My favourite film is '2001 A Space Odyssey' especially the music, the special effects (for the time) and the story line. I like lots of different types of music; classical, songs from shows and definitely ABBA.

## The place where you feel closest to God?

Thinking about this I feel when we have taken the bread and wine and then sit down, have a silent prayer and then singing 'Most holy Lord and God' I feel very close to God in those moments.

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

It would just have my name date of death and age on it in true Moravian tradition.

## Finally, any major regrets and joys?

My family doesn't do regrets as there is no point in saying 'if only' or 'I wish I had done this' as you can't turn the clock back. We have to learn from it and move on.

Joys - obviously my family and friends and meeting up with them; many simple things like going for walks as it clears my mind; watching nature and the seasons change when you can forget all the hustle and bustle going on around you and being in my garden.



# The Role of the Provincial Ecumenical Officers

The *Messenger* has been running a series of articles

letting its readers know how the Province operates, explaining, for example, the work of the Provincial committees. In this context, I have been asked to write about the role of the Provincial Ecumenical Officers. I use the plural, because I was appointed the Provincial Ecumenical Officer in 2010. However, following this year's Provincial Synod, there are now three Provincial Ecumenical Officers - Br Michael Newman, Sr Lorraine Shorten and me - who share the work.

The job entails a great deal and, as a small church, we have to decide which ecumenical events we can attend. The Moravian Church is a member of a number of ecumenical bodies. These are Churches Together in Britain & Ireland (CTBI), Churches Together in England (CTE), The Free Churches Group (FCG), the Irish Council of Churches (ICC) and the Irish Inter-Church Meeting (IICM).

Although the three Provincial Ecumenical Officers will cover for one another, Br Michael Newman will represent us on CTE and CTBI. Sr Lorraine Shorten will represent us on the FCG. I will represent us on the Church of England General Synod and the Armagh Agreement Reference Group.

CTBI has a huge amount of very interesting and useful material on its website, including material under the headings of witnessing together, spirituality and reflection, mission and unity, theology, and resources. It also provides the material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and for Lent study groups. On its website you will find statements and prayers, together with conferences, on a variety of subjects, for example, on the violence in Israel and Gaza. We are invited to send a representative to the CTBI AGM and regular online meetings.

We are invited to send a representative to the CTE Enabling Group meetings, which last for 24 hours, twice a year. Along with the Presidents and Trustees of CTE, this group is responsible for guiding and overseeing the work of CTE. In recent times, the Enabling Group has discussed living together well with disagreement, the most recent World Council of Churches Assembly, the role of the CTE Presidents in the public square, the cost-of-living crisis, the experience of young people in relation to faith, ecumenism and mission, and safeguarding.

We are, also, invited to send a representative to the twice-yearly meetings of the National Ecumenical Officers, and the regular online meetings of the National Ecumenical Officers & Representatives for England. Sr Lorraine Shorten attends the CTE Racial Justice Working Group and I attend the CTE Living With Diversity Working Group. Every three years, the CTE Forum takes place, usually at the Hayes Conference Centre in Derby.

It lasts for three days. At least one of our Provincial Ecumenical Officers will usually attend.

The FCG consists of member churches from England and Wales, and has two group meetings each year. The FCG seeks to give the Free Churches a united Christian witness in the public square. There is a particular emphasis on chaplaincy work in prisons, hospitals and education. However, other areas of work are undertaken. The FCG has now setup a process through which ministers from the smaller free churches can be registered and become chaplains in the armed forces.

The FCG provides resources for Prison Week each year. The FCG, also, was instrumental in creating the Welcome Directory, which helps faith communities become places where people who leave prison find acceptance.

The ICC does not include the Roman Catholic Church in its membership, while the IICM does. One of our Provincial Ecumenical Officers is invited to attend the ICC AGM. We are represented on these two ecumenical bodies by members of the Moravian Church in the Irish District. Sr Sarah Groves, is presently its President. On the ICC website there is information about its work and the work of the IICM on subjects such as climate justice and care for creation, strengthening local ecumenism, women's issues, housing and homelessness, and peace.

An exciting new development in the Irish District is the Armagh Agreement, between the Church of Ireland and the Moravian Church in Britain & Ireland. This agreement was agreed at Armagh, in 2021, and passed in the Synods of both churches in 2022. The agreement enables inter-changeability of ordained ministry between our two churches. Along with Br Michael Newman (PEC), Sr Sarah Groves (Bishop), Br Mark Kernohan (Chair of the Irish District) and members from the Church of Ireland, I serve on the reference group for this agreement, which will continue to meet to further the agreement and implement it.

We very gratefully accept the kind invitation to send a representative to the Church of England General Synod, which meets for a number of days twice (sometimes three times) a year.

The British and European Continental Provinces of the Moravian Church share joint representation on the World Council of Churches (WCC). The 11th Assembly of the WCC took place from 31st August to 8th September 2022, in Karlsruhe, Germany. On this occasion the European Continental Province provided the Delegate to the Assembly, and I attended as the Advisor to the Delegation. The theme was, 'Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and peace.'

The information above covers most of the basic work of our Provincial Ecumenical Officers, but there is a great deal more involved. For example, there are a good number of emails to respond to. We are often invited to participate in various pieces of work and events. For example, the Moravian Church was represented at the United Reformed Church 50th Anniversary Service and the Windrush 75 Service of Thanksgiving, both held in London in 2023. The ecumenical bodies mentioned above, also from time to time, issue statements and organise webinars on current issues.

I have found it to be a great privilege to represent the Moravian Church as its Provincial Ecumenical Officer. It has taken me to places I might not have otherwise been, and into situations I might not have experienced. Such as Church of England General Synod, meals and receptions at Bishopthorpe Palace and Lambeth Palace, the World Council of Churches Assembly, in Busan (South Korea) and Karlsruhe (Germany).

Being the Provincial Ecumenical Officer has also, been a learning experience. I have participated in many enriching debates and listened to many interesting speakers. It has been educational, valuable and, at times, challenging to hear the different perspectives of the different churches on a range of issues.

Since being a teenager, I have been passionate about ecumenism. At the heart of the Gospel is a message of peace, reconciliation and unity. In an often divided world, that message needs to be heard and seen in the life of the Christian Church. It is also a fundamental part of our Moravian Church heritage. One example of this fact is that when A J Lewis wrote his biography of Count Zinzendorf, he gave it the title, 'Zinzendorf: The Ecumenical Pioneer.'

**Br Philip Cooper**  
Provincial Ecumenical Officer

## Pastoral Letter to Members and Friends of the Moravian Church from the Bishops of the European Continental Province and the British Province

Dear brothers and sisters,

We met as bishops of the Moravian Church of the European Continental and the British Province online, and we shared our grief over the situation in the Middle East. Since October 7, 2023, there is an open wound in our world and the human tragedy still is going on.

As Moravians we are closely connected with the people who live and work in or use the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre near Ramallah, our Unity Undertaking. As Christians we have our Christian brothers and sisters in the whole region, a small and contested minority. As world-wide Christianity we are and remain connected to the people of the first covenant. And as ones who try to follow Christ's footsteps as the One who gave His life for us we have to stand at the side of all the victims.

We feel heart-broken over the level of violence and terror that pushes people on all sides near or over the brink. It is very difficult to remain objective at this ongoing violence. Our hearts go out to all those who suffered on both sides after the attack of October 7.

As Bishops of the European Continental and British Provinces of the Moravian Church we wish to express our solidarity with Palestinian Christians in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank.

We remember the prophet's words about the feet on the mountain that proclaim peace, and we remember Jesus' 'Sermon on the mount' in which he calls 'blessed' those who make peace.

Christians are people of hope, even in hopeless situations and we pray that the ancient prophesy of Isaiah will be fulfilled for all the people of the land we call Holy. That children will grow to full adulthood, that old people will live with dignity, that houses will be built and that people will benefit from their labour and the fruit of their land (Isaiah 65).

We recognise that this prophesy comes from Hebrew scripture and that Islam like Christianity is part of the Abrahamic family of faith.

We recognise that there is a big gap between reality and Jesus' teaching. It remains our fervent prayer that bridges eventually can be build. In our encounters, conversations and interactions with people in our own contexts, let us try and commit ourselves to Jesus' teaching. And we will continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ and that our different but related faiths may live in harmony and for the good of all people.

We are convinced that only a solution with two independent states in Israel and Palestine can bring peace to the region. There are political talks to level down the conflict, bring the violence to an end; also plans are already discussed by the international community for a two-state nation where human rights are guaranteed for all.

Let us continue to pray in all our congregations, services and personally, for insight into negotiations, an end to violence and a growing willingness to live side by side and together a peaceful settlement.

September 2024



## Your Kingdom Come

I love to read and sometimes when I read, I can see the story cinematically. The story in Mark's Gospel describing Jesus' healing of a woman and a girl is one such story.

The story begins with Jesus climbing out of a boat on the shore of Lake Galilee and immediately being surrounded by a crowd of people. A local synagogue leader, Jairus, pushes his way through this crowd and falls at Jesus' feet pleading with him to come and heal his young daughter who is very ill. So, off they go, the crowd still swarming around them.

Unbeknown to anyone in the crowd, there is a woman who has been haemorrhaging for twelve years and wants Jesus' help. She really shouldn't be out in the crowd, because if anyone comes in contact with her, they will become unclean. She is an outcast and as she has spent all her money on possible cures, is destitute. In faith, she reaches out to touch Jesus' clothes and is rewarded: she is immediately healed.

But her story doesn't end there - Jesus is aware that power has left him and insists, in the face of his disciples' annoyance, on knowing who has been healed. Reluctantly, the woman comes forward and tells him her story. Jesus acknowledges her great faith and assures her of future health.

Now however, disaster has struck. Servants from Jairus' house arrive informing Jairus that Jesus' visit is now pointless, as his daughter is dead. Jesus undeterred, encourages Jairus to have faith and continues to his home, where in the face of the disbelief of the gathered mourners, he heals the child. A story of faith rewarded.

But there is more to be uncovered. These two healing miracles are placed together in what is delightfully called a 'Markan sandwich'. When Mark does this, there is an important point he is trying to make and the point he is trying to make is about the Kingdom of God which he believes Jesus' earthly life is intended to usher in.

Jesus' society was hierarchical. Jairus, a man and synagogue leader would be at the top of the pecking order: able to speak to whoever he wanted and to expect attention and respect. Hence, he can approach Jesus directly to ask for his help and

his daughter, although female, has someone to speak on her behalf. The woman, who is nameless, is at the bottom of the pecking order. She is female - enough in itself to mean that she could not approach men directly. She has a condition which makes her unclean, infertile, probably unmarried, unable to participate in society. She is an outcast, with no-one to speak on her behalf.

Yet, Jesus interrupts his mission to heal the synagogue leader's daughter, to speak with an outcast. This would have been incredibly shocking both to the crowd pushing around Jesus and the original readers of the Gospel. This is not the way things are supposed to be! No, it isn't, says Mark, with this story, but this is how things are going to be!

Let's return for a moment to Jairus, standing patiently, whilst Jesus speaks with the woman. Jairus could have interrupted the conversation, but he didn't. He could have criticised Jesus for ignoring the purity laws, but he didn't. Jairus steps aside and allows someone else to take priority.

I have entitled this article, 'Your kingdom come,' hopefully you can complete the sentence and recognise the prayer that we use so regularly. This is the kingdom we pray for where 'those who are last, will be first, and those who are first, will be last' (Matt 20:16).

There are no formal purity codes in 21st Century Britain, but we do have outcasts. Who are the people in our society who are named as a collective group: the homeless, the migrant or even worse, the scrounger? Who are the people in our society who, like the woman, have no voice of their own?

Most of us, are in the position of Jairus, with names, voices, and status. What can we do to play our part in the coming of the Kingdom of God?

We are fortunate to have the ability and opportunities to use our voices to say something about the sort of society we want to see - a society which expresses the values of the Kingdom of God for which we pray so regularly.

**Sr Janet Cooper**

### Ockbrook, Derbyshire

We have just finished Holy Habits 'Worship' at Ockbrook Moravian Church. Tony's musical was a big success. Half of the church played instruments and acted ... the other half were singing. It was wonderful.

Many blessings.

**Sr Adriana Davey**



© Sr Rosie Hage

### Bath Weston

Here at Weston, we have had busy few months with film evenings, with which we have one coming up on the 28th September (*It's a Wonderful Life*), along with craft and Moravian modellers evenings. The Quiz nights, all the money goes to charity which was for The Bath Parkinson's Society this time. Sr Lorraine also runs her Lego afternoons on a Tuesday in the school holidays.

Starting from last September 2023 a lady from the community has also been running a craft fair once a month using the church and church hall. The church provides refreshments, with either hotdogs, bacon rolls and plenty of homemade cakes, and this all goes down very well with a cup of tea or coffee. A summer fair was held at the end of July, and luckily it was a nice day, so we were able to put table and chairs outside for people to use. There was a steady flow of people most of the afternoon and all went well

making some very needed money for church funds. The Love Weston Cafe on a Friday is very popular: this is run by volunteers from the different churches in the area, plus anyone else who can give some of their time for this happy chatty place, and the food and drinks are at such reasonable prices. During August we have been having Godly Play Sunday services with Sr Lorraine, which are very explanatory and makes you wonder and think differently about the bible stories. We also have four legged friends dropping in!

Now we are looking forward to the Heritage Day on 7th September, organised by Br Chris Shorten. The theme will be *Routes, Networks, Connections*, and will be partnering with the different Community groups that use our premises, so hopefully we will have lots of people coming through the doors.

With blessings.

**Sr Carole Young**



© Sr Mary Holmes

numerous productions.

May is also the month for our 'Sisters' Breakfast'. It's an occasion for them to affirm their Moravian Fellowship by sharing breakfast and a Cup of Covenant. To celebrate the event, Sr Claire Maxwell led our Morning Worship. If that wasn't enough for one month, Fulneck again took a stall at Pudsey Carnival.

Moving into June, monthly evening services were re-introduced and continued throughout the summer months. A time for quiet reflection, they've been a welcome addition to our worship cycle. We also continued our Holy Habits Faith Lunches led by Sr Gloria Hanley.

### Fulneck, Yorkshire

Along with the 'darling buds' Church life at Fulneck flourished in May - and for that matter - throughout spring and summer 2024.

Fulneck Museum reopened for the season with a visit from the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Al Garthwaite who clearly enjoyed her time in Fulneck and was both fascinated and impressed by the many artefacts on display.

We moved into May with the marriage of settlement residents Cheryl and Peter George. We celebrated our Church Anniversary on 19th May with a street party held in warm and glorious sunshine. Also, on the agenda in May was Fulneck Dramatic Society's production of the Noel Coward classic, 'Blithe Spirit'. The Drama Group is celebrating its centenary this year. To mark this, there was a special exhibition in the museum tracing its long history and

In July Fulneck played its part in the annual Leeds 'Fuse' arts' festival. This year we were treated to a delightful and well attended organ recital by Lee Ward, Fulneck School's Head of Music.

During the summer months two of our congregation members, Sr Ros Davey and Br John McOwat celebrated notable milestone birthdays. Back in springtime, April saw the passing of Sr Maureen Sykes. A life-long member and former Fulneck School pupil, her funeral was led by another former Fulneck School pupil, Br John McOwat.

At the time of writing, whilst summer isn't quite done, Fulneck's beautiful valley is already taking on autumnal tints. School is back in session and, as the evenings draw in, we look ahead to Heritage Day, harvest celebrations and, in the slightly more distant future, the season of Advent.

**Br Dave Robins**



## Dukinfield, Cheshire

### 'Friend, move up to a better place'

A recent addition at Dukinfield Moravian Church is proving very popular. The Church building has benefitted from a stair/chair lift to help individuals access the two levels at the Yew Tree Lane site so that it is fully inclusive. Pictured here is Bob trying out the new equipment.

The funding for this new aid was jointly supported by the Church and the Dementia Warriors group that regularly meets at the location.

As it states in Luke 14:10 - *But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.'* Then you will be honoured in the presence of all the other guests. Dukinfield Congregation are living this in earnest!

**Sr Penny Weir**

## East Tytherton, Wiltshire

Time again for a look back at life in East Tytherton over the past year.

It seems that each time I have to start with sad news. Since I last wrote we have lost two of the village's oldest residents.

In December we said farewell to Gordon Archard, at 93 years old. Gordon and his wife, Joan, were very much part of village life and the church, having married there in 1952. When my father, John Mellows, was the minister here in the 1950s I was a little girl and remember visiting the Archard's with my father and having biscuits! Gordon had been on his own for 12 years, though well looked after and supported by his family and thrilled to become a great granddad to Lynda's twin grandchildren, (his own mother having been a twin), he missed Joan so much. His cat, Baldrick, became his faithful companion and sadly died not long before him. When I visited him, we had wonderful conversations about village life, his dance band that used to play in the village hall at dances was just one of those memories. We joined so many friends and family members at the Crematorium to say goodbye and this was followed a few days later by a service of committal here in the church.



© Sr Jane Carter

On 25th July a faithful friend of the church, Winifred Pearce, known as 'Win', passed away at the age of 95. She was known for her strong personality and straight talking, a spade was most definitely a spade! But she was a stoic soul and bore many health problems without a word. I often visited her and left feeling grateful for what I have. 'Anne', she would say, 'if we have a roof over our head and food in the larder there is nothing to worry about!'

I, and so many others, will miss these two village characters so much. Of course, although he left the village some years ago, I have to mention Rev Peter Gubi. He had such a presence here with his dry sense of humour, compassion and kindness. We

were so moved to have a thanksgiving service here in the church on 17th February, to give thanks for a life well lived.

Church has continued much as it did last year. Our yearly events, now advertised on our beautiful new church notice board, include the Easter Egg hunt, our ever-popular soup lunches, along with our new craft and chat group. Everyone seems to look forward to catching up and exchanging news and gossip. The highlight of the year has to be our cream tea on the lawns and a huge thank you must be given to Pat Holtham who made 150 scones! We served over 80 cream teas in wonderful summer sunshine. It was a really memorable and happy occasion, and a time of enjoyment and laughter.

'Summer', brief as it has been, seems to have left us! The leaves are turning and starting to fall and with evenings becoming darker as Autumn and Winter approach we look forward to Harvest, joining St Nicholas this year for Remembrance Sunday and our festive Village Carol service with Christingles, not to mention mulled wine and mince pies to enjoy after all the singing ... maybe the cooler days are not so bad after all!

As always a huge thanks to James and Tessa for giving me a hand with the grounds, Lynda for her constant support and Jane for her motivation and for steering us in the right direction with encouragement.

**Sr Anne Mellows Waldron**

## FROM CHURCH HOUSE

# THE MORAVIAN CHURCH IN GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

Following the recent Provincial Synod, the Provincial Board has been reconstituted. The following individuals have been elected to serve as Provincial Elders:

Sr Roberta Hoey (Synod 2024: 4 years, full-time);  
Br David Howarth (Synod 2022: 4 years, full-time);  
Sr Jane Carter (Synod 2024: 4 years); Br Michael Newman (Synod 2024: 4 years); Br Livingstone Thompson (Synod 2022: 4 years); Br Edwin Quildan (Synod 2022: 4 years).

The Provincial Board (PEC), by virtue of their election, are thereby elected as Trustees of The Choir House, Fulneck School, the Moravian Union Incorporated, which includes the Moravian Church, the Property Portfolio, and The British Mission Board, in compliance with the Charity Commissioners.

The Provincial Board members are Directors of the Moravian Union Incorporated, as regulated by Companies House, and each holds one share in the Company while in office. Br David Howarth has been appointed as Company Secretary. As full-time members of the Provincial Board, Sr Roberta Hoey and Br David Howarth are responsible for the day-to-day management of the Charity's affairs.

The Provincial Board met to decide upon the divisions of responsibility, but it remains a collegiate body, with all decisions being the responsibility of the Board as a whole.

### Provincial Diary for October

5	Youth Children's Committee	Church House
12	Irish District Conference	Cliftonville
12	Lancashire District Conference	Online
12	Midlands District Conference	Online
17	Church Service Committee	Church House
19	Eastern District Conference	Hornsey
21-22	Provincial Board Meeting	Church House

## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### Baptism

8th Sept 2024	Arthur Thomas Scott	Fairfield
8th Sept 2024	Henry Robert Scott	Fairfield

### Received into Membership

1st August 2024	Gareth Douglas	Gracehill
1st August 2024	Niall Kennedy	Gracehill
1st August 2024	Elizabeth Kennedy	Gracehill

### Deaths

5th April 2024	Jeann Seymour	Lower Wyke
26th June 2024	Renee Somerville	Royton
20th July 2024	Denis Thorpe	Lower Wyke
23rd August 2024	Irene Yates	Fairfield
11th September 2024	Peter Marshall	Dukinfield

## THE PROVINCIAL BOARD

### Office

Chair	Sr R Hoey
Provincial Treasurer	Br L Thompson
Company Secretary	Br D Howarth

### Areas of Responsibility

Portfolio	Lead contact	Secondary contacts
Ministry	Br M Newman	Sr J Carter, Sr R Hoey
Finance	Br L Thompson	Sr J Carter, Br E Quildan
Fulneck School	Sr R Hoey	Br Michael Newman
Property	Sr R Hoey	Br D Howarth, Br E Quildan

In accordance with Synod 2024, the following Provincial Committees will be reconstituted and will be attended by members of the Provincial Board: Archives and Heritage, Church Service (CSC), Faith and Order and Ecumenical Relations (FOERC), Finance and Property, Mission and Society, and the Youth and Children's Committee (YCC).

The Provincial Board has appointed Br Philip Cooper, Br Michael Newman, and Sr Lorraine Shorten as Ecumenical Officers.

## THE BRITISH MISSION BOARD

### Office

Chair	Sr J Carter
Treasurer	Br L Thompson

The British Mission Board, acting on behalf of the Provincial Board, supports the work of the Moravian Church in South Asia and maintains a close relationship with the Western Province of Tanzania. This work has been directed and entrusted by the Unity Synod.

30 Sept-6 Oct Good Money Week, previously National Ethical Investment Week (<http://goodmoneyweek.com>)

6 Homeless Sunday ([www.housingjustice.org.uk](http://www.housingjustice.org.uk))

13-19 Prisons Week ([www.prisonweek.org](http://www.prisonweek.org))

13-20 Week of Prayer for World Peace (<https://weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk>)

16 Sukkot - Jewish

18 Anti-Slavery Day ([www.antislaveryday.com](http://www.antislaveryday.com))

24 United Nations Day ([www.un.org/en/events/unday](http://www.un.org/en/events/unday))

27 Summer time ends

31 Halloween

*Dates to remember!*

# Worship

## Worship Leaders' Course

LEADERS NEEDED

LET'S LEAD

Are you interested in participating?

Contact Br Peter Gubi

([peter.gubi@moravian.org.uk](mailto:peter.gubi@moravian.org.uk))

Deposit of £50 refundable on completion of course

7<sup>th</sup> October  
closing date

### DATES VIA ZOOM

8<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 6pm-8pm

9<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 9am-5pm

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13<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 6pm-8pm

14<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 9am-5pm

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14<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 6pm-8pm

15<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 9am-5pm

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14<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 6pm-8pm

15<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 9am-5pm

\*\*

11<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 6pm-8pm

12<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 9am-5pm

In-person residential weekend 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

### THE TEAM LEADING

SRS. LORRAINE & SARAH

BRS. PETER, JAMES, MICHAEL, LIVINGSTONE

THE BRITISH  
MORAVIAN CHURCH  
PRESENTS

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AGES  
18-34

2025

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