

Moravian messenger

DECEMBER 2024



Tis the Season ...



Last Christmas some friends hired the Church Hall for a Christmas party. There was of course a Santa and suddenly the Grinch entered and tried to steal Santa. The children fell about the Grinch until he ran away. The poor lad playing the Grinch was black and blue from the attentions of the enthusiastic children and it was great fun to watch.

I don't want to be the Grinch that stole Christmas but I do think that we should just take things down a bit over what the secularists call the Festive or Winter season. Hopefully you will have this edition of the Moravian Messenger on the first Sunday of Advent. And on that magic day, 1st December the radio stations will start playing Christmas songs and the Ballymena Christmas lights will have already been switched on for two weeks! The Tesco's and Marks and Spencer (other supermarkets are available) Christmas food magazines will also have been out for probably three weeks.

The build up to Christmas is so long and so pressurised that many families feel that Christmas is over on Boxing Day and the decorations come down. Many others are pressurised by the long build up to buy much more food than is needed and fridges get stuffed with food that will never be eaten. Those with children are put under tremendous pressure to buy more and more presents for their children and young people. And the cumulative effect is that much more money is spent than should have been and the ideal Christmas is never achieved.

None of these things are bad in themselves. Wanting light and colour in the darkness of the winter months is natural; delighting in good food and wanting to share meals is a Christian thing and giving is in the heart and nature of God. But the way that

we go about things in December, in our consumer society is hardly Christian and reflective of our faith. It does not speak of the poverty of the Holy birth, the refugee status of the family and the worship of the shepherds.

So, what to do for us Christian folk who love to celebrate but are concerned about the pressures? Firstly, reflect on what would Jesus have you do in your own situation, which may be very different from mine. What values do you want to show and teach your children; how do you want to show compassion to your neighbours; what can you give to charity and which charities; how can you be responsible in your purchases. In short how can we be intentional about the practise of our faith in the midst of many different pressures.

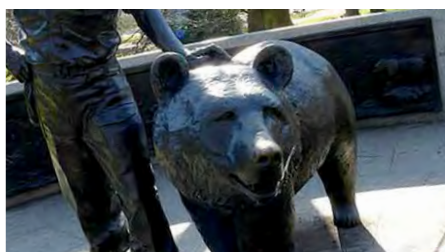
So, you can plan what you are doing, where you are spending and what you are giving. Local businesses deserve all the support we can give them at all times of the year. Time spent with children is much more valuable than money spent on children. Visit family and friends particularly in the days after Christmas as it is a long stretch between Christmas and New Year. Make attending worship a priority not an option and invite folk around you to come with you!

I'm really not the Grinch, I just want a more realistic Christmas instead of consumerism and glossy advertising overtaking common sense. Let your Christian faith be your magnetic north and your compass to guide you this season. For Jesus is the reason for the season and he came for all of us, wealthy, poor, old and young, those set in families and for those alone.

Sr Sarah Groves
Editorial Team



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Inequity in our Province: A moral quandary that is worthy of debate

The recent lack of ministerial staffing in the Lancashire District has brought into focus two moral quandaries, for me and for others, that are worthy of debate as a Province.

The first is that when a congregation is called into a period of interregnum (i.e. a period of time without the service of a minister for which they are paying through assessment), the expectation is that the Church Committee makes provision for the shortfall in ministry, either from within the congregation or through buying in the services of others. This can incur additional expense for the congregation, as ministry has to be found from elsewhere (e.g. travel costs, donations for preaching, etc.). Yet, as well as accommodating these additional costs, a congregation is expected to continue to pay their full 'assessment' for the ministry that they are no longer receiving. That seems to me, to be a moral injustice.

The way that assessment is organised in the British Province is that the cost of ministry for the Province is divided among the number of members in the Province. Each congregation pays into central funds the 'per capita' amount that is determined by the Provincial Board to cover the cost of ministry. This helps numerically larger congregations

to support numerically smaller congregations. Whilst this seems 'just' if each congregation is receiving the ministry for which they are paying, it crosses a moral line into 'unjust' if a numerically larger congregation is supporting the ministry in other congregations, and yet is not receiving what they are paying for through their assessment.

The second moral quandary is that of considerable inequity in ministerial service within the British Province. Currently, within the British Province, the minister/member ratio per District is:

- Eastern District: 5 ministers to 187 members = ratio of 1 minister to 37 members;
- Irish District: 4 ministers to 239 members = ratio of 1 minister to 59 members;
- Lancashire District: 1 (part-time) minister to 127 members = ratio of 1 minister to 127 members;
- Midlands District: 1 minister to 63 members = ratio of 1 minister to 63 members;
- Western District: 3 ministers to 46 members = ratio of 1 minister to 15 members;
- Yorkshire District: 3 ministers to 185 members = ratio of 1 minister to 61 members.

Whilst these are crude statistics that are based on membership numbers provided to Synod 2024, and they don't take account of additional provincial responsibilities placed on individual ministers (e.g. PEC, Bishop, Mission Board, Provincial Committee work) nor the full-time/part-time nature of some ministries, they nevertheless highlight a huge inequity in service across the British Province, and a morally unjust state of affairs.

In the Mission Statement of the British Province, we state that we 'seek to transform unjust structures of society', and yet we have unjust structures at the heart of our provincial management practices which have a moral dimension. It would seem to be morally more 'just' to develop a system of reducing the assessment for congregations who are paying for a ministry that they are not receiving, and it seems imperative that we work towards a greater equity of ministry service. Both of these moral imperatives are worthy of debate and change, if we are not to be hypocritical as a Province. We cannot seek to transform unjust structures in society, whilst holding unjust structures at the heart of how we operate as a Province.

Br Peter M. Gubi
Minister to Fairfield and Royton Moravian congregations

Editorial note:

It should be noted that as at 1st November this was the position re ministerial provision in the British Province:

In the Eastern District there are five ministers, one of whom is a full time Provincial Board member so has no congregation responsibilities, two ministers are full time but also serve on the Provincial Board and two ministers are both part time.

In the Irish District there are four ministers, one of whom is full time with other responsibilities including their position as Bishop, one is full time but also serves on the Provincial Board, one is full time and one is part time.

In the Lancashire District there is one part time minister.
In the Midlands District there is one full time minister who also has other responsibilities including their position as Bishop and one minister of another denomination who also serves several non-Moravian congregations.
In the Western District there are two full time ministers, one of whom also serves part time on the Provincial Board and is Chair of the Mission Board, the other who serves as a National Ecumenical Officer and one part time Lay Pastor.
In the Yorkshire District there are three full time ministers one of whom also serves as a National Ecumenical Officer.

Bishops recall historic steps towards closer Church of Ireland and Moravian relationship

In March this year, the Church of Ireland and the Moravian Church in Britain and Ireland had the joy and privilege of celebrating a new ecumenical relationship between the two denominations based on the Armagh Agreement.

The celebration took place with a shared service in two historic places of worship - St Patrick's Church, Ballymena, and Gracehill Moravian Church - followed by tree-planting and a reception for all those attending.

Gracehill, the only original Moravian settlement on the island, also celebrated becoming Northern Ireland's second UNESCO World Heritage Site in July. The

Armagh Agreement was signed in 2021 and it was decided to wait until the COVID pandemic had passed before holding the service, to enable as many guests as possible to attend in this beautiful setting.

In this interview, Bishop Harold Miller and Bishop Sarah Groves, who were involved in some of the early discussions leading up to the Agreement, share their own reflections on what it means to them and look back at the intertwined links between Anglican, Moravian and Methodist Christianity over centuries of European history.

To watch and listen, please visit <https://vimeo.com/1024732973/9514>



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Raising Faith Monthly from the Youth and Children's Committee (YCC)

Our second article in this series comes to us from an Ecumenical connection, Sr Becca Gilbert an Associate Pioneer Minister in the Church of England based in Cumbria.

As you will see she shares with us the value she sees in breadmaking and how it might be used in ways of connection and faith. We hope you find this article inspiring and maybe intriguing. Is a bread-based church or ministry something your faith community could form. Is it something that could be done as a regular part of your toddler group or afterschool club? Is there a space for it maybe as part of your Bible Study or home group?

We thank Sr Becca for providing us with such a thoughtful article.

We hope this inspires you as it did us, your YCC Committee: Sr Katie Groves-Bond, Br Kieran Hopton, Sr Lol Wood, Sr Claire Maxwell, Sr Rachel Hamilton and Br James Woolford.



© Sr Becca Gilbert

I love baking bread; I love the rhythm of it. I love the way something so simple, literally flour salt and water can create something comforting, nourishing and easily shared with others. Making it slows me down and teaches me the value of rest but also connection with others as I simply can't make bread without the desire to share it with someone.

Over the last few years, I've enjoyed incorporating my passion of making bread with my ministry. I've taught pioneers about the posture of pioneering through the art of making bread even, but what has been the most fun has been the opportunities to engage through retreats, workshops, with schools and during lockdown I connected with friends and families baking through Lent together. Baking has also introduced me to new friends, both abroad and more locally as I've attended workshops and connections have been made which have born lovely friendships. Our local kneed to

natter group is very special and is a place where we talk about all sorts but revel in the joy of our common love of making and baking bread.

During Lent 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine (the breadbasket of Europe) I committed to making and breaking bread every day with someone as a commitment to prayer and peace. It was a small gesture, but it felt important to do, and I shared bread with our local messy church, primary school, friends, colleagues and family.

For me making bread is deeply spiritual, the practice grounds me when I have been anxious, reminds me to rest when I've become too distracted and busy, and connects me not only with people but the planet. It reminds me to live

simply and with gratitude knowing that I am privileged to have access to food and water abundantly - this drives me to keep sharing my bread as well as make it.

I leave you with one of my favourite poems, All Bread by Margaret Atwood, which speaks to me deeply of this connection with both the land and people. Whatever our God given passions are, making bread for me fills me with joy, is wonderfully creative and a deeply spiritual practice which reminds me to rest and share and most importantly expresses something for me of God's love for all of creation.

All Bread by Margaret Atwood

All bread is made of wood, cow dung, packed brown moss, the bodies of dead animals, the teeth and backbones, what is left after the ravens. This dirt flows through the stems into the grain, into the arm, nine strokes of the axe, skin from a tree, good water which is the first gift, four hours.

Live burial under a moist cloth, a silver dish, the row of white famine bellies swollen and taut in the oven, lungfuls of warm breath stopped in the heat from an old sun.

Good bread has the salt taste of your hands after nine strokes of the axe, the salt taste of your mouth, it smells of its own small death, of the deaths before and after.

Lift these ashes into your mouth, your blood; to know what you devour is to consecrate it, almost. All bread must be broken so it can be shared. Together we eat this earth.

Serving the Church

Serving the Church and serving Jesus Christ is a joy and makes this world a place worth living. Following Jesus is a blessing that we Christians have been given. Each path that God leads us on gives us new life, insight, and wisdom. God calls all of us in different ways at different stages in our lives. Have you reached a point in your life when you are wondering, 'what is the next step?' or 'where is God leading me now?' If you find your heart being stirred as you attend worship, finding yourself restless sitting in the pews, or at home at your computer, and you feel something stirring you to go deeper in the work of the church, then it is probably time

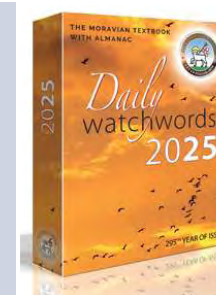
to start thinking through these thoughts with someone.

Exploring your call is an important task and should be done with others as part of a faithful conversation.

If you are interested, please contact joachim.kreusel@moravian.org.uk. We look forward to speaking with you and pray that you are willing and able to listen to God's voice calling you on in your Christian walk as you seek to follow more and more deeply Jesus.

From the Church Service Committee

Sr Lorraine Shorten (Chair of CSC and minister for Bath Weston and Bath Coronation Avenue congregations)



Daily Watchwords 2025

The Daily Watchwords for 2025 are available to order from Church House and are available to order. The cost per each copy is £7.00, plus postage

and packaging, but we will endeavour to deliver as many as possible via what many of us know as 'Moravian Mail', i.e., when someone visits Church House or when a member of the Provincial Board is in a particular part of the Province.

Please submit your order to Sr Gladys Korsah in the Bookroom at: gladys.korsah@moravian.org.uk.

The Story of Project 32 so far... and NCD Update

Provincial Prayer Day
Monday 6th January 2025
From 12 noon - 8:00pm
Join us as we partner with God to build the Kingdom!

In June 2021, the British Moravian Synod voted to create the Project 32 Implementation Board to oversee a means to effect renewal and growth in congregations, strengthen capacity and undertake new areas of mission and outreach. Initially establishing Holy Habits to strengthen spiritual disciplines in our churches and individuals, then after the pandemic, to appoint a Project 32 Coordinator on the 1st June 2023, in order to begin to build greater focus and momentum.

After gathering data in statistics and previous qualitative surveys undertaken, it was clear that the whole Province was in a state of steady decline, both in terms of numbers and of energy and passion. However, the spiritual health of the church had no means of measurement, and it was difficult to know exactly what the main causes of the decline were.

In order to establish these, accurate numerical statistics were taken over the last 25 years, and after exploration, to use Natural Church Development or NCD, to take more accurate measurement of our spiritual health. This had been created by Christian A. Schwarz. Through NCD, we could assess strengths and weaknesses of the whole denomination, each individual church, and if engaged with, each member could assess their own discipleship character development as well.

No church or denomination has ever changed in the last two millennia, including the Moravians, without a foundation of heartfelt repentance, a change of mind and action, through prayer. Project 32 initiated a Provincial Prayer Day on the 6th January 2024. The PEC took up this prayer emphasis and we had a second day on 17th June 2024. We discovered that our ability to pray is a muscle that has grown somewhat flabby, needing a new exercise regime to become fully fit again. To help strengthen our prayer muscles, the next **Provincial prayer day is planned for January 6th 2025, from 12 noon until 8pm.** Watch out for details coming to your local church during December. In the meantime, put this date in your diaries.

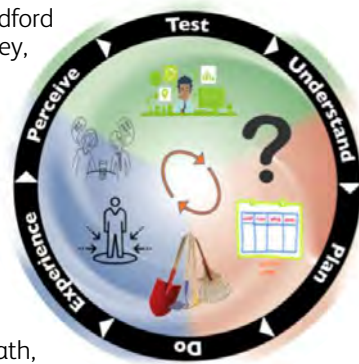
We began to train NCD Champions, at least one from each church spanning through 2024. There are four phases or tranches of churches going through training and the NCD process.

The process starts with a survey, then does analysis, planning, doing and experiencing. Another survey is completed in one year, to see what has changed in terms of spiritual health.

The focus is on developing health, not numbers, but we believe that as churches become healthier, they naturally grow and reproduce through 'all by itself' growth.

The churches who have volunteered to participate in the process phases are:

- **Tranche 1:** University Road, Bedford Queens Park, Harlesden, Hornsey, Lower Wyke, Horton.
- **Tranche 2:** Baildon, Fulneck, Dukinfield, Gomersal, Wellhouse, Fairfield.
- **Tranche 3:** Ockbrook, Leicester, Gracehill, Kilwarlin, Leominster, Fetter Lane.
- **Tranche 4:** Brockweir, Harold Road, Coronation Ave Bath, Swindon, Tytherton, Weston Bath, Cliftonville, Ballinderry.



(Royton and the LEPS of Hall Green and Holy Family Church have not volunteered to participate in NCD to date.)

We are processing all the data and will have a denominational picture of our whole Province in terms of its demographics and its spiritual health, strengths, weaknesses, barriers to growth and what we need to change, grow and develop. The goal is to become a healthier church, that becomes sustainable throughout the 21st Century.

We will look at the results in future Messenger reports, but as a quick summary we are seeing three things as the major barriers to growth which need addressed. Every church is different, so care must be taken when applying these. They are:

- a loss of spiritual passion.
- ineffective evangelism leading to a decline in numbers.
- superficial relationships in our small groups.

These need and will receive future analysis, explanation and prayerful, biblical and strategic solutions. Each church will create a local plan, and we will look at Province wide help and resources to assist the whole denomination.

However, as we explore and seek God in conversation with each other, we need each member, each congregation, each minister, each district, each committee, and the PEC and Synod to play their part in addressing these areas in an agreed, strategic and coordinated way.

Key Principles:

- Every Moravian is responsible to **play their part** at one or more levels.
- We are committed to playing *our* part in being a spiritually healthy family, and *letting God* do what only He can do.
- We believe that **prayer** is a vital part of effective change. We follow the Lamb!
- We want a **united vision, agreed core values**, with a **diverse expression** of them in adapting to unique contexts in the British Province.
- **Resilience**; strongly rooted in our essentials AND flexibly adaptable to life's changes and challenges. Both are essential.
- Each area combines and contributes to a **coherent strategy** that fits and flows together to achieve our vision and live out our values.
- We are clear and can articulate our **Moravian identity**.



Project 32 continues to grow and develop. Starting from a clearer sense of reality, it seeks to bring real hope that there is a future for the Moravian Church in the British Province. However, this is not automatic, nor can we assume it is someone else's job. We need to ensure we play our part.

If you love Jesus Christ, if you love this church, then seek God, join the conversation and begin the actions that will see us grow, change, glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Join the adventure of building the Kingdom of God!

Br Peter Dornan
Project 32 Coordinator

'What I Believe'

Moravian Messenger Editor Sr Sarah Groves interviews Br Len Broadbent

Br Broadbent came into the ministry later in life and has just celebrated his 90th birthday. He continued to serve the Irish District in retirement and is a member at University Road Moravian Church.

Tell us about your background, early years, and family

I was born in Oldham, during the decade of the 'Great Depression' so to say that I was born into a 'working-class' family would be something of a misnomer since, then, few were able to find work. Of my early years, the one I remember most was the last of that decade; when in September, I started school - the month that marked the start of WW2, which ended the year I took my 11+. I had one older brother (now deceased); one younger brother and a younger sister.

How and when did you come to faith?

My coming to faith has been a lifelong process. I was baptised into the Church of England, my mother took me to church and encouraged me to attend Sunday School. At the age of 11, I joined friends in attending Sunday School at a different Church nearer home, and there I joined the Boys' Brigade (BB), being inspired by the movement's objective: viz. 'the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline and Self-Control'.

From that moment, the BB played a major part in my coming to faith. 12 months later we moved house. My new home brought me into contact with other new friends, who happened to attend Salem Moravian Church which also had a BB company. Through them I became more involved in that Church; after about three years, I decided to transfer my BB membership to Salem and to become a 'wholehearted Moravian'. So, began the next stage of my faith journey.

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

My transfer to Salem deepened my involvement in all its activities, both religious and social. I was invited to become a Sunday School teacher (later, a departmental leader) and a Boys' Brigade officer.

My working life began, at 15, shortly after I joined Salem, when I became an apprentice draughtsman. I commenced my studies through day release/night school and completed the same seven years later - serving my two years conscripted army service along the way. I then moved on to larger engineering companies but now as a 'qualified' draughtsman.

After a further 20 years or so, an opportunity arose for me to move into a newly created role, and I gained promotion. This brought its rewards in various ways, but it also burdened me with added responsibilities that encroached on my family life and leisure-time activities - especially my church-based activities.

I began to ask myself if this was how I wanted to spend the rest of my working life, realising that, in truth, my Church-based activities meant more to me than my current employment.



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I discussed this with Sheila, and we concluded that I should offer myself for ministerial training and if I was accepted that is what I would do. Some may think that this was a decision

guided by personal ambition but the more I thought about it, the more it seemed to me that this was a higher calling.

What has been your greatest joy and your greatest challenge in ministry?

My greatest joy has been having Sheila, my wife, joining with me on my journey and supporting me through my ministry; my greatest challenge has been in feeling worthy of this calling.

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

In all sincerity, I don't think that I could ever be angry with God; it would deny my faith in the supremacy of the Godhead.

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; I have lived a long life filled with many joys and blessings along the way. My faith demands that I believe in a resurrection. What it will be like, I can't imagine. Some tend to think that it will be a continuation of what we have found best in this life - including our relationships. My belief is that it will be a totally spiritual experience and, therefore, far superior; since, at death, we shall no longer be encumbered with all that belongs to our mortal existence.

Why are people turning their backs on organised religion?

When people cease to believe in God the appeal of the Lord's Prayer ('Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done'), ceases to have any meaning for them; similarly, the Ten Commandments. I have witnessed, in my lifetime, that 'Divine Intelligence' is more and more being replaced by 'artificial intelligence' in the minds of many.

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

I have a particular fondness for musicals; 'Les Misérables' would be a particular favourite.

In my 'old age', for my leisure reading, I enjoy a good British detective novel.

I have an eclectic taste in music, but I do enjoy most classical Symphonies: Beethoven would be my favourite composer - his Pastoral (6th) and his Classical (9th) would top my list.

The place where you feel closest to God?

In meaningful Worship and in quiet prayerful contemplation.

What inscription on your gravestone or epitaph, if any?

I will be cremated, and my ashes scattered to the four winds; therefore, there will be no gravestone. My epitaph will be written in the minds of my nearest and dearest in life and hopefully in the hearts of anyone with whom I have earned remembrance.

Wojtek the soldier bear: continuing on a theme of animals in human conflict



Reading the article in last month's Moravian Messenger about the role animals have played in human conflict reminded me of the famous and much-loved Syrian bear named Wojtek, adopted by soldiers of the Polish 2nd Corps. This was a major unit of the Polish Armed Forces in the West, formed in 1943 in the Middle East, consisting of about 55,780 men and 1,500 women and one bear, that fought in Italy as part of the British 8th Army during World War 2.

The young bear cub was found in the mountains of Iran by a young boy, after the cub's mother had been shot by hunters. The boy then sold the cub to a group of high staff Polish officers who were in Tehran, among the 46,000 Poles who had been released to Iran from Russian labour camps and prison camps in 1942. A young girl named Irena, a niece of a general who was among the group, fell in love with the childlike little bear so the soldiers were persuaded to buy him for her. After three months however, it became clear that Irena could not keep this wild mischievous little bear, so she gave him to the army as a mascot. He was donated to the 22nd Artillery Supply Company, and the soldiers welcomed him immediately: they bonded because, like the bear, many of them felt like orphans themselves, having lost their homes in Poland and many of their family members. They named the bear Wojtek (pronounced Voitek), from an old Slavic name which means Happy Warrior.

He was assigned special guardians, and they shared the little they had in caring for the little bear: he was fed diluted condensed milk from nipped vodka bottles, and to help keep him cool in the heat of the Middle East, a hole was dug for him in the sand and filled with water, where he could sit and keep cool. Wojtek went with the company through Iraq, Syria, Palestine and Egypt. His carers taught him what they knew, and he grew to understand their Polish calls and commands. As he grew, the soldiers engaged him in playful sport and would love to wrestle with him: no-one feared him, and Wojtek thought he was one of them. He would copy the other soldiers, drink beer from beer bottles (though it was often water he drank from the beer bottles), and even

marched alongside his companions on his hind legs. When travelling with the company he usually rode on a crane behind the driver's cab; at times he climbed into the driver's cab, but only when the vehicle was at a standstill.

Wojtek the soldier bear as he was known, was enlisted officially as a soldier in the Polish army with the rank of private and was later promoted to corporal. He accompanied the 2nd Polish Corps to Italy in 1944 where he helped to move crates of ammunition, and they took part in the Italian Campaign of WW2.

After the war ended the 22nd Transport Company, including private Wojtek, was transferred to Scotland where he lived out his days. With a heavy heart the soldiers decided that the best place to ensure Wojtek's safety and future well-being was Edinburgh Zoo. They visited him there as often as they could. He seemed very sad and lonely at first, missing the company of his fellow soldiers, but his zookeepers did everything they could to keep him happy. They would put on Polish uniform jackets and learnt a few words of Polish to make him feel at home.

Earlier this year I had the great pleasure of visiting Scotland and saw the statue erected in his memory in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. The statue is of Wojtek and his official carer Corporal Piotr Prendys and is also in honour of the Polish men and women who fought with the allies in WW2. Among them was my father Tadeusz Skiba who was also in the Polish 2nd Corps. Though he never met Wojtek, he travelled the same journey through the war. I give thanks that they lived through it, through the bad times and the good, though my father's wish (and mine) was that we may never again see another world war. I wish that God may grant us the peace that my father and millions of others fought for.

*Sr Barbara Skiba
Royton*

Sr Margery Sutcliffe reports on the Lancashire District Conference held on 12th October 2024

The meeting was held on Zoom and all three churches were represented. Br Edwin Quildan was the representative for the Provincial Board and the meeting was chaired by Sr Janet Warr.

Following the opening devotions the minutes were agreed then it was down to business.

Under Matters Arising Br Quildan brought the meeting up to date regarding the situation with Ockbrook and advised that a group called Over the Wall now have a 40-year lease on the premises and are responsible for its future upkeep. We were advised that the long-awaited directory of ministers, retired ministers and lay preachers is close to completion. Then we came to the ongoing question of Ministerial cover in the district. Br Quildan advised that this was now being treated as a priority by the Provincial Board. However, the meeting expressed concern as to the lack of action by the Provincial Board, not least of all as this had been under discussion for more than 18 months and was now even more pressing than ever due to ministerial long term sick leave in the district, leaving just one part time minister to minister to three churches and 127 congregants.

We then received the congregation reports, all three churches highlighted a heavy use of members and friends to run services in the continued lack of ministers in the district. On a positive note, Fairfield have started a weekly Friday night Youth club to which hopefully attendance will grow in the coming weeks, and Dukinfield have installed a stair lift which will no doubt be a great help in assisting less mobile members and friends contribute fully to church life.

The full Provincial Board report was circulated prior to the meeting and Br Quildan went through some of the items for the benefit of the meeting. One such item was Strategic work, and the meeting was given the Plan on a page. It was felt that whilst the Plan had undoubtedly taken time to prepare, it seemed more like a corporate document than a strategy for church growth. Br Quildan reminded the meeting of the usefulness of continuing to use the Holy Habits books after the initial period comes to an end in December. It was also emphasised that congregations need to be aware of the impact of our daily activities on the environment and consider small changes that can be made. The meeting decided

to add environment to future agendas as a means of a regular opportunity for the district to share ideas for best practice. We were also reminded to ensure congregation council meetings were aware of the increased number of representatives we can now send to District Conference (depending on the number of members; up to 66 members, three representatives; 67-130 members, five representatives and over 130 members, seven representatives). The Assessment was then discussed and although Br Quildan pointed out that the assessment does not reflect the full cost of ministry it was still felt that it seemed inappropriate for congregations to be asked to pay assessments in full when they were not receiving services for which they are paying, for example during a period of interregnum.

There is to be a district gathering hosted by Fairfield on 29th June 2024 at 10.30am.

The dates for next year's meetings were agreed as 1st March 2025 and 11th October 2025.

The meeting closed with the saying of Grace.

Br Edwin Quildan reports on the Eastern District Conference held on 19th October 2024 at Hornsey

Sr Christine Emanuel opened the conference with devotions using the Watchword for the day, a hymn and prayers.

The five congregations were represented by ministers and deputies. A ballot was held, and Sr Christine Emanuel was elected as the Chairperson for EDC. Sr Minette Flemmings was elected as the Prayer Watch Secretary. Following discussion, it concluded that a youth representative should be available from Harold Road.

Provincial and Unity Information

Br Michael Newman presented the Provincial Board report and responded to questions asked. It covered news about: Holy Habits which is nearing completion, Synod 2024, ministry, and Summer Camp 2024. Synod 2026 is set for 9-13 July 2026, at Highgate House, Northampton. Sr Clare Summers will be doing an on-line presentation about her work in Tanzania on 6th November at 7.30pm.

Congregation Reports

Bedford - Seven members, three adherents and three children. Work has been carried out on the meeting room ceiling. Heavy rains recently have not

caused a problem.

Fetter Lane - There are thirteen members (one died and one moved away). Average attendance is nine adults. The MWA lead the service on third Sunday. The Close is open each Friday from 11-2pm to anyone who wishes to come in. The Open House weekend in September went well. The joint children's events with the Salvation Army are going well.

Harlesden - The main worship is held on Sunday at 11am. They lost three members last year (two through death and one lapse) but have received two members by reception and gained an adherent. There are now have two new Sunday School teachers. There is a weekly bible study which takes place on Wednesday.

Harold Road - Membership is now fourteen. Worship starts at 9.30am. There are two young people at Harold Road who attend regularly. There are close ecumenical links with St Paul's Church, where they worship.

Hornsey - The number of members at Hornsey is now fifty-seven. They had five infant baptisms. Warm welcome was held during the colder months. A number of milestone birthdays were celebrated. A joint Bible study is currently held with

Fetter Lane, and services are live streamed on YouTube. A recent water leak is being investigated.

EDC application for Youth Work

Following discussion, the following three areas were accepted and needed more research for the grant: Book Club, Camping overnight and Summer Camp at Fetter Lane.

Environmental awareness

Following Synod 2024, Districts are asked to discuss environmental issues and the care for creation. Congregations are asked to share best practice at our meetings. It was also agreed to seek if we have passionate people who want to discuss environmental issues. Once known we can set up a District discussion.

District fellowship day and EDC

District Fellowship Day will be held on Saturday 12th July 2025 from 2-5 pm at Fetter Lane.

Date of Next Meeting

The Autumn EDC meeting will be held on Saturday 18th October 2025 ideally at Harold Road but to be confirmed.

Closing

EDC closed with a hymn and the grace and then shared lunch together.

Br Mark Kernohan reports on the recent Irish District Conference

The Irish District Conference met in the newly renovated Ballinderry church sanctuary and all in attendance were very much in awe of its new look. A definite step forward on Project 32.

Following the resolution at Synod 2024 about 'beefing up the district' it was pleasing to note that the normal Irish District Conference attendance of nine people had increased to eighteen with four of our congregations maximising the numbers allowed. The Conference went through the usual business of minutes, treasurers report, congregation reports and the Provincial Board report which led to a short discussion on the Provincial Board strategy and support for our ministers.

Conference then really took off with discussions on youth work and the way forward and the receipt of a grant from Provincial Board for this work, the Irish Council of Churches and the Armagh Agreement. With more members attending we were able to promote as part of Project 32, the Republic of Ireland fellowship Christingle service (the first Christingle service to be held each year in the British Province), an upcoming trip by the Moravian Church and Ireland, History and Heritage society to Dublin Moravian graveyard which recently had received a clean-up from a local school, an upcoming archive exhibition at Gracehill and an update on digitising the Irish district Archives held at Gracehill. As a district we reviewed our summer activities which



© Sr Sarah Groves

included a district BBQ that had 68 attendees on a miserable wet summer's day and it was agreed by all attending that the District Conference would now meet at least three times a year: February to decide on Spring activities, June (no Provincial Board unless they wish) to decide on Summer and Autumn activities, and October for district winter activities as we realise that for congregations to survive we need to be joined up as a district.

The Conference then discussed a district men's fellowship formation, gender-based violence in the community, legacy issues from the Northern Ireland troubles, paramilitary involvement in criminal drug gangs and plans for a district environmental conference as per the Synod proposal. The district also celebrated the recognition of Gracehill Moravian settlement as a UNESCO world heritage site, and we heard plans about its future. The Conference also shared in scones, pancakes, tea and buns.

So, in summary - conference attendance up, activities up, length of conference up, and the survival of the Moravian Church in Ireland up.

Exciting Progress at Over The Wall Camp in Ockbrook

We are thrilled to announce the exciting developments happening at Over The Wall Camp's Ockbrook site! As we begin preparatory work across the grounds, our focus remains firmly on creating a space that not only honours the rich history but also serves the local community.

Bringing the Community Together

This summer, the Ockbrook Tennis Club took full advantage of our outdoor tennis courts, hosting lessons for local schools and offering a fantastic opportunity for young people to get involved in the sport. As the weather cools, the fun moves indoors! Our sports hall will become home to not just the tennis club, but also the Derby Trailblazers, Ockbrook and Borrowash Cricket Club, a local women's fitness group, and Spondon Cricket Club. That's right - around 150 locals are already using the site every week!

We've also welcomed a local farmer and his rescue horses to the West Meadow.

A Walk Down Memory Lane

We've had the pleasure of hosting alumni tours for former pupils and teachers, which has been an emotional and nostalgic journey for many. Some even brought their old school photos, and in a heartwarming moment, we reunited a former pupil with their long-lost lab coat! It's moments like these that remind us

of the deep connections so many people have with this site.

Our first Heritage Group meeting has also taken place, with the goal of preserving the rich social history of the school and the site's connection to the Moravian Church, Over The Wall Camp and SeriousFun Children's Network. We are committed to keeping these legacies alive.

More events like these are coming soon! To stay updated and hear about future tours and events, sign up to our mailing list and be the first to know www.otw.org.uk/friends-of-otw.

Corporate Support and Future Plans

We're incredibly grateful for the corporate sponsors who have shown their support, including the Lord Lieutenant, Liz Fothergill, and John Forkin, the Managing Director of Marketing Derby. Their enthusiasm for our plans and excitement to see how we transform the site has been truly inspiring.

Our discussions with Derby Colleges are also underway, exploring how we can support apprenticeships, while conversations with the Embark Federation aim to provide local schools with valuable equipment, especially in science, from the site.

Exciting Development

On the development front, we are excited to share that planning permission has been granted to convert the old nursery (Mount) into camper accommodation. Additionally, we will extend the dining hall entrance, creating a more welcoming space for future visitors.

Camp 2025

While we're busy at the Ockbrook site, we're continuing our core work, and this month we opened our applications for the next camp season in 2025! If you know a child or family who could benefit from a fun, transformative camp experience, we encourage you to apply or spread the word. The nearest camp will be held at Whitemoor Lakes, offering a fantastic opportunity for children to enjoy a supportive and empowering environment. See: www.otw.org.uk/types-of-camp. Stay tuned for more exciting updates as we continue on this journey together!

Grateful for Your Support

Lastly, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the Moravian Church for their incredible fundraising efforts. Their annual fete and a recent musical gala collectively raised over £400 for Over The Wall Camp!

Emma Graver
OTW Media

Celebrations at University Road Belfast

Harvest services are always a joyful occasion in the church year, and that was certainly the case at University Road, Belfast on Sunday 13th October.

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Sarah Groves to conduct morning worship, enjoyed her message and children's talk, and rejoiced in the singing of our favourite harvest hymns. The children brought to church gifts of non-perishable food items which, together with other offerings, will be donated as part of our on-going support for the local Food Bank.

The occasion was however more than 'just'



© Sr Claire James

a Harvest celebration. It was also an opportunity to celebrate the 90th Birthday (on 14th October) of our much-loved former minister Rev Len Broadbent, and to give thanks for the 40 years he has spent with us at University Road, firstly as our pastor and latterly, while a member of the congregation, as much respected 'elder statesman', advisor, mentor and friend to many. We ask for God's richest blessings upon Len and his wife Sheila in the years to come.

Many thanks are due to Sr Mandy Kernohan for all her hard work in organising the splendid lunch which followed the service, and for the birthday cake which was, all agreed, a work of art in itself!

Sr Carol Ackah

Ballinderry, Northern Ireland

It has been a busy few months at Ballinderry. We have continued with our usual programmes including coffee mornings, youth events and Sunday School. We have also hosted a party for families and young people during the half term holidays which saw over 100 people attending. This was a wonderful event facilitated by our volunteer youth workers Paulina and Jordan and their team of volunteers.

We celebrated Harvest on 29th September. Dr David McMillan, a good friend of the congregation was our special guest speaker.

In October the Ballinderry Scouts had their special service where the leaders and young people made their promises and were presented with their scarves. The Church was filled to the brim, and it was an evening filled with great excitement and celebration.

As a congregation we have been responding to the needs of the community and have renovated the Sanctuary. We had a great day of fun on 19th October when we had the chance to apply for a grant to continue the community outreach in Ballinderry. The process was that each group

seeking funds would have a stand and the opportunity to speak to visitors and explain the vision and purpose of the funded programme. We were able to have many conversations and the opportunity to meet new people as well as spending time together as a congregation. We are pleased to report that we have been successful with the grant, and we look forward to being able to increase our community engagement, providing a space of welcome and the opportunity to share Christ's love.

Another exciting occasion was welcoming the Bishops Conference to Ballinderry on 22nd October. It was a joyous occasion to welcome Bishops from across the Unity, to spend time with one another and to share in a wonderful lunch kindly prepared by members of the congregation.

We are in the process of planning our Christmas sale and will be starting a new Bible Study series in the coming weeks. We are very excited for the special Christmas services and all this season has to offer.

We are extremely thankful to all the willing hands and hearts that continue our mission in sharing God's love in the community.

Sr Elaine Gourley Stephens

Fairfield, Greater Manchester

As a settlement Fairfield has attracted much interest over the years. To encourage visitors from far and near we offer organised tours so that people can be welcomed and hosted on their visit, with an opportunity to learn more about Moravians in general and Fairfield in particular; and to enjoy the use of the facilities we have available in the college. One such organised visit was made recently by a local secondary school, Droylsden Academy. Following that visit they put the following article in their 'Newsflash' which is their online news forum. It is used here with their kind permission.

the tour, the students visited the College and the Museum where they looked at the artefacts on display and found out how the early settlers used to dress. Thank you to Sr Barbara and Sr Carol for welcoming us to the Moravian Settlement and for such an interesting, informative and enjoyable morning and thank you, also, to Coby Haldane and Haidar Irfan who navigated the route and led the group on the walk to Fairfield and then back to school!

Visit to the Fairfield Moravian Settlement

This week, a group of Year 8 students visited the Fairfield Moravian Settlement to find out more about the culture, beliefs and lifestyles of these early settlers in Droylsden. As part of the visit, the students had a tour of the settlement and learnt about the history of the Moravian Church. After

If anyone would be interested in visiting Fairfield on an arranged tour please contact Sr Barbara Ganson on 07368 122298.

Sr Margery Sutcliffe



© Br Owen Gooden

Leicester

'God so loved the world ...' (John 3:16). I'm sure God loves the church too, but his love is much wider, it's universal. Accordingly, we have to span our wings and 'go to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8).

Quo vadis? Where are you going? This is a question for our entire church, and of course also for us in Leicester. We try to spread our wings.

In May we have started monthly midweek evening services, 5.30pm, after work, yet before people settle at home. Thirty minutes meditating, praying, conversing, music ... and then a bit of socialising, building friendships and enjoying refreshments. So far it has been a good journey, and a good mix with local community, Moravian and Methodist attendance.

The occasional 'Talent services' are another adventure. God has given us different talents in music, dance, poetry etc. It's amazing to realise what talents we have among us.

In September, at the Harvest festival, we've had the joy of baptising Arayah Sherwood, and in October we received into membership of our church Srs Jeanne Moitt, Jenny DeYoung, Dorothy Whittaker, and Br Victor Ajaz. These were joyful services indeed.



© Br Joachim Kreusel



Cake made by Sr Jeanne Moitt

For some time now, we have worked together with Wadadli Link UK, an Antigua and Barbuda association in Leicester. The island of Antigua is also known as Wadadli by the local population. In June we celebrated together the 'Windrush' commemoration service, and in November the 43rd anniversary of the Independence of Antigua and Barbuda. Even the High Commissioner joined us via Zoom from Antigua! What rousing celebrations!

Every year in November we celebrate our church anniversary. A sumptuous Caribbean meal and excellent Jazz live music draws about 70 people on the Saturday afternoon together! The anniversary service hits a celebratory tone like 'Songs of Praise'.

Of course, our church life does not just consist of highlights, there are the ordinary Sundays, the networking and all the work behind the scenes for which we are grateful.

In everything we thank God.

Sr Jacqui Walker

Harlesden, London

The Harlesden congregation had a very busy summer. On the 26th June the Women's Fellowship had their Anniversary Service, led by Sr Ola Lawal, a lay preacher and good friend of the congregation.

A barbecue was held in the church hall on the 27th July in collaboration with The St. Kitts and Nevis London Association, working in the Community to encourage friends, family and neighbours to learn more about each other's background and their culture. We welcomed Rev Ian Green our twined friend from Amersham Free Church and six guests. It was a very enjoyable day shared by all in attendance, especially the lovely variety of food on the menu: jerk chicken, burgers, sausage, etc. Music was also played in the background for laughter and fun for those wanting to shake the pounds added with the lovely lunch.

At the end of August, a fund-raising dance was held in the church hall in recognition of Windrush month. The theme was One Love and £580 was raised for the church fund. A big thank you was extended to Sr Bernadette and her team for organising the event with delicious Caribbean food and old-time music to dance the night away.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service held on the 22nd September was led by Sr Ola Lawal. A bring and share lunch was provided by members which was served in the church hall after the service with a warm atmosphere greeting and sharing together.

We held a Macmillan coffee morning appeal in the hall after the morning service, on the 29th September, and £191 was raised for the church fund. This was organised by Sr Bernadette. A variety of cakes and biscuits was enjoyed by all. This again was a time of sharing and greeting in a friendly atmosphere.

The Men's Fellowship Service was held on the 20th October. Rev Michael Newman was the Preacher. Delicious cakes, sandwiches, tea and coffee was served in the church hall after the service and was enjoyed by all.

Another collaboration event with The St Kitts and Nevis London Association was held on the 26th of October. An afternoon tea party was held in celebration of black history month with a variety of delicious cakes, pastries, sandwiches etc, in a relaxing atmosphere of sharing and greeting.

On the morning of 29th September and 26th October at 10am to 12 noon, a children's fun day was organised by Srs Audrey and Betty, our Sunday School teachers, open to our young people and those from the community.

Our service on the 27th October was led by Br Edwin, which included the Love Feast. We shared buns, tea and coffee with each other.

We celebrated our Church's 50th Anniversary Service on the 3rd November: the date in 1974 that the St Margaret's and St George's United Reformed and Moravian Church joined together as one in Christ. Our Preacher was Rev Edward Sanez our former Minister. A bring and share lunch was enjoyed in the church hall after service.

Our next event will be our Church Bazaar on Saturday the 16th November.

As we approach the end of the year, we give God thanks and praise for the Fellowship that we have shared with each other which will bring us all closer to our God.

Sr Heather Anderson



© Br Edwin Quildan



© Br Joachim Kreusel

Ockbrook, Derbyshire

Vintage entertainer Johnny Victory again performed to a full house in the church. Ranging from the late 1800s to the 1970s, a varied programme was enjoyed by all and raised a fantastic amount towards church funds as well as a donation to Over The Wall, the new tenants of the former Ockbrook School. A huge thank you to Christine Gardner, sponsor and organiser of the concert.

Sr Julie Hague



© Sr Penny Weir

Dukinfield, Cheshire: 12 Weeks of Christmas

We all love the traditional song the '12 days of Christmas' - but Scouts and Congregation members at Dukinfield

Moravian Church have decided to extend the timeframe!

The 5th/7th Dukinfield Scout Group, based at Dukinfield, wanted to work towards their Awards and Badges by showing local community support. They came up with the idea of the 12 weeks of Christmas - uniformed Leaders and members bringing in different items to use for the Food Hamper Scheme that is run out of the Church.

The list comprised of:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A Bag of Pasta | 6. Tin of Tuna | 10. A Tin of Custard |
| 2. Litre of UHT Milk | 7. A Packet of Biscuits | 11. A packet of Crisps |
| 3. Tin of Peas | 8. A Jar of Tomato Sauce | 12. Tin of Fruit |
| 4. Tin of Ham | | |
| 5. Tin of Beans | 9. Tinned Potatoes | |

As the 'Pass it On' hymn says, it only takes a spark, to get a fire going - and soon the congregation jumped into support, as well as other church based groups and communities.

The hope is to give local people and families in the area a merry time at Christmas and celebrate giving and service for our faith.

The generosity and alacrity in which people have given is truly amazing, with crates and boxes being filled. We hope that this simple but effective idea may be rolled out to other churches in the future.

Sr Penny Weir

Bedford, Queens Park

One of our housebound members turned up during one of our Sunday services. She was brought by her carer and she thoroughly enjoyed herself. Her carer said she would come again sometime. We have had a poster made from the printers which is displayed outside the church on a Sunday showing times of services and who we are.

Br Eric Moore

FROM CHURCH HOUSE

Christmas

Church House will be closed from 1pm on Friday 20th December until Thursday 2nd January 2025.

The Provincial Board and all the staff at Church House would like to extend Christmas greetings to our brothers and sisters in the British Province and our partners in South Asia and Western Tanzania. We hope that it is a time of blessing, surrounded by the love and peace that was given to us through the humble but remarkable coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We also look forward to ringing in the New Year. May 2025 be filled with hope and inspiration as we continue to serve and witness to God's praise and glory, strengthened by his presence, guided by his wisdom and surrounded by his love.

Ministry Change

The Provincial Board has announced that Br James Woolford has now returned to work following a period of sick leave and initially he will be serving the Baildon congregation only and from January he will also be supporting the Dukinfield congregation while Sr Patsy Holdsworth is on sick leave. This will be reviewed in April. The Provincial Board hopes to Call a minister to serve Fulneck in the summer of 2025. In the meantime, the Fulneck congregation will be in a period of interregnum. Please keep Br Woolford and his family, and all the congregations involved, in your prayers during this time of transition.

Provincial Prayer Day

A Provincial Prayer Day will be held on Friday 6th January 2025 between 12 noon and 8pm - further details to follow.

Provincial Diary for December

6	5th Anniversary of the Geneva Fellowship	Geneva
11-12	Provincial Board Meeting	Church House

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

20th Oct 2024	Fergus William Cunningham	University Road, Belfast
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Received into Membership

20th Oct 2024	Ken Bateman	Bath Weston
20th Oct 2024	Chris Perry	Bath Weston
27th Oct 2024	Jeff Hopper	Gomersal
27th Oct 2024	Joan Hopper	Gomersal

Deaths

July 2024	Eileen Hanley	Bedford Queens Park
10th Aug 2024	Chris Wheatley	Ockbrook
19th Sept 2024	Harriet Jackson	University Road, Belfast
11th Oct 2024	Jean Hamilton (nee Fisher)	University Road, Belfast

1 World Aids Day (www.worldaidsday.org)

First Sunday of Advent

3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities

10 Human Rights Day
(www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/)

18 International Migrants Day
(www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/)

21 Winter Solstice

25 Christmas Day

25 Dec-2 Jan Hanukkah - Jewish

31 New Year's Eve / Watchnight

Dates to remember!

Labrador - New Parenthood 1973

Continuation of Br Hopcroft's memories following his call to Labrador in 1971



Wendy with Danielle a few months old

© Br Robert Hopcroft

As a new father I was anxious to meet my new daughter and to make sure that Wendy was ok. My flight from Nain (four hours) was uneventful as the snow had let up, for a while at least. On arrival in Goose Bay, I was met by my School Board Superintendent, Frank, and he offered the loan of his car to get to the hospital as Wendy was due to be discharged. That afternoon we had freezing rain, and I set off tentatively for the hospital which was only about 30 minutes away. The car was a huge American Chevrolet, with automatic gears, power assisted brakes and power assisted steering. The first mile was fine, but then I hit a patch of black ice! I touched the brakes, or so I thought; the brakes locked, and the car immediately started to rotate and I completed a 360 degree spin, ending up facing back the way I had started with traffic all around me. At least I didn't hit anything! Finally, I arrived feeling completely frazzled. Wendy, understandably, looked tired but was beaming with new motherhood and Danielle Marie, as she was to be named, was gorgeous of course. We safely got back to Br and Sr Dickinson's, but with no baby seats in those days, and we made our preparations to return home to Nain two days later.

It was a full flight, with nine passengers and copious amounts of luggage, including crates of beer. When we landed on the frozen bay in Nain I could see that it was a 15-foot vertical climb up a ladder to the wharf. I carried our precious bundle up the rungs whilst Wendy was unceremoniously pushed up from behind by the pilot. Not what a new Mum wants when she's just had stitches!

Excited to get into the house, we were

met at our door by a bearded stranger, who later introduced himself as our new lodger Steve, who had made himself at home in our absence!

As Wendy was now on maternity leave from her Kindergarten class, the School Board had found a supply teacher to replace her: Steve. He was in his thirties, from Ontario with no Primary teaching experience. He was a Bahai, played the guitar loudly at all hours of the day and night and, for lack of available accommodation, was temporarily with us! He didn't cook and was not domestically inclined in any way. It did not make for an easy start with a new baby in the house.

As School Principal, I had to shuffle the staff to cover the Kindergarten class and put Steve into the Grade 6 Class and find him more permanent accommodation. Then at last a feeling of peace and tranquillity descended for a while.

There were many sleepless nights, although having subsequently been blessed with two more children, we realise how lucky we were with Danielle as she was a healthy and contented baby. Although there was no doctor in Nain, we were so lucky to have two English nurses at the International Grenfell Association Nursing Station. Sue and Caroline were always there for post-natal advice and kept Danielle up to date with her vaccinations.

One abiding memory is the nappy bucket. Disposable nappies hadn't been invented and so terylene nappies were the order of the day. Of course, the water froze up again that winter and so we were back to hauling water each Saturday for the week ahead. Copious amounts of hot

water were required for baths and laundry. On clear dry days Wendy pegged out the nappies on the line, where they immediately froze into solid sheets. As the winter progressed the snowbank at the back of the house got taller reducing the height of the drying space. But they had a good blow in the fresh air and were later brought back indoors to finish off in the basement.

By mid-November the snow lay deep and crisp and even. After two years in Nain, we had become quite used to experiencing freezing temperatures night and day with severe snow storms, but we also experienced many days of clear blue sky with bright sunshine reflecting off the snow. Wendy was often out walking, with Danielle snuggled up in the little sled box I had made in the basement.

Our family had now grown, and after two years in Nain we felt really settled and integrated into the community with invitations to weddings and other celebrations. School was running well as the staff all worked together and staff illnesses were rare. Wendy and I got to know the new RCMP officer Al Kirbyson and his wife Carol, and when they adopted a little boy almost the same age as Danielle called Shane, Wendy and Carol spent many hours out with the children together walking and chatting which helped to ease any sense of the loneliness of being so far away from family.

As we moved into December with reducing numbers of daylight hours, I was ready for a complete break from school to have our first Christmas together as a family.

Br Robert Hopcroft

Moravian Stars

The following types of Moravian Stars are available to purchase from Church House:

- Indoor star (paper 60cm) £25.00 (without P&P)
- Outdoor star (plastic 68cm) £45.00 “
- Crib size star (paper 13cm) £21.00 “

Colours of both indoor and outdoor stars in stock are: white, red, red/yellow, and red/white; and yellow just for the outdoor star. The crib size star is only available in one colour at the moment: white.

We also stock power supply cables for all three types of stars:

- Indoor star £15.00 (without P&P)
- Outdoor star £15.00 “
- Crib size star £15.00 “

Please contact Sr Gladys Korsah at Church House for more details on 020 8883 3409 or by email at: office@moravian.org.uk.

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